

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD  
DECEMBER 11, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on December 11, 2025 at the Township Hall. All board members were present - Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Joel Jaroch, Shari Pomranke, and Pam Schaedig. Also present were Penny Blackwood, Susan and Chad Radka, and Steve Kellar.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Counterman at 10:05 a.m. and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed. A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to dispense with the reading of the November minutes. M.C.

Schaedig gave a report on the November 19 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. The legislature is considering a bill that would allow payments to ambulance services for no- transports. The crew quarter remodel is progressing. \$2,400 has been spent of the \$3,000 authorized, and the board authorized an additional \$400, which would allow \$1,000 for the purchase of a love seat/recliner. There were 19 Advanced runs, 17 Basic, and 27 No-Transports, with 1491.1 miles logged. Bearinger and Ocqueoc each had one run. The budget committee will meet on January 7, 2026, to have a proposed budget to present to the townships at their January board meetings.

Counterman gave a report on the December 10 Rogers City Area Ambulance Service Authority meeting. Bids were received on remounting a rig, which would cost \$40,000 - \$50,000 less than purchasing a new rig. 2 persons went to the factory to check it out, and were satisfied with the 20 acre complex. This was a different company, and the cost would be \$130,000 instead of another company that could do a remount for \$178,000. In October there were 127 calls with 53 No-Transports – Bearinger had zero runs and Ocqueoc 3. In November there were 121 calls with 49 No-Transports, Bearinger and Ocqueoc each with 2 runs. The ambulance service is in good shape financially, even though there have been 19 fewer runs than this time last year.

Jaroch will check with the DNR about a possible land swap for a new transfer site location, though at this time there are no plans.

Penny Blackwood had 2 sample Cemetery Ordinances. The board will review the proposals and it will be discussed at the January meeting.

Discussion followed about the sale of township hall benches, orange chairs, and other items in the basement. It was decided that a date will be chosen in the spring, and people can come to see the items. A dumpster will be gotten for unusable items. Susan Radka will have a spreadsheet with all the items listed that are available.

Jaroch will do research on a “counter” for the transfer site. It will be discussed at the January meeting.

A Poverty Exemption Resolution needs to be adopted each year, with new federal guidelines included. The following resolution was adopted:

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP POVERTY EXEMPTION RESOLUTION FOR 2026

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township Board, and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Supervisor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the Township of Ocqueoc, Presque Isle County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the Supervisor/Assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

The following are the federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

Federal Poverty Guidelines for the 2026 Assessment Year  
Number of Persons Residing Poverty Guidelines  
In the Principal Residence Annual allowable income

1 Person	\$15,650
2 Persons	\$21,150
3 Persons	\$26,650

4 Persons	\$32,150
5 Persons	\$37,650
6 Persons	\$43,150
7 Persons	\$48,650
8 Persons	\$54,150
Each addition person, add	\$5,500

The following is a limit on the amount of assets an applicant can have:

- \*Limit on Cash Balances: \$2,500 (check/savings). All bank statements must be submitted with application
- \*1 personal vehicle is exempt from overall asset value limit
- \*Primary Residence is excluded, however, excess land over 5 acres will count toward overall asset limit.
- \*Annual dividend income (taxable & non-taxable) must be less than \$1,000.
- \*Overall Asset Value Limit: \$34,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Supervisor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption. As this policy and resolution do not establish specific guidelines for granting a 25% or 50% reduction in taxable value as allowed by MCL 211.7u, the Board of Review shall be limited to a 0% reduction (denial) or 100% reduction (approval).

The foregoing resolution offered by Board member Jerome Isaacs, supported by Board member Pam Schaedig.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

“Aye”: Pam Schaedig  
Jerome Isaacs  
Joel Jaroch  
Shari Pomranke  
Jerry Counterman

“Nay”: None

The Township Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

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Pamela Schaedig, Clerk, dated December 11, 2025

The township hall rental agreement was reviewed. With a change in the cost of snowplowing, in the event that the hall needs to be plowed before using it, the cost of plowing the small lot would be changed from \$25 to \$35, to have half the large lot plowed would remain at \$50, and to have the whole large lot plowed would cost \$85.

The transfer site will be open the regular hours on Wednesday Christmas Eve and Wednesday New Year's Eve. Discussion followed on the transfer site. Because of the increased cost of bags and having the trash removed, a motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Jaroch, to raise the price of the large bags to \$4 from \$3, but to leave the price of small bags at \$2. The increase will begin January 1, 2026. Schaedig, will check into the cost of bags through Petoskey Plastics. Currently bags are ordered through Plascon in Traverse City. Jaroch suggested a barrier for positioning the dumpsters, but will have to check with owner Todd Curtis. It is important that they are positioned in a straight line for plowing.

Summit Fire Protection inspected the 2 fire extinguishers at the hall, and they were too old to be serviced. The technician replaced those 2, and suggested having one in the basement near the furnace, which was added. The township is also on the list to be serviced every year. Schaedig will check to see whether smoke detectors are required in the hall.

The expense report was distributed and reviewed.

Treasurer Pomranke reported that taxes have been received for 270 parcels so far, and they are coming in steadily.

The auditor has suggested the board changes the amount from \$500 to \$5,000 for the capital asset amount to be depreciated. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Pomranke, to change the policy to the following – "The government defines capital assets as assets with an initial individual cost of \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year". M.C.

The Board thanked Susan Radka for cleaning the hall, and noted that she cleaned areas that hadn't been cleaned for years. She will clean the hall monthly, probably the week of the township meeting.

It was suggested that a board member attend County Road Commission meetings. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Pomranke, to appoint Joel Jaroch to be the township liaison to the Road Commission. Jaroch will check with the Road Commission, to find out when meetings are held, and will plan on attending whenever possible.

Short-Term Rentals were discussed, with nothing resolved.

There has been no progress on the dock project at the Outdoor Center.

Jaroch was authorized to price a dehumidifier for the basement of the township hall.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Pomranke, to pay bills and adjourned. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

