

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MAY 14, 2026 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on May 14, 2026 at the Township Hall. All board members were present - Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Joel Jaroch, Shari Pomranke, and Pam Schaedig. Also present were Fire Chief Brian Bilinski, and Chad and Susan Radka.

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 with additions. The minutes of the April meeting were read and one correction was made – the .20 miles of road project wasn't Cheboygan Plains, it's Domke Road into Circle Drive and the boat launch. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Schaedig gave a report on the April 22 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. Coordinator Hyde is still working on No-Transport payments. There has been some frustration with Dispatch not notifying the Ambulance Service of roads closed due to flooding. Billing receipts were down \$65,000 for the fiscal year. The new rig is still projected to be available in August. There were 24 Advanced runs, 14 Basic, and 26 No-Transports. 1516.7 miles were logged, with 6 calls to Ocqueoc and 1 to Bearinger.

Jaroch gave a report on the Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center. Financial balance as of the end of March was \$23,221.16. He distributed a color flyer about the Center, with an opportunity for donations. They are working on flyers for the Stargazing Event and Lumberjack Breakfast. Emergency Services Coordinator Tim Pritchard is planning on visiting the Center, looking at it as a possible Warming Station for future emergencies.

Jaroch reported on the Road Commission meeting. Superintendent/Manager David Kowalski is working on specs for the contracted road projects in Ocqueoc Township. He is also aware of the necessity for work on Pomranke Road, and is planning on major repairs in 2027. They are working on putting 3 culverts at the M-68 spot, which is a temporary fix until MDOT can fix it permanently, which could be 2-3 years. The road commission is being reimbursed from MDOT for the current project. They have 20 projects scheduled for 2026. The last snowstorm put a big dent in their budget, as well as the recent flooding issues.

Chief Bilinski talked about the recent Fire Board meeting, and the need to purchase a new Pumper. The current one is approaching 30 years old, and could no longer be used as a Class A Frontline Pumper. In order to keep our ISO rating, it would have to be replaced. He did research on available models, and had the specs available for the board. It is 4-wheel-drive, which would be an advantage for accessing lanes along Huron Beach. Financing is available, but Financial Officer Beverly Rossetto is researching local financial institutions. There are 3 available times this year to order one before the price would rise. The next step will be scheduling a Tri-Board meeting with Bearinger and Ocqueoc Townships and the Fire Board to finalize plans. The cost would be approximately \$552,000. The current pumper could be used as a tanker, so the plans are to keep it. Bilinski also mentioned EMS and Fire Runs during the past 2 months, and a new insurance company, which will help with necessary continuing education credits for members. The County has an alert system, which notifies all departments if a fire is burning, to get more manpower to the area. Bilinski feels we have a well-rounded fire department. He also wanted to make residents aware of the extreme fire danger, with high

winds and the damage in the forests from the 2025 ice storm still an issue. Residents should check the state website for burn permits before doing any burning. The board thanked him for attending.

MacArthur Law Firm is working on the proposed Cemetery Ordinance, has made several changes, and should have it ready by the June board meeting.

Susan Radka and Joel Jaroch informed the board about the audit of our website, and how things would have to change to be ADA compliant. The deadline has been moved to April of 2028. There would be an initial charge to update the existing website, and then ongoing maintenance charges. Radka is currently posting information to be added to the website in the necessary format, and is willing to continue. Shumaker Group sent a 6-month history of the number of visits to the Ocqueoc Township website and what areas were accessed. The board was pleasantly surprised at the amount of hits. Any input from residents about the website would be appreciated.

The recent township hall basement water issue was discussed, how to keep it from happening again. It was noted that this has been an issue probably only twice in the past 40 years, but needed to be addressed. Counterman suggested a crock in the low corner of the basement, with another sump pump. He will have an estimate for the June meeting and Jaroch will talk to John's Plumbing & Heating about an estimate, also.

After the heavy snow from the April storm, one Amish Buggy sign was broken off and lost. Schaedig told Rick Price, Onaway Road Commission manager, to order one to replace the one below the hill on Ocqueoc Road. He will straighten the posts on several of the other signs that were bent from snowplowing.

The cemetery was discussed, how to possibly have a system for marking lots.

Schaedig reported that the Bureau of Elections no longer requires townships to have a Permanent Absent Voter Application list (voters receiving an application for any election in the township). A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Counterman, to discontinue this township list. Currently the township has 50 voters on this list. Motion Carried. Notification will be sent to voters, who will then have to contact the township clerk for a ballot, or request to be added to the Permanent Ballot list, and receive a ballot for every election.

A motion was made by Counterman, seconded by Isaacs, to order a pallet of small garbage bags for the transfer site. M.C.

June 2 will be the next P.I. County Township Officers meeting/annual picnic at Allis Township Hall. Picnic lunch at 6:00, meeting to follow.

The expense report was distributed and reviewed and Treasurer Pomranke gave the financial report.

Susan Radka asked about township ordinances for blight and having a trailer parked on a property for an extended period of time. Counterman said the county has ordinances, and suggested she talk to the Building & Zoning Administrator.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk