

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD
FEBRUARY 12, 2026
10:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on February 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 Doug Baum, Penny Blackwood, and Steve Kellar.

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. The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the January 28 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. Run volume has been slow, as is expected this time of year. There were 25 Advanced, 9 Basic, 23 No-Transports and 3 Other, 1453.2 miles logged. Ocqueoc had one run and Bearinger zero. The new rig was supposed to arrive in April, but now has been pushed to August. The proposed 2026 – 2027 budget was reviewed and approved to take to townships for approval. Entity shares will increase by \$1,450 per entity. A 3% raise was given to employees, PTO time has increased due to the Earned Sick Time Act, but maintenance is expected to decrease due to getting a new vehicle this budget year.

Counterman gave a report on the Rogers City Area Ambulance Service Authority meeting. A new rig remount has been ordered. An additional millage for “up to .25 mil” will be on the ballot for equipment and contract expenses. There were 112 calls in December with 32 No-Transports, 2801 miles logged, 1 No-Transport to Ocqueoc and zero runs to Bearinger. January had 116 runs with 46 No-Transports, 2508 miles, Ocqueoc with 1 No-Transport and Bearinger with 1 ER run. They are starting to bill for No-Transports. Election of officers kept the same – Randy Smolinski chair, Jim Zakshesky vice-chair, Martha Roznowski secretary/treasurer.

Jaroch gave a report on the Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center. Beginning of year balance is \$23,181.61. All weekends of the summer are booked except one weekend in September. The county is allowing tent camping for the Star-Gazing event September 10-13. Tim Pritchard, Emergency Service Coordinator, attended, talking about setting up 5 warming stations in the county in the event of another widespread power outage. He is considering the Outdoor Center as one, and will visit in the spring to see what would need to be improved in order to make it usable. Kammie Dennis and Mark Schuler met with Joe Libby about the proposed dock project.

Jaroch attended the Road Commission meeting February 4. The bridge over Ocqueoc River on U.S. 23 is scheduled for repair in 2027, bridge structure and roadway approaches, but will not need a detour. Ocqueoc Road from Cheboygan Plains to U.S. 23 is scheduled for 2030. For a mile of limestone to be put on local roads would cost \$25,400, with Ocqueoc paying 65% and the county 35%. He got an estimate for Perma-zyme on .2 mile from Cheboygan Plains to the lake landing of \$17,000, with Ocqueoc's portion being \$11,000. Counterman would like clarification of whether or not the landing would be included. Ocqueoc Township roads were discussed. A motion was made by Counterman, seconded by Jaroch, to allow Pomranke to talk to Rick Price from the Onaway Road Commission office, to get his opinion on which roads in the township need the most work. M.C. The board is putting money in the new 2026 – 2027 budget for road work. The board feels it is beneficial for Jaroch to attend Road Commission meetings, and he will attend the first meeting of the month.

Doug Baum from the NorthEast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) talked about a Coastal Management Program with EGLE for work necessary on Lake Huron for damage from erosion, flooding, or shifting sands.

Jaroch and Blackwood presented a proposed Cemetery Ordinance. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to have Cindy Dodge from MTA review it for \$100 before sending it to an attorney. M.C. Blaise Ryan has not responded about taking the township as a client, so it was suggested the clerk contact John Burtch, or look for another attorney.

Lisa Pochmara sent a report, which was requested by the Ocqueoc board, that Case Township First Responders responded to 8 calls in Ocqueoc Township in 2025.

The Tri-Board meeting (Ocqueoc Township, Bearinger Township, and the Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Board) will be March 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall. The Ocqueoc board reviewed the Joint Fire Department Agreement that is up for renewal. They also reviewed the proposed 2026 – 2027 Fire Department budget, and it will be approved at the March 5 meeting.

The next P.I. County Township Officers meeting will be March 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rogers Township Hall.

The county is having a new plat book published. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Pomranke, to put a ¼ page ad in the new plat book at a cost of \$350 using the same ad as the previous book. M.C.

The proposed Onaway Ambulance budget was discussed, and the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT ONAWAY AMBULANCE
BUDGET FOR 2026 – 2027

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Onaway Ambulance Board to submit a proposed 2026 – 2027 budget to the townships for approval before the beginning of the fiscal year commencing April 1, 2026, and

WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.812, it is the responsibility of the Township Board to review and adopt the proposed budget for the Onaway Ambulance before the beginning of the fiscal year commencing April 1, 2026,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed Onaway Ambulance budget for 2026 – 2027 in the amount of \$666,100 being reviewed at a regular Ocqueoc Township Board meeting, was approved and adopted at the regular Township Board meeting dated February 12, 2026.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Board Member Pam Schaedig
Second offered by Board Member Jerome Isaacs

Upon roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Jerome Isaacs
Joel Jaroch
Shari Pomranke
Pam Schaedig
Jerry Counterman

The following voted Nay: None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

Jessica Grainger would like to have a fundraiser for the Onaway Fireworks display at the township hall on February 21 and March 21. She is a township resident, so can use the hall at no charge. A motion was made by Counterman, supported by Jaroch, to have the township pay for the plowing of the hall, if necessary, for the fundraisers. M.C.

MTA recommends that every township board sign the “Principles of Governance” pledge, which insists on high standards of ethical conduct for officials, openness and transparency in their decisions and actions, putting the best interest of township residents first. A motion was made by Jaroch, seconded by Schaedig, to have all board members sign and post the plaque at the hall. M.C.

The Clerk distributed the expense report, and the board worked on figures for the 2026 – 2027 township budget. They will be reviewed at the March 12 board meeting. A special budget hearing will be held on Monday, March 30, 10:00 a.m. to finalize the budget.

Pomranke gave the financial report. She has collected \$961,000 for winter taxes and \$758,000 for summer taxes.

Jaroch will continue to research a dehumidifier for the township hall basement.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk