



# COUNTY OF OSCODA

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

Mr. Tom McCauley, Vice Chair  
 Mr. Ted Handrich

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

## Official Minutes April 23, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, April 23, 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:** Commissioners Varner, Marsh, Handrich, Bondar and McCauley

Members Excused: Commissioner Bondar (attended via telephone)  
 Public Present: 9  
 Public by Teleconference: 4  
 Zoom Participants: 6

### D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **April 23, 2024**, as presented.

McCauley/Marsh 2024-111 a motion to approve the agenda for **April 23, 2024**, B.O.C Regular Meeting, as presented.

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

### E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for April 23, 2024.

The B.O.C. approved the Consent Calendar Items for **April 23, 2024**.

Handrich/McCauley 2024-112 a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **April 23, 2024**.

**Item #1** Unofficial Minutes for **April 9, 2024**, as presented.

### **Item #2** Budget Amendments

Treasurer: a request to add a new budget line Special Occurrence Expense 298-682-998.00 to the Veterans Affairs budget.

Treasurer: a request to add a new budget line Postage 101.270.730.00 to the Motor Pool budget.

Veterans Affairs: a request to add funds to the Special Occurrence Expense budget line 298.682.998.00 in the amount of \$700.00, to cover the expense of a driver’s appreciation luncheon, and so, amend the budget.

Building Department: a request to increase funds to the Computer Service budget line 249.371.819.00 in the amount of \$2,803.00, to cover the expense of BS&A Software, and so, amend the budget.

**Item #3** Expenditure Report for **March 2024**.

## MARCH 2024 EXPENDITURES

	PAYROLL	EXPENSES	TOTAL
101 General Fund	\$278,710.12	\$183,830.38	\$462,540.50
102 Ambulance Equip	\$0.00	\$2,028.84	\$2,028.84

103	Sheriff Equip	\$0.00	\$4,260.46	\$4,260.46
104	911 Emergency	\$14,038.62	-\$1,499.04	\$12,539.58
205	Officer Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	
208	Park Fund	\$5,274.27	\$3,093.30	\$8,367.57
209	D.A.R.E.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
210	Ambulance Fund	\$97,933.89	\$29,269.43	\$127,203.32
215	Friend/Court	\$9,417.40	\$2,361.11	\$11,778.51
216	Public Guardian	\$0.00	\$0.00	
217	Fairgrounds	\$0.00	\$342.52	\$342.52
218	Smith Lake	\$0.00	\$0.00	
230	Hazmat	\$0.00	\$0.00	
232	Historical Comm	\$0.00	\$342.29	\$342.29
239	Gypsy Moth	\$0.00	\$0.00	
245	Public Improvement	\$0.00	\$0.00	
249	Building Dept.	\$7,311.16	\$6,557.29	\$13,868.45
256	R.O.D. Automation	\$0.00	\$927.00	\$927.00
258	May 4 Courthouse Fire	\$0.00	\$0.00	
260	MIDC	\$0.00	\$132,987.16	\$132,987.16
263	Concealed Pistol Licensing	\$0.00	\$28.88	\$28.88
265	Drug Law Enforcement	\$0.00	\$1,539.66	\$1,539.66
269	Law Library	\$0.00	\$366.98	\$366.98
271	Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	
274	Council/Aging	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
281	EDC Revolving Loan	\$0.00	\$0.00	
285	OPIOID Settlement Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	
286	ARPA FUNDS	\$0.00	\$0.00	
290	LATCF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	
292	Child Care	\$8,866.47	\$11,767.28	\$20,633.75
293	Soldiers / Sailors Relief	\$0.00	\$0.00	
294	Veterans Trust	\$0.00	\$0.00	
295	Airport	\$1,848.93	-\$380.84	\$1,468.09
296	Basic Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	
297	Smile/Counseling	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
298	Veterans Affairs	\$5,234.37	\$10,478.61	\$15,712.98
469	Building Construction Fund	\$0.00	\$44,866.89	\$44,866.89
470	Courthouse Preservation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
516	DTRF	\$0.00	\$1,462.92	\$1,462.92
518	Foreclosure Fund	\$0.00	\$152.00	\$152.00
535	Housing	\$0.00	\$8,350.69	\$8,350.69
616	Tax Revolving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
891	Perry Lk Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b><i>SUB TOTALS</i></b>	\$428,635.23	\$473,558.81	\$902,194.04

201	Road Commission			\$168,415.50
	<b><i>Grand Total</i></b>		\$1,070,609.54	

**Item #4** Claims and Audit Docket for **April 23, 2024**, as received from the County Clerk’s Office in the amount of **\$42,709.04**.

