



# COUNTY OF OSCODA

Mr. Charles E. Varner, Jr, Chair  
Ms. Jackie Bondar  
Ms. Libby Marsh

Mr. Tom McCauley, Vice Chair  
Mr. Ted Handrich

Telephone (989) 826-1130

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

## Official Minutes April 9, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024 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.

### A. Call to Order

Commissioner Varner called today’s “Public Meeting” to order at 10:00 a.m.; including those joining the meeting by teleconference.

### B. Invocation and/or Pledge

Pledge to the Flag

### C. Roll Call of Board Members

**Roll Call:** McCauley, yes; Varner, yes; Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes and Bondar, yes.

Members Excused:	Commissioner Bondar (attended via Zoom)
Public Present:	3
Public by Teleconference:	4
Zoom Participants:	2

### D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **April 9, 2024**, as presented.

McCauley/Handrich a motion to approve the agenda for **April 9, 2024**, B.O.C Regular Meeting, as presented with one addition to Correspondence.  
**2024-101**

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

### E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for April 9, 2024.

The B.O.C. approved the Consent Calendar Items for **April 9, 2024**.

Marsh/McCauley a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **April 9, 2024**.  
**2024-102**

**Item #1** Unofficial Minutes and Closed Session Minutes for **March 26, 2024**, as presented.

**Item #2** General & Special Funds Report for **March 2024**.

**Item #3** Claims and Audit Docket for **April 9, 2024**, as received from the County Clerk’s Office in the amount of **\$42,648.06**.

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

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

N/A

**G. Appointments:**

1) Ms. Amber Woehlert, Equalization Director – Oscoda County 2024 Annual Equalization Report

McCauley/Handrich a motion to enter an Equalization Session, as required by PA 135 of 1991 at  
**2024-103** 10:06 a.m.

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

**Discussion:**

There was a minor mistake that occurred in Big Creek Township that affected commercial properties. The starting values were incorrect going into Board of Review, which resulted in incorrect ending values. Assessed values will be deducted from commercial properties, which will lower the commercial value by \$252,277.00 which is approximately \$15-\$20 per parcel. The State of Michigan has been notified and paperwork has been submitted regarding the error.

The tentative taxable value is \$509,525,983, which is approximately 10.5% increase from last year. We continue to see increases, but overall, there have not been a lot of real estate sales, due to lack of inventory in Oscoda County.

Mr. Amber Woehlert, Equalization Director suggested to be conservative with the increase of taxable values. Without having an inventory in Oscoda County, there is nothing to make ratios up, which will cause a reduction in appraisals. Currently the inflation rate is capped at 5%. We also have the potential of having the “Ax MI Tax” on the ballots, therefore we need to be conservative with the funds that we have set aside.

Commissioner Varner stated that he recalled the conversation from one year ago in regards to the increase in taxable values and then a decrease will follow.

Handrich/McCauley a motion to adjourn the Equalization Session and return to the Regular Board  
**2024-104** Meeting at 10:11 a.m.

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

Marsh/Handrich a motion to accept the Oscoda County 2024 Equalization Report, with the total  
**2024-105** equalized value of **\$739,332,923** as prepared and received by Ms. Amber Woehlert, Equalization Director, and authorize the Chair and the County Clerk to sign, as requested.

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

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) Mr. Jimmy Vance, Oscoda County Park Manager - Seasonal Help

McCauley/Marsh  
**2024-106** a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Mr. Richard Mailhot, as an Oscoda County Park Seasonal part-time employee, from April 8, 2024 through August 24, 2024 at \$13.00 per hour to work up to 15 hours per week, and so, amend the Oscoda County Park Budget (208).

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

Addition

- 2) Mr. Joseph Chrivia, Executive Assistant @ AuSable Valley Community Mental Health – Mental Health Month; Community Events

Marsh/McCauley  
**2024-107** a motion requesting permission from the Board of Commissioners to allow displaying yard signs promoting Mental Health Month at several Oscoda County properties, as requested.

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

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

- 1) Proposed Millage Language

McCauley/Handrich  
**2024-108** a motion to accept and send the “Proposed Millage Language” for the Sheriff Operating, Council on Aging and DEAO, as received, to the Millage Attorney, Ms. Laura Bassett, from Dickinson Wright PLLC in Bloomfield Hills, for language review and approval.

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

- 2) Donation of Painting

Marsh/McCauley  
**2024-109** a motion to acknowledge the donation of a painting by Ms. Karen Ciske who is a local Oscoda County resident and to express our gratitude and appreciation to her for her time, talents and contribution.

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

J. Financial:

N/A

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

Sheriff Grace:

- Take Back Drug Day is scheduled for the end of month (April 2024);
- Discussions from vendors for the Sheriff Department call taking system. CentralSquare Technologies is the choice of vendors. Sheriff stated that he intends on submitting something for the next BOC meeting for review/approval and a motion. There are three other counties that are on board and in agreement with the idea, and if all four counties are joining together, the cost will

lessen substantially. The current quote is for \$166K, if joining alone; \$84K by joining with the other counties, with a recurring annual expense of \$15K per year. The expense will be paid for out of the 911 Emergency Service budget.

Commissioner Varner welcomed Mr. Robert Stankiewicz, EMS Director.

#### L. Committee Reports:

##### Commissioner Marsh:

- Steiner Museum Update
  - Committees have been working diligently;
  - Gift shop items are coming in;
  - Woodhaven Log & Lumber donated lumber to finish off the gift shop area and Duke Construction has been working to install and should be finishing this week;
  - Plans to get things setup and ready for opening weekend which will be Memorial Day weekend;
  - Updates the townships so that they are aware of where things stand with the museum.
    - Commissioner Varner stated that there should be no problem in the townships doing their part, they are expecting to receive billing soon.

##### Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended Comins Township Board Meeting
  - Public meeting on the brine issue, and they have agreed to do a one-time brine application.
  - There is discussion of adding a millage to the ballots.
- Attended MTA Meeting
  - Mr. Randy Booth discussed the Youth Advisory Council Day and mentioned that their funds are running low; therefore, they are requesting/accepting donations for the youth's needs. Last year the youth choose to use the funds for suicide counseling following a suicide that occurred at Ogemaw Heights High School. The date of Tuesday, May 7, 2024 has been scheduled for donations to be made towards the program.
- Attended Big Creek Township Meeting
  - The electronics/tire recycling date is scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

##### Commissioner Bondar:

- Complimented the painting that was donated by Ms. Karen Ciske and said it is gorgeous.
- Attended the Veterans Affairs Meeting
  - Memorial Site Meeting

##### Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended Natural River Review Board Meeting
  - A resident was requesting a variance for stairs leading to the river, which was approved.
- Attended Road Commission Meeting
  - Ordering a new tractor to replace the one that was wrecked in Greenwood Township;
  - A pre-construction meeting will be held for the Miller Road project.

##### Commissioner Varner:

- Attended NMRE Meeting
- Attended Clinton Township Board Meeting
  - Board of Review, no attendance
- Attended 1010 Technologies Meeting
  - Reviewed the mechanical contract; waiting signature to begin project

- Attended NEMSCA Meeting in Tawas, MI
- Attended Construction Meeting
  - Progress is being made;
  - Bi-weekly meetings are being held;
  - Tentative schedule for completion of the Sheriff Department is November 2024.

Adjournment:

Marsh/McCauley            a motion to adjourn today’s meeting at 10:36 a.m.  
**2024-110**

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

The Board of Commissioners will hold their “Regular B.O.C Meeting” scheduled for **Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** held in the Board of Commissioners Boardroom.

- Join the meeting by Teleconference by dialing 989-826-1163 (Pin#353)
- Join the meeting by Zoom by using the link below along with the Meeting ID and passcode  
<https://zoom.us/j/95321452263?pwd=enN2MTFFMnYxeFRnOFUzQWVqSUIrZz09>  
Meeting ID: 953 2145 2263  
Passcode: 676747

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

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