

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD
MARCH 13, 2025 10:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on March 13, 2025 at the Township Hall. Board members present were - Jerry Counterman, Joel Jaroch, Shari Pomranke, and Pam Schaedig. Also present was Deputy Supervisor Penny Blackwood.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Counterman at 10:00 a.m. and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed and approved as presented. The minutes of the February 13 meeting were read and were accepted as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the February 26 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. The proposed 2025 – 2026 Onaway Ambulance budget was approved by 5 of the 8 entities – Allis, Bearinger, Forest, Ocqueoc and Waverly. Coordinator Hyde will look into the feasibility of purchasing a van instead of a full-sized rig. It was noted that many residents aren't aware of what the ambulance subscription does for them – it was suggested that an article should be put in township newsletters to address this issue. There were 36 Advanced runs, 10 Basic, and 22 No-Transports. 1976.5 miles were logged, with 1 run to Ocqueoc and 2 to Bearinger.

Counterman gave a report on the Rogers City Area Ambulance Service Authority. In December there were 126 calls – 38 No-Transports and 88 transports to the ER, 2946 miles logged, Bearinger with 1 No-Transport and 2 Transports, Ocqueoc 2 Transports. In January there were 134 calls – 42 No-Transports and 92 transports, 3224 miles logged, with Bearinger having 1 No-Transport and 1 transport, Ocqueoc with 2 transports. Election of officers resulted in Randy Smolinski chair, Jim Zakshesky vice-chair, and Martha Roznowski secretary/treasurer.

Jaroch gave a report on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting February 26. They are restarting a Programming and Marketing Committee to promote usage of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center – usage has gone down since covid began. 2 Board members have resigned – MaryAnn Heidemann and Susan Radka, and Amber Alexandria was appointed as a new board member. Balance on hand is \$16,301.43.

Jaroch gave a report on the County Board of Commissioners meeting, where several Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center addressed the board about the value of the Outdoor Center. There was some county board concern about the county taxpayers paying expenses of the Center, such as electricity and LP gas, and part-time caretaker. Jaroch will check into the cost to the county per year, and how much money rentals take in. They are waiting to hear about a grant through Awakon Federal Credit Union for the dock project.

The proposed township 2025 – 2026 was discussed. A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Pomranke, to move \$101.72 from Stabilization to Board Mileage. M.C. Board salaries were discussed, and the following resolutions were adopted:

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR SALARY

WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3), in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary for officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, and

WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of supervisor is warranted, now

BE IT RESOLVED, that as of April 1, 2025, the salary of the office of supervisor shall be as follows:

Supervisor: \$8,700 per year

This resolution offered by board member Pamela Schaedig

Supported by board member Shari Pomranke

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Joel Jaroch
 Pam Schaedig
 Shari Pomranke
 Jerry Counterman

Nay: None

Absent: Jerome Isaacs

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH TOWNSHIP CLERK SALARY

WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3), in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary for officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, and

WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of clerk is warranted, now

BE IT RESOLVED, that as of April 1, 2025, the salary of the office of clerk shall be as follows:

Clerk: \$13,200 per year

This resolution offered by board member Jerry Counterman

Nay: None

Absent: Jerome Isaacs

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Pomranke, to hire Braeden Szymanski for mowing the township hall for the season at \$62 per time, and the cemetery at \$300 per mowing. M.C.

The township Budget Hearing will be held on Thursday morning, March 27 at 10:00 a.m. to finalize the township 2025 – 2026 budget. M.C.

Lerissa Jaroch has agreed to serve as Deputy Clerk, and Clerk Schaedig appreciates her interest in the position.

Information on the Earned Sick Time Act is still being finalized, and probably the only employee who would be eligible would be the transfer site attendant Suzanne Foster.

Treasurer Pomranke gave the financial report.

Jessie Chandler, a township resident, is involved in fundraising for community activities such as the July 4th Fireworks in Onaway, and wondered if she could use the township hall for a card party fundraiser. Pomranke will ask if they have a non-profit permit for fundraising.

The Board received a Notice of Authorization from EGLE for the placement of 68 monopoles for utility lines, some being in Ocqueoc Township.

Assured Partners, formerly Lappan Agency in Alpena, has asked if they could give us a quote for township insurance. The board didn't have any problem with it as long as the Michigan Municipal League, our current insurance company, doesn't object.

The sheriff's department had a work-release group cleaning the transfer site, specifically the area around the recycle bins, on March 12.

The County Road Commission would like to apply for funding to replace 2 bridges in Ocqueoc Township, and asked that we consider adopting the following resolution:

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 13, 2025
REPLACE RIVER ROAD BRIDGE OVER OCQUEOC RIVER AND
OCQUEOC FALLS HIGHWAY BRIDGE AT OCQUEOC RIVER

The following resolution was offered by Board member Pam Schaedig,
Seconded by Board member Shari Pomranke

WHEREAS, the Presque Isle County Board of Road Commissioners wishes to secure funding to replace the bridge over Ocqueoc River on River Road located within Section 27, T36N – R3E, Ocqueoc Township, Presque Isle County, Michigan and the bridge over Ocqueoc River at Ocqueoc Falls Highway within Sections 27 & 22, T35N – R3E, Ocqueoc Township, Presque Isle County, Michigan

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ocqueoc Township Board hereby supports the effort to request funding from the Local Bridge Program to replace the above named bridges,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ocqueoc Township Board concurs that this replacement is urgently needed.

Ayes: Joel Jaroch
 Shari Pomranke
 Pam Schaedig
 Jerry Counterman

Nays: None

Absent: Jerome Isaacs

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

Jaroch wondered if he could tell the Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center that Ocqueoc Township will continue to promote and support the Center. The Board has been supportive of the Center through the years, and will continue to do so.

Counterman reported on electric and natural gas rates through P.I.E&G.

A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Pomranke, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk