

CORRECTED MINUTES

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

June 12, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on June 12, 2025 at the Township Hall. All board members were present – Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Joel Jaroch, Shari Pomranke, and Pam Schaedig. Also present were Janet and Kevin Stephens, and Steve Kellar.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Counterman at 7:00 p.m. and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed and approved. The minutes of the May meeting were read and accepted as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the May 28 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. Coordinator Hyde reported that the new ambulance won't be available for another year, at a cost of \$250,000. Insurance increased substantially, \$1,750 above what was budgeted. Repairs and Maintenance may be over budget for the year, having vehicles with 180,000, 210,000 and 220,000 miles. Two needed brakes, and an engine on another. The oldest vehicle has 180,000, but needs air conditioning repaired (which is a requirement). The power load has been moved to that vehicle, and it will be used more. Hyde will research to re-chassis an existing rig or a van for a future purchase. There were 28 Advanced runs, 9 Basic, and 20 No-Transports, with 1503.7 miles logged. Ocqueoc had 1 run and Bearer zero.

Counterman gave a report on the June 11 Rogers City Area Ambulance Service Authority meeting. They received a donation of \$2,600 from Renewed Blessings. Signs have been placed on U.S. 23 warning of ambulance traffic. 2 paramedics have passed the training, but one hasn't yet passed the state test. The Authority will start charging for No-Transports such as "lift assists". In April there were 134 calls, with 96 transports to ER and 38 No-transports, with Bearer having one transport, and Ocqueoc with no runs. May had 113 calls, with 44 No-Transports and 69 hospital transports, Bearer with 1 transport and 2 No-Transports, Ocqueoc with no runs.

Jaroch gave a report on the Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting May 28. Every weekend of the summer is booked. An astronomy group was there recently with a telescope to view the stars. The County appears to be the holdup with the dock project, and it may not be completed in 2025. A member of the Friends Group will attend the next Board of Commissioners meeting to talk about the project.

Jaroch talked to Todd Curtis about removing 2 trees from the transfer site that are leaning since the ice storm. Any excavation work at the site can only be done by Curtis. Counterman spread more gravel recently to fill potholes. The pile of gravel is nearly used up. Steve Kellar suggested that, for next time we need a load of gravel, we should try plant screenings from Carmeuse instead of 22A road gravel. He indicated that it is cheaper, and makes a harder surface when packed down.

Counterman hasn't met with David Kowalski about estimates on roads for possibly being Perma-zymed. Jaroch said he would talk to Kowalski if Counterman would get him a list of those places.

Schaedig was told that the proposal for the 30-year PIE&G Natural Gas Franchise needs to be put on the next ballot for a vote of the residents, and she received the ballot language from them. The next election will probably be August 2026.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to pay for Jaroch to attend a Cemetery Seminar taught by MTA, as well as mileage and per diem. M.C.

Schaedig met with Rick Price from the Road Commission to tell him where we want the 6 Amish Buggy signs, and they have been installed.

Large Item Day is July 12 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Pomranke and Jaroch will work 8 – 11:30, and Counterman and Schaedig will work 11:30 – 3:00.

The board has scheduled an extra pick up at the transfer site on Thursday, July 3, the only day available, and hopefully that will eliminate the problem of filled bins over the July 4th holiday weekend. In the past, that is the only time there is an issue.

As of October 1, 2025, the Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) requires that an employee be given 1 hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked. The only employee the township has who would be eligible is the transfer site attendant.

The expense report was distributed and discussed.

Treasurer Pomranke gave the financial report and had a copy of the newsletter that will be included with the tax notices.

Topics from the public included discussion on the accessibility of the river after the ice storm (Jaroch will check with the DNR), the Biological Station having their permanent staff and seasonal employees available for sea lamprey control, Amish buggies needing better reflective markings, and discussion of blight issues.

Notice was received from the Michigan Public Service Commission regarding an application from PIE&G for a Renewable Energy Plan, and comments are being accepted until July 15. Schaedig will check into this further.

A motion was made by Jaroch, supported by Pomranke, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk