

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

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on March 12, 2026 at the Township Hall. Board members present were – Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Joel Jaroch, and Pam Schaedig. Absent was Shari Pomranke. Also present were Penny Blackwood and Danielle Zalewski. (Isaacs needed to leave early).

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Supervisor Counterman and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed and accepted as presented. The minutes of the February meeting were read, and accepted as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the February 25 Onaway Ambulance board meeting. The proposed 2026 – 2027 budget was approved by the majority of entities. Discussion followed about the new ambulance, at a cost of \$250,000+. It was brought up about the possibility of having a van strictly for transports. There were 26 Advance runs, 6 Basic, 33 No-Transports, and 3 Other. 1,375.8 miles were logged, with Ocqueoc having 3 runs and Bearinger 2.

Jaroch gave a report on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center budget meeting, and they will present the budget to the full board. Balance on hand is \$23,181.61. The handicap dock project is proceeding.

Counterman mentioned that they have replaced 5 of the 10 members of the County Planning Committee. There will be a hearing March 16 at 7:00 p.m. on Short-Term Rentals.

Jaroch reported on the Road Commission meeting. They are hoping to replace 3 local bridges. They are expecting \$790,000 in FEMA funds. He had a list of completed road projects from 2025. The board asked Joel to get clarification on several possible road projects in Ocqueoc Township.

One addition was made to the proposed Cemetery Ordinance. Cindy Dodge still hasn't had time to review it, but it still will have to be reviewed by an attorney. After no response from Blaise Ryan, and talking to John Burtch, the Clerk contacted the MacArthur Law Firm in Cheboygan. The board reviewed his proposal, and after a motion by Isaacs, supported by Schaedig, the board authorized the signing of a retainer agreement with the MacArthur Law Firm for April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027. M.C.

After discussing several proposals that need to appear on the August ballot, a motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to include (1) Confirmation of the Electric Franchise through P.I.E.&G., (2) Confirmation of the Natural Gas Franchise through P.I.E.&G, and (3) Renewal of the Emergency Services Millage renewal for 4 years, on the August Primary ballot. M.C.

Schaedig talked to Terry Basel about LP gas for the township. We will contact him again after our contract is up with Suburban, and the tanks need to be down to 5%.

Jaroch and Susan Radka attended a webinar on Website Compliance. A "Reader's Assist" will be required in April 2027. The presenter was from the Shumaker Group, which is the company that monitors our website. Anything that is posted on the website will have to have audio to read the posting to visually-impaired users. There will be a cost to this, and townships with websites will have to decide if the cost is worth it compared to number of website users. Radka got a report on our website, and in the past 90 days, there were 243 users. Shumaker Group is offering a free Basic Website Evaluation, to analyze the cost of the

new requirements. A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Jaroch, to have Shumaker Group do the Website Evaluation. M.C.

A letter was received from the P.I. County Road Commission, requesting the board's support for requesting funding on the Ocqueoc Falls Highway Bridge over the Ocqueoc River. The following resolution was adopted:

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION 3-12-2026-1

OCQUEOC FALLS HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER OCQUEOC RIVER

WHEREAS, the Ocqueoc Township board also wishes to secure funding to perform preventative maintenance on the bridge over the Ocqueoc River on Ocqueoc Falls Highway located within sections 27 – 28, T35N-R3E, Ocqueoc Township, Presque Isle County, Michigan,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ocqueoc Township board hereby supports the effort to request funding from the Local Bridge Program to replace and perform preventative maintenance on the above-named bridge,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ocqueoc Township board concurs that this replacement is urgently needed.

The resolution was offered by board member Jerry Counterman
The resolution was seconded by board member Pam Schaedig

Ayes: Pam Schaedig
Joel Jaroch
Jerry Counterman

Nays: None

Absent: Shari Pomranke
Jerome Isaacs

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

Treasurer Pomranke has let the board know that \$46,000 was received for taxes, and asked if a CD should be purchased. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Jaroch, to put the \$46,000 into a CD to get more interest. M.C.

The board reviewed budget figures for the 2026 – 2027 township budget. The figures will be finalized, and any due bills will be paid at the budget hearing on March 30 at 10:00 a.m.

Beginning in April, the township board meetings will return to 7:00 p.m.

Jaroch gave information on a dehumidifier for the basement of the township hall. A motion was made by Counterman, seconded by Schaedig, to authorize Jaroch to purchase a dehumidifier for handling an area of 2,000 square feet, at a cost of approximately \$175. M.C.

Counterman reported that CO2 and smoke detectors have been installed in the township hall, main floor and basement, as recommended by the Fire Chief Brian Bilinski.

Schaedig wanted to commend Suzanne Foster for managing the transfer site, getting to work during some days with inclement weather.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk