



# COUNTY OF OSCODA

**Board of Commissioners**  
**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** **April 25, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, April 25, 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.

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

Pledge to the Flag  
Roll Call of Members:

Members Present: Commissioners Varner, Marsh, Handrich, and McCauley  
Commissioner Bondar (Tele-Conference)

Members Excused: None

Public Present: 10

Public by Teleconference: 6

Zoom Participants: 1

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **April 25, 2023**, as presented, with four additions to Financial.

McCauley/Handrich a motion to approve the Agenda for **April 25, 2023**, as presented, with four additions to Financial.  
**2023-109**

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

Marsh/McCauley a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **April 25, 2023**.  
**2023-110**

**Item #1** Unofficial Minutes for **April 11, 2023**.

**Item #2** Budget Amendments

**Item #3** Claims and Audit Docket for **April 25, 2023**, as received from the County Clerk’s Office. Total Claims & Audit is **\$82,552.08**.

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

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

Ms. Amy Hensel with the Oscoda County Herald requested a group photo of the Youth in Government members.

**Appointments:**

- 1) Mr. Richard Castle, Community Affairs Manager at Consumers Energy – County Parcel Data

McCauley/Marsh  
**2023-111** a motion to allow the waiving of the fees in the amount of \$4,800.00 associated with the Public Sector Consultants acquiring GIS files needed for the development of the Mio Dam Economic Contribution Study as part of the future hydro strategy for the Mio Dam, as requested by Mr. Richard Castle, Community Affairs Manager at Consumers Energy.

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

**Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:**

N/A

**Unfinished Business/New Business:**

- 1) Courthouse Preservation Fund Discussion

Marsh/Handrich  
**2023-112** a motion to authorize the expense of \$2,511.57 to be paid out of the (470) Courthouse Preservation Fund budget, for renovations being done inside of the Courthouse Annex.

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

- 2) Mr. Devin Layman, Grindstone Heating & Cooling – Letter of Interest for EDC Board Appointment

Handrich/McCauley  
**2023-113** a motion to appoint Mr. Devin Layman to the Oscoda County EDC & Brownfield Board filling the vacancy from April 25, 2023 through December 31, 2027, as requested.

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

- 3) Mr. Jimmy Vance, Oscoda County Park Manager – Advertise to Hire Seasonal Help

McCauley/Marsh  
**2023-114** a motion to authorize advertising and hiring to fill three temporaries seasonal employees for the Oscoda County Park, with a start date of mid-May 2023 through October 10, 2023 and a starting wage from \$12.00 to \$12.25 per hour depending on experience, and so, amend the budget.

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

**Financial:**

- 1) Mr. Joe Breough, Maintenance Supervisor – Seasonal Employee Hired (Fair Grounds & Smith Lake)

Handrich/McCauley  
**2023-115** a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Mr. Herbert Baker as a part-time employee to fill the position as a Seasonal Employee at the Oscoda County Fair Grounds (217) and Smith Lake (218), effective May 1, 2023 through September 1, 2023, working 28 hours per week at \$14.00 per hour, and so, amend the budget.

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

- 2) Sheriff Grace – Acknowledge the hiring of Full-Time Dispatcher

Marsh/McCauley  
**2023-116** a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Ms. Gwen Shafer as a full-time employee to fill the Dispatcher position, with a hire date of Sunday, April 30, 2023, with a starting wage of \$16.83 per hour, and so, amend the budget.

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

- 3) Board of Commissioners – Advertise and Hire County Administrator/Human Resources Director

Varner/Marsh  
**2023-117** a motion to authorize advertise to hire and fill the County Administrator/Human Resources Director position for the Oscoda County, without a set salary (Commensurate with experience) and so, amend the budget.

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

- 4) Maintenance – Removal of Playground Equipment

Marsh/McCauley  
**2023-118** a motion to authorize Mr. Joe Breough, Maintenance Supervisor to remove the playground equipment located across from the Courthouse Annex building and place picnic tables in the area, and so, amend the budget.

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

- 5) Maintenance – Obtain Quotes for ramp replacement at the Courthouse Annex building

Marsh/McCauley  
**2023-119** a motion to authorize Mr. Joe Breough, Maintenance Supervisor to get quotes to replace the ramp at the main entrance of the Courthouse Annex building.

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

6) Historical Commission – Board Appointment

Marsh/McCauley            a motion to appoint Commissioner Handrich to the Historical Commission,  
2023-120                    effective immediately.

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

**Public Comments (Limited to three minutes per person):**

Ms. Kristina Easterday:

- Seeking direction/suggestions on pursuing the idea to open an Animal Shelter in Oscoda County.
- It is the desire of she and her husband to purchase property and build.
- For the past 5 years she has worked for Ogemaw in West Branch, MI as a Director. She also has experience with other communities at shelters and animal hospitals.
  - Commissioner Tom McCauley and Commissioner Chuck Varner will meet with Ms. Kristina Easterday following the meeting for further discussion.

Ms. Brenna Kirkpatrick, Trial Courts:

- Invited the Commissioners to come over and view the Courthouse improvements.
- Thanks to Commissioner Libby Marsh for her assistance.
- An X-ray machine that was donated by Ogemaw to the Courthouse has been installed.
- The files have been transferred over to the Annex building and the Central Filing area is nearly complete.

Mr. Richard Castle, EDC Board Vice Chair:

- Thanks to the Board of Commissioners for recognizing the Youth in Government.
- Mr. Richard Castle extended an invitation to the Youth Group to attend an EDC meeting to have a better understanding from an economic standpoint.

Mr. Al Chaney, Veterans Affairs:

- Gave an update on the Memorial Committee.
  - Raised \$9,500.00 for the Memorial Site.
  - Advertise for Contractors, in hopes of local business participation.
  - Contractors are required to be licensed and insured.
  - Currently waiting for mis-dig to assess the property.
  - Flagpoles will be installed soon.
  - The Veterans Affairs meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the VFW.
  - The estimated project completion date is Veterans Day 2024.

Sheriff Grace:

- National Take Back Drug Day was this past weekend.
  - There was 35 pounds of medication turned over for disposal.
  - This is a great program!

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Commissioner Varner:**

- Attended funeral service on Sunday, April 16, 2023 of Mr. Arthur Clough in Crawford County.
- Attended ASVCMH Meeting
  - Mr. Michael Welsch, Chairman suddenly passed away.
  - Mr. Donald Jay O'Farrell from Iosco County was appointed to the Board as the new Chairman.
  - Gained a couple of new committees. Additions are Building and Grounds Facilities Committee & Program Committee at AVCMH.
- Plans to attend the NMRE Meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 in Gaylord, MI
- Attended Oscoda County Sheriff Department Construction Meeting with Clark Construction Co.
  - Discussed the projected budget for the project.

### **Commissioner McCauley:**

- Attended Health Department Meeting
  - Dr. Hamed reported that the State of Michigan records shows a reduction in Covid cases/deaths in comparison to this time last year.
- Attended Road Commission Meeting
  - Summer hours begin May 22, 2023 (4/10-hour days).
  - Next year the Road Commission will be contracting with the State for the Weighmaster program which monitors the heavy loads.

### **Commissioner Handrich:**

- Attended Oscoda County Sheriff Department Construction Meeting with Clark Construction Co.
  - Moving forward on the Oscoda County Sheriff Department.

### **Commissioner Marsh:**

- Attended Special Meeting on Friday, April 21, 2023 at the Steiner Museum.
  - Commissioner Handrich has agreed to be appointed to the Historical Commission committee.
  - The Historical Commission has not been meeting a quorum to hold their meetings.
  - Commissioner Marsh has been reviewing the By-Laws for the Historical Commission.
- Attended 211 Meeting
  - The new Director who is interested in meeting with the Board of Commissioners.
- Project connect will be held at the Mio AuSable School in June 2023.
  - Sheriff Grace and other Deputies will plan to attend.
  - Commissioner Marsh will coordinate with the group to provide additional information to Sheriff Grace.

## **Adjournment:**

Marsh/Handrich            a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 11:00 a.m.  
**2023-121**

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

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

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