



COUNTY OF OSCODA

Board of Commissioners
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Oscoda County Government Center, 311 S. Morenci Ave, P.O. Box 399, Mio, MI 48647

Official Minutes January 10, 2023

A Regular Meeting & Annual Organizational Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** “Open to the Public” and offered to join by Teleconference, from the Commissioner’s Boardroom, located at the Oscoda County Government Center Building, 311 S. Morenci Ave, Mio Michigan 48647.

Ms. Ann Galbraith, County Clerk called today’s Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.; including those joining the meeting by teleconference. She asked to pledge to the flag followed by a roll call of the Board of Commissioners, then asked for a motion to accept today’s Agenda and to open the “Annual Organizational Meeting”.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call of Members:

Members Present:	Commissioners Varner, McCauley, Marsh, Bondar and Handrich
Members Excused:	N/A
Public Present:	8
Public by Teleconference:	7
Zoom Participants:	3

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **January 10, 2023** as presented, with one addition to Unfinished Business/New Business.

Marsh/Bondar
2023-001 a motion to approve the agenda for **January 10, 2023**, B.O.C Regular Meeting that includes the “Annual Organizational Meeting”, with one addition to Unfinished Business/New Business.

5 yes: 0 no: **Motion Carried.**

1) 2023 B.O.C Organizational Meeting.

Bondar/McCauley
2023-002 a motion to open the B.O.C “Annual Organizational Meeting” at 10:04 am.

5 yes: 0 no: **Motion Carried.**

Bondar/McCauley 2023-003 a motion to hold the “2023 Organizational Board Meeting” at the Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

5 yes: 0 no: **Motion Carried.**

2) 2023 Chair & Vice-Chair Appointments

Ms. Ann Galbraith, County Clerk asked for nominations for the 2023/2024 Board of Commissioners Chairman.

Commissioner Tom McCauley nominated Commissioner Chuck Varner as the 2023/2024 Board of Commissioners Chairman. Ms. Ann Galbraith, County Clerk, after three announcements asking for any other nominations, asked for a motion to close nominations and appoint Commissioner Chuck Varner as the 2023/2024 Board of Commissioners Chairman.

Bondar/Handrich 2023-004 a motion to close the nomination for the 2023/2024 Board of Commissioners Chairman.

Roll Call Vote: McCauley, yes; Varner, yes; Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes. **Motion Carried.**

Marsh/Bondar 2023-005 a motion to approve the nomination and appoint Commissioner Chuck Varner as the 2023/2024 Board of Commissioners Chair.

Roll Call Vote: Varner, yes; Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes. **Motion Carried.**

Commissioner Varner asked for a motion to nominate for the 2023/2024 Board of Commissioners Vice Chair. Commissioner Bondar made the nomination for Commissioner Tom McCauley as the Vice Chairman, and was seconded by Commissioner Ted Handrich. Commissioner Varner, after three announcements asking for any other nominations, asked for a motion to close nominations and appoint Commissioner Tom McCauley as the 2023/2024 Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman.

Marsh/McCauley 2023-006 a motion to close the nomination for the 2023/2024 Board of Commissioners Vice Chair.

Roll Call Vote: Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes; Handrich, yes; Marsh, yes. **Motion Carried.**

Bondar/Marsh 2023-007 a motion to approve the nomination and appoint Tom McCauley as the 2023/2024 Board of Commissioners Vice-Chair.

Roll Call Vote: Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes; Marsh, yes; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes. **Motion Carried.**

3) 2023 B.O.C. Meeting Dates

McCauley/Bondar 2023-008 a motion to hold the Regular Board of Commissioner’s Meetings at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month, unless otherwise posted.

Roll Call Vote: Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes. **Motion Carried.**

4) 2023 Scheduled Holidays

McCauley/Bondar
2023-009 a motion to accept the 2023 Holiday Schedule for Oscoda County designated by the Michigan Supreme Court, also to include a full day paid Holiday on Good Friday and a full day paid holiday on Easter Sunday for Ambulance & Sheriff Employees who work that day.

Roll Call Vote: McCauley, yes; Varner, yes; Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes. **Motion Carried.**

5) 2023 Designate: Depository (Bank), Web Site & Newspaper of Record, Office of Record Minutes, Procedural, Guidelines, and Adoption.

Marsh/Bondar
2023-010 a motion to designate the Huntington National Bank as the depository for County Funds, designate Blue Water Fuel Management for gas cards for the County, designate the Oscoda County Web Site as the public notification of record with the County Herald as the advertising newspaper of record, and designate the County Clerk's Office as the location, for the public, to obtain copies of Official Minutes, for the FY2023.

Roll Call Vote: Varner, yes; Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes. **Motion Carried.**

Bondar/McCauley
2023-011 a motion to refer to the Robert's Rules of Order for procedural guidelines, to adopt the B.O.C Bylaws & Rules of Procedures, including Appendix -A (Ethics Policy), with the option to review and up-date as needed including the current County's Personnel Policy Manual.

