

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

May 8, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on May 8, 2025 at the Township Hall. Board members present were – Jerry Counterman, Joel Jaroch, Shari Pomranke, and Pam Schaedig. Also present were David Kowalski, Greg Karsten, Steve Kellar, and Jim Spiker.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Counterman at 7:00 p.m. and began with the pledge to the flag.

Supervisor Counterman mentioned that we have 2 speakers at the meeting, so he would put them at the beginning of the agenda.

Greg Karsten, representing P.I. Electric & Gas Cooperative, talked about the 30-year Natural Gas Franchise Agreement that the township is asked to sign, since the current 30-year agreement is expiring, and answered questions. This year they are looking at expanding down Acorn Ridge to Ocqueoc Lake Road and Silver Rock Highway. In the future they are looking at several other possible areas. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Pomranke, to renew the agreement. On a roll call vote, Schaedig, Jaroch, Pomranke, and Counterman voted aye, with Jerome Isaacs absent. The agreement was approved.

David Kowalski, P.I. County Road Commission Manager, talked about the cost of Permazyme, which is an alternative to paving roads. Counterman will talk to Kowalski about pricing the cost for using it on the transfer site property, on the area at the public landing on Ocqueoc Lake, a portion of the road to the Outdoor Center, and several other areas in the township, to see if the cost would be feasible for doing the project. He mentioned the clean-up that is ongoing to remove trees in the road right-of-way. They are planning on having the gravel pit on Cheboygan Plains open until May 18 for residents to bring vegetation for disposal. The board thanked Kowalski for attending the meeting.

The agenda was approved. A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Jaroch, to dispense with the reading of the April minutes. M.C.

Schaedig gave a report on the April 23 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. The subscription flyers are ready to be picked up and sent out. Hyde is working on an article to explain the subscription program for townships to put in their newsletters and on websites. In reviewing the final budget figures for the fiscal year, billing receipts and interest were above what was projected. There were 31 Advanced runs, 8 Basic, and 31 No-Transports – there were calls to deliver oxygen and do other checks during the ice storm. Bearinger and Ocqueoc each had 2 calls – one no-transport and one transport to an ER.

A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Pomranke, to include the article from Dallas Hyde in the newsletter with the July tax bills, as well as putting it on the website. M.C.

Counterman gave a report on the Fire Board. The Fire Chief listed the calls for March and April. The medical coordinator reported 9 calls during the 2 months (Rogers City responding to 5 and Onaway 4, 6 trips to the ER and 3 No-Transports, 6 calls to Ocqueoc and 3 to Bearinger).

Jaroch gave a report on the Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting. Financial report showed \$15,726.43. 3 new committees have been set up, for programs, promotion and fundraising. The dock project is going forward, and may be able to be completed in 2025.

Currently the caretaker works under 30 yours per week, but there is more that she could do. A motion was made by Counterman, seconded by Schaedig, to authorize Jaroch to talk to the county about possibly having Sara Pikora work more hours so that more projects can be accomplished. M.C.

The transfer site was discussed, some work on the gravel area and the fencing. Jaroch will talk to Todd about the issues. A letter will also be sent to the attendant, to ask that she keep trash picked up and that she remove her cans every day.

After getting a quote from Assured Partners in Alpena for township insurance, the board decided to stay with Michigan Municipal League.

Ocqueoc Township will host the June 3 P.I. County Township Officers Association picnic/meeting at the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center, and plans for the meal were made.

Schaedig gave a May 6 election report. The Onaway School millage was defeated county-wide, but passed in Ocqueoc Township 76-65. In Ocqueoc, 40 voted in person, with 102 absentee ballots.

The expense report was reviewed, and Treasurer Pomranke gave the financial report. The CDs were kept with Huntington Bank for the next 6 months. She is waiting for delinquent tax payment from the county.

Large Item Day will be July 12 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The work schedule will be finalized in June.

A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Pomranke, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk