

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

July 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on July 10, 2025 at the Township Hall. All board members were present – Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Joel Jaroch, Shari Pomranke and Pam Schaedig. Also present was Susan Radka.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Counterman at 7:02 p.m. and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed approved.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and with several corrections, were accepted as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the June 25 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. Coordinator Hyde is considering charging for no-transport. Medicare will not pay for no-transport, Medicaid pays for some. It costs \$25 - \$28 for the billing company to bill for a run. Training would have to be done on the software to enter the run, and training for medics to get insurance info from the patient. The Cheboygan service received Covid monies, but Onaway was not eligible. There were 30 Advanced runs, 9 Basic, and 18 No-Transport, 1,627.8 miles logged, Ocqueoc with one No-Transport and Bearinger with no calls. The next meeting will be the 5th Wednesday, July 30, because of Hyde's vacation.

Jaroch gave a report on the Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting. Scott Couture inspected the Center for an upcoming star gazing event September 20. They are again planning on the Lumberjack Breakfast fundraiser. Balance on hand is \$19,676.43.

Counterman reported that the Fire Chief was pleased with the response of the members to the ice storm.

Jaroch reported on the MTA seminar on Cemetery Management. He will get ordinances from some other townships, and the board can decide if Ocqueoc Township should have an ordinance.

Sheriff Brewbaker told the clerk that Amish buggies are not required to have Slow Moving Vehicle signs, because they are not motorized vehicles. One of the signs the township had installed has been stolen, the one on Ocqueoc Road as you enter the township from Case Township. The board decided not to replace it at this time.

Schaedig reported on the P.I. County Ice Storm debriefing meeting she attended put on by Sarah Melching, County Emergency Services Coordinator. Some things went well, but they need to be better prepared for another disaster. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was without power and moved to Presque Isle Township until power could be restored, which was a problem. Team Rubicon, who responds to disaster across the nation, was helpful in getting things set up again. The State Police commander recommended that Melching get connected to Starlink as immediate internet access, as backup. The office should have a generator. The only means of communication was 800 mhz radios for several days. There needs to be a designated Public Information Officer (PIO), need to have people trained in the Michigan Critical Incident Management System (MICIMS), need people trained in Code Red, and all responders need to be trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which is federally required. Melching is creating an organization called the Presque Isle County Volunteer Organizations Assistance During Disaster, which would meet quarterly. There needs to be one or two designated shelters with all the resources (in the storm, there were 8 – 10, but had to open and close due to power issues, which makes it confusing for residents). Schools aren't acceptable when school is in session. That morning she also received notice that the request for federal assistance was denied.

2 pallets of 33 gallon Ocqueoc Township bags have been ordered, with expected delivery July 17.

There is a new Real Property Fraud Alert Service available through the Register of Deeds' office, which is a free service designed to aid in the detection of fraudulently-recorded documents that could affect your property ownership. To sign up, use presqueisle.mi.publicsearch.us/property-alert. There is more information on the Ocqueoc Township website.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to sign a contract with Suburban Propane for \$1.929 for the upcoming heating season. M.C.

The township will change from quarterly to monthly annuity payments to BrightHouse, as is requested by the IRS.

The transfer site attendant had to close Monday, July 7, at 3:30 p.m. because the bins were full, even with the extra emptying on July 3.

It was determined that the cemetery needs to be mowed at least once a month, instead of the usual 3 times.

The clerk distributed the expense report and it was reviewed by the board.

The Treasurer gave the financial report. She received constitutional revenue sharing of \$9,449 and reimbursement for November 2024 early voting wages of \$990. She is busy with summer taxes which have been coming in steadily.

The board will contact Case Township about renewing the Fire Protection contract, and receiving a report quarterly about number of fires they have responded to in the South 18 Sections of Ocqueoc Township.

Jaroch is waiting to hear from Dave Kowalski about a quote for Perma-zyme for several areas in the township.

Jaroch contacted MDOT about the bridge over the Ocqueoc River on U.S. 23. There were 11 people Wednesday evaluating the bridge, and determined that the problems are superficial. Work is scheduled to be done on the bridge in 2027.

Pomranke got the projector working that was purchased for use at meetings of the township, but will need a speaker system, as well as a long extension cord and small table. She will get an estimate on the cost.

Susan Radka thanked the board for their work, and the board thanked her for her work on keeping the township website up-to-date.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Jaroch, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamla Schaedig, Clerk