Roll Call Vote: Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes; Handrich, yes; Marsh, yes. **Motion Carried.**

McCauley/Handrich
2023-012 a motion to adjourn the "Annual Organizational Meeting" at 10:12 am and return to the Regular Board Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes; Marsh, yes; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for January 10, 2023.

Bondar/Marsh
2023-013 a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for January 10, 2023.

Item #1 Unofficial Minutes for December 27, 2022, as presented.

Item #2 General and Special Funds Budget Reports for December 2022.

Item #3 Claims and Audit Docket for January 10, 2023, as received from the County Clerk's Office.

Roll Call Vote: Bondar, yes; Marsh, yes; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes; Handrich, yes. **Motion Carried.**

Public Matters & Comments (Limited to three minutes per person)

Ms. Ann Galbraith, County Clerk:

- Correction to the date for Trivia Night, March 11, 2023. Tickets are available at Blue Collar Clothing Co., Mio, MI. Proceeds go to Montmorency Oscoda County Child Protection Council.
- There will be a MAC Meeting in Lansing, MI on Friday, Jan 20, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. regarding the decommissioning of the dams. Ms. Ann Galbraith plans to attend in person and encouraged attendance. There is a Zoom link available for the meeting.

Mr. Mike Benefiel:

- Asked is there a possibility of turning the dam into a federal museum site due to it being a historical site? He is interested in hearing avenues of this possibility.

Appointments:

- 1) Mr. Jimmy Vance, Park Manager – Authorize to apply for Michigan Spark Grant

McCauley/Bondar
2023-014 a motion to authorize Mr. Jimmy Vance, Oscoda County Park Manager, on behalf of Oscoda County, to apply for the Michigan Spark Grant offered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), of which is a reimbursable grant in the amount of up to \$150 K - \$250 K, and authorize the Oscoda County Chairman, Commissioner Varner and Ms. Ann Galbraith, County Clerk to sign on the County’s behalf.

Roll Call Vote: Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes. **Motion Carried.**

Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) Mr. Richard Landry, Veterans Affairs – Review of Proposed Veterans Memorial Designs

Bondar/Handrich
2023-015 a motion to authorize the proposed designs for the Veterans Memorial site, based on the designs that have been submitted for review.

5 yes: 0 no: **Motion Carried.**

Unfinished Business/New Business:

Addition:

Commissioner Varner, EMS Discussion:
EMS Director position has been posted and advertised. Applicants have been scheduled for interviews for Thursday, January 12, 2023.

Financial:

- 1) Mr. Tim Whiting, Building Department – Request for New Computers

Bondar/McCauley
2023-016 a motion to approve the purchase of two new office computers for the building department, recently quoted at \$1,600.00, to be paid out of budget line Equipment Non-Capitol (249.371.775.00) and so, amend the budget.

Roll Call Vote: Varner, yes; Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes;
Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes. **Motion Carried.**

2) Nationwide Investment Options (5ForLife Fund) – Current Investment Options

Handrich/Bondar
2023-017 a motion to **Opt-Out** of the offer of an enhanced plan of investment options through Nationwide Investment Options (5ForLife Fund), and to allow the Chairman to sign the Opt-Out form, as requested.

Roll Call Vote: Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes;
Handrich, yes; Marsh, yes. **Motion Carried.**

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Varner:

The current Committee Assignments are in the Dropbox for review. During the 2nd meeting in January 2023, we will be re-assigning the committee assignments. If anyone has an interest in any assignment, please notify Ms. Rene Welser, B.O.C. Executive Secretary.

- Substance Abuse Meeting:
 - Tax monies have not come in yet.
- Injection well is complete.
 - Will be operational in the Spring.
- Community Mental Health has taken a break.
- Settle a committee appointment to Finance. Will have to meet this coming week with the Treasurer.
 - Commissioner Varner nominated Commissioner Marsh for the Finance Committee.
- Welcomed Commissioner Handrich to the Board of Commissioners.
- Commissioner Handrich has agreed to meet with Commissioner Varner regarding the new Sheriff Dept building.

Commissioner Bondar:

- Council on Aging:
 - Millage amount that was overlooked for two years. Ms. Amber Woehlert stated that this will be corrected in the summer and this has also been approved by the State.
 - Mentor Township (Mio School District) did not catch this. The cost will be recouped by adding onto the summer tax bills. A letter will be sent out along with the tax bills to explain.
 - Christmas Dinner was open to the public, and they had a great turnout.
 - Thai/Chi classes will begin soon.
 - A pool table has also been added to the facility as well as a television has been installed at the Council on Aging for Zoom meetings. Commissioner Bondar expressed her appreciation to Mr. Craig Ross for the IT support.
- Opioid funds will be coming soon.
- FELT grant

Administrator/HR Position:

Commissioner Bondar asked about the status of the Human Resource position. Commissioner Varner and Commissioner Marsh have discussed moving forward. The Board of Commissioners needs to follow through on this matter. There are qualified applicants that have expressed an interest to the position.

Commissioner McCauley:

- Road Commission Meeting
 - Mr. Roger Wiegand, Chairman and Mr. Thomas Siegler, Vice Chairman
- Library Meeting
 - Finance issues.
- MTA Meeting
 - Thomas & Sons were in attendance.
 - 10-12 yd dumpsters will be available soon.
 - Recycling fees should be made equivalent to other townships.
 - Commissioner Varner stated that there are mandated recycling fees in Alpena County. We (the BOC) will need to decide on a fee for Oscoda County residents.

Commissioner Marsh:

- MDIC Update:
 - Ms. Rene Welser and Commissioner Marsh recently meet with Ms. Julie Miller from the Public Defender's office.
 - Plans to switch over to a Public Defender Office in Alpena, MI.
 - Currently searching for office space in the area, personnel for staffing, etc.
 - Public Defender services will begin on March 1, 2023.
 - County contribution remains the same.
 - Smooth transition from current attorneys, the Court system over to the Public Defender office.
 - Ms. Julie Miller recommended getting together with the Courts teams to ensure a smooth transition.

Public Comments (Limited to three minutes per person):

Ms. Amy Knepp, Director of District Library:

- In 2010, we were one of the pilot Michigan Legal Self-Help Centers. There were four centers that were established that year, of which Oscoda County was the only public library. Mr. Charley Campbell who runs the Self-Help Centers in the State of Michigan. Mr. Campbell stated that the Oscoda County District Library was the most successful in the State and has developed great relationships with the Courts. There are now four Legal Self-Help Centers located in public libraries in Northeast Michigan. There are plans to overhaul the organization of the site. Meetings need to be held with the Judge/Courts to find out how they will be impacted.

Mr. Michael Bowers, Emergency Management:

- Stop the bleed kits are in for the schools. The kits will be delivered to the schools today and classes will be offered to the schools at that time.
- Mr. Tucker at NEMCOG will be attending the fire chiefs meeting this month. Discussion will be held about the status of the Community Wildfire Grant so that the Fire Chiefs are aware.
- He was able to secure \$10K for the Court building during his regional meeting yesterday. The funds will be used to purchase partitions within the court rooms.
- Emergency Management has received a portion of \$4k of hazardous equipment over the past month. There is a remainder in process, awaiting shipping.

- An Emergency Management Response was put in place for the storm during Christmas. There were five shelters in place. There were no significant issues that occurred during this time. The shelters have been registered with 211 and are in place and well organized.
- Leaders of the Cert teams met over the holidays and they plan to hold a meeting on preparedness for disasters education for public attendance and first responders.
- Cyber Security assessment has been planned as well as purchasing the necessary equipment. This should help decrease the insurance premiums for cyber security.
- Pursued EMHSD and the Attorney General's office has allowed Mr. Michael Bowers to retain 4 counties, which includes Oscoda County. Therefore, he has requested that the Board of Commissioners allow him to rescind his resignation. Mr. Michael Bowers will submit a letter requesting to rescind the previous Motion #2022-284 made on November 22, 2022, which will be sent to Ms. Rene Welser and presented to the Board of Commissioners at the next meeting.

Sheriff Grace:

- No shave November raised \$650, which was given to a local family in need.
- Officer has returned to the drug team. STING purchased a vehicle, and Oscoda County will be responsible for maintenance, fuel and insurance coverage. New vehicle will be added to the County policy.
- Letter of understanding has been provided to the Board of Commissioners by Sheriff Grace. Commissioner Varner suggested adding a signature line for the Chairman's signature. Sheriff Grace states that revisions can be made to the letter by adding additional signature line for Commissioner Varner, Chairman.
- Planning to establish a Part-time Dispatch position. Sheriff Grace will get with Ms. Rene Welser to complete the task.
- There is 911 paperwork that needs to be completed online by Commissioner Varner, with a due date of January 27, 2023.

Commissioner Varner spoke in regards to the return of the Drug Officer. Paperwork is required to be submitted to the Clerk's office (i.e., activation orders, job description, etc.).

Ms. Ann Galbraith:

- Announced that Ms. Diane Gusler will be retiring in June 2023.

Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer:

- In regards to the Opioid settlement, a special fund will need to be set-up and the money is to be used by law enforcement and substance abuse. It is his understanding that the funds will be coming in small portions over a 14-year period beginning June 2023. Mr. William Kendall filed the paperwork so that Oscoda County would be considered as a part of the Class action suit.
- Ms. Audry Mitchell, Chief Deputy will be retiring in March 31, 2023. An acknowledgement letter will be forthcoming and presented to our next Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Adjournment:

Marsh/McCauley a motion to adjourn today's meeting at (11:49 a.m.).
2023-018

5 yes: 0 no: **Motion Carried.**

The B.O.C will hold their next Regular B.O.C Meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** held in the **B.O.C Boardroom or join the meeting by Teleconference** by dialing 989-826-1163 (Pin#353).

**Chuck Varner, Oscoda County
Board of Commissioners Chairman**

**Ann Galbraith, Oscoda County
Clerk & Register of Deeds**