



COUNTY OF OSCODA

Mr. Charles E. Varner, Jr, Chairman
Ms. Jackie Bondar
Mr. Joe Breough

Mr. Tom McCauley, Vice Chairman
Mr. Ted Handrich

Telephone (989) 826-1130

Fax Line (989) 826-1173

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

Official Minutes February 24, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner's was held on **Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** open to the public; in compliance with Michigan Legislature requirements and as allowed by Public Act 228 of 2020, Open Meetings Act (Excerpt) Act 267 of 1976, MCL - Section 15.263, from the Oscoda County Courthouse Annex, 105 S. Court Street, Mio Michigan 48647.

A. Call to Order

Commissioner Varner called today's "Public Meeting" to order at 10:00 a.m.

B. Invocation and/or Pledge

Pledge to the Flag

C. Roll Call of Board Members

Roll Call of Members:

Members Present:	Commissioners McCauley, Varner, Breough and Handrich
Members Excused:	Commissioner Bondar
Public Present:	5
Public by Teleconference:	Unavailable
Zoom Participants:	Unavailable

D. Approval of Agenda & Annual Organizational Meeting

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **February 24, 2026**, as presented.

Handrich/McCauley 2026-049 a motion to approve the agenda for **February 24, 2026**, B.O.C Regular Meeting, as presented.

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

E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for February 24, 2026.

The B.O.C. approved the Consent Calendar Items for **February 24, 2026**.

McCauley/Breough 2026-050 a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **February 24, 2026**.

Item #1 Unofficial Minutes for **February 10, 2026**, as presented.

Item #2 General & Special Fund Summary **January 2026.**

Item #3 Claims and Audit Docket for **February 24, 2026**, as received from the County Clerk's Office in the amount of **\$251,592.90**.

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

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

N/A

G. Appointments:

- 1) Ms. Susan Avery, Tri-Town Fire Department Treasurer – Jaws of Life Equipment

Ms. Susan Avery discussed the urgent need to replace the County's Jaws of Life equipment following a failed maintenance and safety inspection of the current 1980s-era units. Kevin Marino presented a quote for new equipment costing approximately \$46,000, noting that recent grant applications were denied and no immediate state or federal funding is available.

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) Ms. Michelle Knepp - Consumers Energy Vegetation Clearing Discussion

Ms. Michelle Knepp reported that Consumers Energy has provided notification of upcoming utility maintenance in the local area, scheduled to begin in approximately one month.

Two trees previously left standing near the Veterans Memorial have been slated for removal. Consumers Energy will clear these trees and treat the remaining stumps with herbicide to prevent regrowth. Two additional trees will be trimmed but not removed. These are located in front of the Sheriff Department and near the Warbler display.

- 2) Ms. Michelle Knepp - Tree Removal; Oscoda County Government Center Building

Handrich/McCauley
2026-051 a motion to authorize the maintenance team to remove the tree located at south side of the Oscoda County Government Center building, during the Spring 2026 season and replaced with a different tree to be memorialized with the existing plaque, as a part of our lawn landscaping project.

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

- 3) Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator/HR Director – Government Center Repair Update

The project is officially transitioning into the repair phase following recent assessments. We are currently awaiting final official clearance from the insurance provider to proceed with full-scale work. Meetings with contractors are being scheduled for the coming week to secure commitments before the peak construction season begins. The estimated timeframe for a total return to normal operations remains 6 to 9 months.

I. Public Hearing:

- 1) Mr. Michael Bowers, Emergency Management - Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC); Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding for the 2025 Urgent Need Program

Breaugh/Handrich
2026-052 a motion to hold a Public Hearing at 10:33 a.m. required under the Open Meetings Act (1976 PA 276, MCL 15.261 et seq.) to review the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding for the 2025 Urgent Need Program, as advertised.

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

McCauley/Handrich
2026-053 a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 10:44 a.m. and return to the Regular Board Meeting.

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

Breaugh/Handrich
2026-054 a motion to officially adopt **Resolution 2026-001** “Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Community Development Block Grant 2025 Urgent Need”, as written.

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

J. Unfinished Business/New Business:

1) Mr. Michael Bowers, Emergency Management – MEDC Letter of Intent Discussion

Handrich/McCauley
2026-055 a motion to delegate authority to Mr. Michael Bowers and Ms. Michelle Knepp to take all actions necessary to advance and finalize the agreement involving Montmorency County and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

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

2) Sheriff Department Staffing

Varner/Breaugh
2026-056 a motion to acknowledge the resignation from Mr. Jacob Hughes, Deputy effective Saturday, February 14, 2026.

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

3) Clerk’s Office Staffing

McCauley/Handrich
2026-057 a motion to acknowledge the transfer of Ms. Jennifer Cronkright from Payroll Specialist to Deputy Clerk/Register of Deeds effective February 8, 2026 with a pay change from \$20.03 per hour to \$18.98 per hour and to be paid out of the Deputy Register Of Deeds budget line 101-236-705.01.

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

Breaugh/McCauley
2026-058 a motion to acknowledge the title change for Ms. Diane Hill to Chief Deputy Clerk/Register of Deeds effective February 8, 2026, with no change to rate of pay

or budget line.

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

4) Oscoda County Park Seasonal Help

Handrich/McCauley
2026-059 a motion to acknowledge the re-hiring of Ms. Sarah A. Nowak, as an Oscoda County Park seasonal employee to begin work effective Monday, March 30, 2026 through Tuesday, December 1, 2026 at \$14.25 per hour, working up to 28 hours per week, but not to exceed 1,000 hours over the duration of the season, and so, amend the budget.

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

5) Economic Development Corporation Board Members

Breaugh/Handrich
2026-060 a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Mr. Jon Satkowiak from the Economic Development Corporation & Brownfield Board, effective Wednesday, December 20, 2023.

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

McCauley/Breaugh
2026-061 a motion to acknowledge the termination of Ms. Misty deGuzman from the Economic Development Corporation & Brownfield Board, effective Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

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

K. Financial:

1) Historical Commission

Varner/Breaugh
2026-062 a motion to authorize the Treasurer's office to release annually budgeted funds to the Historical Commission as established in the approved annual appropriations, to be disbursed on February 1st of each calendar year, effective immediately and continuing annually until rescinded or amended by the Board.

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

L. Public Comments (Limited to three minutes per person):

Mr. Michael Bowers, Emergency Management provided an update pertaining to the 2025 Ice Storm Recovery.

M. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended District Health Department #2 Board Meeting
 - The preliminary audit results are in and everything looks good.
- Reviewed Oscoda County Claims & Audit
- Attended Historical Commission/Steiner Museum Board Meeting
 - Trying to determine the owners' preferred direction for the museum.

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended Greenwood Township Board Meeting
- Attended Big Creek Township Board Meeting
- Attended Oscoda County Road Commission Meeting
 - Finishing up their union contract. Possibly seeking a Deputy Clerk to fill Ms. Christine Matthew's position
- Attended District Health Department #2 Board Meeting
 - High level of flu in Michigan.
 - Life expectancy is at an all-time high.
- The Oscoda County District Library will be closed on Friday, February 27, 2026. They are also planning to experiment with Saturday hours soon.

Commissioner Breaugh:

- Attended NE Michigan Consortium (Michigan Works) Board Meeting

Commissioner Varner:

- Continuous review of the Government Center Building
 - Expressed his appreciation for the willingness to work together as we move forward.
- Attended Wellvance Program/Planning Committee Meeting
- Attended Wellvance Buildings and Grounds/Facilities Committee Meeting
- Attended M.O.A Landfill Authority Board Meeting
 - The board is evaluating the construction of a new cell to address capacity needs, as space at the facility is considered a significant and expensive asset.
- Attended Wellvance Executive Finance Committee Meeting
- Reviewed M.O.A. Landfill Claims & Accounting
- Reviewed Oscoda County Claims & Audit

N. Adjournment:

Handrich/Breaugh a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 11:05 a.m.
2026-063

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

The Board of Commissioners will hold their next scheduled "Regular B.O.C Meeting" on **Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** held in the Oscoda County Courthouse Annex, 105 S. Court Street, Mio Michigan 48647.

**Charles E Varner, Jr., Oscoda County
 Board of Commissioners Chairman**

**Libby Marsh-Shephard, Oscoda County
 Clerk & Register of Deeds**