

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD
JANUARY 8, 2026 10:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on January 8, 2026 at the Township Hall. All board members were present - Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Joel Jaroch, Shari Pomranke, and Pam Schaedig. Also present was 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. A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 2025 meeting. M.C.

Schaedig gave a report on the December 17 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. It was a very slow month. There were 27 Advanced runs, 6 Basic and 23 No-Transports. 1334.9 miles were logged, with 1 run to Ocqueoc and 2 Bearer. The budget committee will meet January 7 and will have a proposed budget for the January meeting, to take back to the townships for their February meetings.

Jaroch gave a report on the Road Commission meeting that he attended. The board consists of 3 members, and meets twice a month. The board reviewed projects scheduled for 2026. They will be constructing a new salt storage structure with the state contributing to the cost. Jaroch will check on the schedule for work on the bridge over the Ocqueoc River on U.S. 23, and the plans for a detour. He will also ask them about the section of Ocqueoc Road from Cheboygan Plains to U.S. 23, which had been scheduled for 2023, but nothing has been done. Jaroch will also ask what things are discussed at the 2 monthly meetings, to see if it would be beneficial to attend one or both. Road Commission Manager David Kowalski appreciates having township officials attend.

The proposed cemetery ordinance was presented by Jaroch and Blackwood, and reviewed, with several suggestions and changes made. Revisions will be made and brought to the February meeting. It is recommended that an attorney review it before adoption. Schaedig will check to see if Michael Vogler would be available for that, or if the township needs to find a different lawyer.

MTA is again offering Board of Review training. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Pomranke, to pay for the classes, as well as per diem and mileage, for any members willing to attend. M.C. Registration will be sent in as soon as all members are contacted about attending.

The transfer site attendant hasn't been able to work, and the board thanked Penny Blackwood for substituting in her absence. The attendants have been keeping track of the number of cars entering, as well as the number of bags purchased per day. Counterman would like the building kept locked when the site is closed, because of the bags stored inside. Jaroch checked with Todd Curtis, and if the board would like to put some type of barrier behind the dumpsters to keep them in a straight line for plowing and out from the trees to keep them on the gravel, he said it was OK with him. Schaedig will talk to Hannah from GFL about the plans. The cost of the current site was reviewed, cost of bags through Petoskey Plastics, as well as the cost for fencing and purchase of a new site or land swap with the state. There are currently no plans to move the transfer site.

The expense report was distributed and reviewed. At the February meeting the board will do some preliminary budget figures for the upcoming 2026 – 2027 township budget.

Treasurer Pomranke is busy with taxes, and has taken in \$450,000 in the past 5 weeks.

A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Isaacs, to adjust the mileage rate to 72.5 cents per mile to stay with the IRS rate. M.C.

W2 information has been taken to the auditor. The township auditor may be retiring, so Clerk Schaedig will research others.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk