



COUNTY OF OSCODA

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

Mr. Tom McCauley, Vice Chairman
Mr. Ted Handrich

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

Official Minutes March 24, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, March 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 Breagh, Handrich, McCauley and Varner
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 **March 24, 2026**, as presented.

Breagh/McCauley 2026-072 a motion to approve the agenda for **March 24, 2026**, B.O.C Regular Meeting, as presented, with the authorized changes.

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

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

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

McCauley/Handrich 2026-073 a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **March 24, 2026**.

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

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

Item #3 Claims and Audit Docket for **March 24, 2026**, as received from the County Clerk’s Office in the amount of **\$58,638.68**.

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

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

N/A

G. Appointments:

- 1) Mr. Robert Stankiewicz, EMS Director – Purchase of Equipment

Handrich/McCauley
2026-074 a motion to rescind the previous Motion#2026-034 dated January 27, 2026, and to authorize Mr. Robert Stankiewicz, EMS Director to accept the two proposals from MacQueen Equipment, LLC to purchase (2) gas powered ambulances as presented totaling \$330,900.00, to be financed with Huntington Bank and to be paid for out of Amb New Equip Capital Over \$5,000 budget line 102-651-977.00, and so, amend the budget.

- (1) CRESTLINE #21325 CCL150 Type III; and
- (1) CRESTLINE #21327 CCL150 Type III)

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

- 2) Ms. Rebecca Yunker, Executive Director – Northern Michigan Children’s Assessment Center Millage Proposal

Rebecca Yunker, representing the Northern Michigan Children’s Advocacy Center (NMCAC), addressed the board regarding a significant funding crisis. Due to a \$100,000 drop in federal grants and an anticipated 14% cut for 2027, the center is seeking more sustainable local support to continue serving children in the community.

Discussion:

- While the goal of providing access to advocacy centers across Michigan by 2025 has been met, state and federal funding hasn’t kept pace. The NMCAC currently faces a 30% budget shortfall.
- Proposal of a 0.05 millage for Oscoda County, which would generate approximately \$26,989 annually. This would replace the current annual county appropriation but would increase the administrative workload for county staff.
- The NMCAC serves six counties. While Otsego County has already agreed to the millage language, others like Crawford and Ogemaw are currently contributing through \$10,000 annual appropriations.
- The center provides vital services including law enforcement partnership, abuse prevention education in schools, and digital safety training (AI, sex trafficking, etc.), with an estimated cost of \$2,500–\$3,000 per child.
- The millage language must be reviewed by an attorney by May 11, 2026, to potentially make the August ballot. Commissioner Varner noted that while Oscoda County is historically supportive of millages, the language requires a strict legal review first.

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

N/A

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

1) Committee Appointments

Commissioner Varner revised the 2025 Committee Appointments and temporarily appointed Commissioner Breagh as the Airport Liaison, replacing Commissioner Bondar, effective immediately.

2) Economic Development Corporation Board Member

Breagh/McCauley a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Mr. Richard Castle from the
2026-075 Economic Development Corporation & Brownfield Board, effective Wednesday,
March 4, 2026, with regret.

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

J. Financial:

1) Mr. Tim Whiting, Building Inspector – Building Department Fees

Handrich/Breagh a motion to authorize the proposed increase of plumbing, mechanical and
2026-076 electrical fees in Oscoda County as recommended by Mr. Tim Whiting, Building
Inspector, effective April 15, 2026.

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Application Fee	\$ 60.00	\$ 65.00
Special/Safety Inspection	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00
Rough/Additional Inspection	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00
Final Inspection	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00

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

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

Mr. Tim Whiting, Building Inspector:

Spoke in favor of the Northern Michigan Children’s Assessment Center (NMCAC) organization, sharing that his family had previously utilized their services. He described the NMCAC as a "wonderful organization" and expressed his gratitude for their ongoing support within the community.

Commissioner Varner:

Ice Storm Response: Noted that while Oscoda County was not included in Governor Whitmer’s State of Emergency, our local departments (Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator, Emergency Management and the Sheriff’s Department) coordinated effectively. Commissioner Varner also noted a significant improvement in preparedness compared to the previous year. The Mio Community Center served as a warming station for a couple of days.

Community Development Block Grant program: In Oscoda County, the generator grant is an active emergency preparedness initiative funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urgent Need Program. As of late March 2026, the county has 15 generators on order for distribution to local entities.

Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer:

Inquired about the Government Center construction. Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator provided a status update stating that the project is currently awaiting insurance clearance and quote approvals, expected by late this week or early next. She indicated that the primary challenge moving forward will be coordinating construction while the building remains occupied by staff.

L. Committee Reports:

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended District Health Department #2 Board Meeting
- Attended Road Commission Meeting
 - Approval of Union Contracts

Commissioner Breagh:

- Attended Veterans Affairs Board Meeting
- Attended Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Board Meeting

Commissioner Handrich:

- Reviewed Claims & Audit
- Attended EDC & Brownfield Board Meeting
 - Mr. Doug Baum & Ms. Jennifer Riggs gave a presentation on regional land banks
- Attended District Health Department #2 Board Meeting
- Cancelled; M.O.A Landfill Authority Board

Commissioner Varner:

- Attended Wellvance Program/Planning Committee Meeting
- Attended Wellvance Buildings and Grounds/Facilities Committee Meeting
- Cancelled; M.O.A Landfill Authority Board
 - M.O.A Landfill was closed on Monday, March 16, 2026
- Attended Wellvance Executive Finance Committee Meeting
- Attended Community Mediation Services Board Meeting in Gaylord, MI
- Reviewed M.O.A. Landfill Claims
- Reviewed Claims & Audit
- Attended Wellvance Board Meeting
- Plans to attend Northern Michigan Regional Entity in Gaylord, MI on Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Commissioner Varner discussed replacing the existing signage on the Sheriff Department building with Mr. Joe Thibault of Clark Construction. There are structural concerns, specifically "rippling" at the signage location and the rear of the building, which were identified and addressed prior to the one-year warranty walkthrough. Clark Construction is currently awaiting a formal response and feedback from both the Sheriff and the Board to move forward.

M. Adjournment:

Handrich/Breagh a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 10:51 am.

2026-077

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

The Board of Commissioners will hold their next scheduled "Regular B.O.C Meeting" on **Tuesday, April 14, 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**