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

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

Ms. Sarah Haynes, who is a resident of Fairview, MI expressed her concerns of the actions that have taken place at the District Library.

Commissioner Varner explained that during “public comments” we do not do a question and answer, however the Board of Commissioners are separate from the District Library as of two years ago. The District Library partnerships with Comins Township. The Board of Commissioners does appoint members to the library board.

G. Appointments:

- 1) Mr. Al Chaney, Veterans Affairs – Relocation of County Memorial

The Oscoda County Memorial Park committee is requesting approval from the Board of Commissioners to remove the existing Memorial located on M-33 (in front of the Government Center Building) and relocate the Memorial to the new Veterans Memorial site.

The plan includes:

- Obtaining a quote from a contractor for the removal of the panels and bricks and re-install to the new area;
- Reuse the original two panels and bricks.

Handrich/McCauley      a motion to allow the request to remove and reassemble the Memorial site from  
**2024-113**                      the M-33 location to the Veterans Memorial site, as requested.

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

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) Spring Project at The Oscoda County Fairgrounds

The Country Gardener’s Club braved the chilly but very sunny weather this month to begin work on the Oscoda County Fairground entrance garden. Member Linda Esch ordered all of the necessary materials and obtained permission to complete this much needed facelift. Following Linda’s garden design, donated perennials will be planted, and the design will come to life. Thanks to members John Esch (and his tractor), Kathie Gonyea, Sue and Mike Bentley and David and Lisa Comer, the garden area was cleaned out, bushes were trimmed, and weed barrier and soil were added. The Club would like to thank The Yard on Miller Road, north of Mio, for donating the topsoil and the Esch’s for contributing compost. Don Agius has graciously agreed to repaint the sign at the entrance. Thank you again to all that participated in the clean-up and a big thank you to Linda Esch for getting it started.

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

- 1) Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator/Human Resources Director – Maintenance Department Staffing Discussion

Ms. Michelle Knepp stated that there are a lot of changes coming up for our Maintenance Department. Due to the upcoming retirement of Mr. Joe Breugh, Maintenance Supervisor, effective June 30, 2024 we have reviewed the staff, and the following recommendations were made.

Marsh/Handrich      a motion to authorize the promotion of Mr. Rick Burton to the Maintenance  
**2024-114**                      Supervisor Position, effective Sunday, June 30, 2024 with a starting salary of  
\$43,000.00 annually, and eligible for County benefits.

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

McCauley/Handrich      a motion to advertise and hire a replacement for the Maintenance Custodian III  
**2024-115**                      position, as a full-time non-union position, working 40 hours per week with a  
starting wage of \$16.90 per hour, and eligible for County benefits.

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

Handrich/McCauley      a motion to acknowledge the retirement of Ms. Lori Warren, Maintenance  
**2024-116**                      Custodian II, effective Saturday, April 13, 2024.

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

Marsh/Handrich      a motion to advertise and hire a replacement for the Maintenance Custodian II  
**2024-117**                      position, as a full-time non-union position, working 40 hours per week with a  
starting wage of \$15.68 per hour, and eligible for County benefits.

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

J. Financial:

- 1) Mr. Robert Stankiewicz, EMS Director – EMS Cardiac Monitor Purchase

For full transparency, we recently purchased two monitors that were previously approved by the board and were delivered on Monday, April 22, 2024. This request is for an additional two monitors of which the equipment budget does support, making a total of four monitors that the agency does need. The monitors will be purchased out of the equipment budget and if approved, we will take delivery of the monitors within the next two weeks and the payment can be deferred until 2025 with 0% interest and fees.

Handrich/McCauley 2024-118 a motion to authorize the purchase the cardiac monitors from Zoll Medical Corporation in the amount of \$73,840.00, and defer the billing to 2025 with no interest applied.

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

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

Sheriff Grace:

- Take Back Drug Day
  - The Sheriff Department collected approximately 40 lbs. of medication to be disposed of that has accumulated over the past 6 months.

L. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended Steiner Meeting
  - Excited to see the progress that has been made;
  - Meeting will be held tomorrow night.
- Attended District Health Meeting
- Attended EDC Meeting
  - He shared with the Board that there is a list of tasks that Ms. Alayne Hansen, EDC Director is working hard to accomplish;
  - People have been contacting EDC to get loans;
  - The EDC is working with small businesses and promoting job fairs;
  - The EDC Board is trying to promote EDC within Oscoda County;
    - Does the Board of Commissioners mind if the EDC had its own website so that they would have the ability to promote?
  - Commissioner Marsh stated that it is nice to see the activity on social media.

Commissioner Bondar:

N/A

Commissioner McCauley:

- Natural River Review Board
  - Received correspondence from Ms. Ashley Colburn regarding an applicant from Crawford County who put in a request for three fish habitats on the AuSable River of which will be granted by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Attended District Health Department Meeting
  - Dr. Hamed's report included:
    - Covid is on the rise in Michigan (810 new cases weekly);
    - Flu level is currently low; however, the Avian flu has been detected in Michigan;
    - Measles has doubled in the last year and there are currently 5 cases in Michigan.
- Attended Road Commission Meeting
  - They are purchasing the signs to complete the sign projects on 489 in the amount of \$42,244.00;
  - They are ordering a new 4-wheel drive tractor mower with mulch attachments in the amount of \$240,000.00 to replace the one that was recently involved in an accident. They received payment from the insurance company for the tractor that was recently involved an accident that was totaled.

Commissioner Varner:

- Attended Northern Michigan Regional Entity Meeting
  - There will be a new Chair, Mr. Gary Klacking beginning tomorrow.
- Attended Community Mental Health Board Meeting
  - They are rebranding and they have updated their campuses.
- Attended Oscoda County Sheriff Department Construction Meeting
  - The group reviewed the progress that has been made, the project is running on schedule and discussion was held regarding the finances/budget.

- Attended Elmer Township Meeting
- Attended Substance Abuse Meeting
- Attended Community Mediation Board Meeting

Commissioner Marsh:

- Attended Health Service Council Commission Meeting
- Attended District Health & Human Services Meeting
  - There has been a huge turnover now that they are having to perform Medicaid reviews that were backlogged due to Covid. They have had a massive load of case files which has created confusion as well as an influx of calls into their offices.
- Attended Historical Commission Meeting
  - The Steiner Museum; the board and the committees have been working very hard on projects;
  - Meetings with the Townships have been held so that everyone is updated on things that are going on at the Steiner Museum;
  - There have been a lot of interest for seasonal help job postings. After reviewing the budget process, they have been able to extend the days/hours of work available as well as being opened to the public more than they have in the past. Ms. Michelle Knepp has assisted Ms. Terri Shattuck by going through that interview process and meeting with the candidates and they are looking to finalize things on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.
- Attended Michigan Works Meeting (on behalf of Commissioner Bondar)
  - There are funds that flows through that department as well as a lot of resources that are available to Oscoda County residents (i.e., employment, training, education, etc.).

M. Closed Session – Union Negotiation

Commissioner Varner called for a Closed Session in accordance with the “Open Meetings” (1976 PA267 MCL 15.261 et seq.) (Section 8-C); Strategy with the negotiations of a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Handrich/McCauley 2024-119 a motion to go into Closed Session at 10:40 a.m., in accordance with the “Open Meetings” (1976 PA267 MCL 15.261 et seq.) (Section 8-C). Strategy with the negotiations of a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

McCauley/Handrich 2024-120 a motion to return to the B.O.C Meeting at 10:50 a.m.

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

McCauley/Handrich 2024-121 a motion to ratify the Contract Agreement “between” the County of Oscoda and the United Steelworkers (USW), effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026, as agreed upon by all parties.

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

N. Adjournment

Handrich/Marsh 2024-122 a motion to adjourn today’s meeting at 10:54 a.m.

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

The Board of Commissioners will hold their “Regular B.O.C Meeting” scheduled for **Tuesday, May 14, 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**