



COUNTY OF OSCODA

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Charles E. Varner, Jr, Chairman
Ms. Linda Jagiello
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

Unofficial Minutes May 12, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioners was held on **Tuesday, May 12, 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 Mio Community Center, 305 9th Street, Mio, MI 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, Handrich and Jagiello
Members Excused:	N/A
Public Present:	8
Public by Teleconference:	Unavailable
Zoom Participants:	Unavailable

Commissioner Varner officially welcomed Commissioner Jagiello to the Board of Commissioners. This marked Jagiello's first meeting since being appointed to the District #3 position.

D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **May 12, 2026**, as presented.

McCauley/Breough 2026-114 a motion to approve the agenda for **May 12, 2026**, B.O.C Regular Meeting, as presented, with one addition to Unfinished Business/New Business.

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

E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for May 12, 2026

The B.O.C. approved the Consent Calendar Items for **May 12, 2026**.

Breough/Handrich a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **May 12, 2026**.

2026-115

Item #1 Unofficial Minutes for **April 28, 2026**, as presented.

Item #2 Claims and Audit Docket for **May 12, 2026**, as received from the County Clerk's Office in the amount of **\$98,938.75**.

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

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

Commissioner Varner gave an update regarding the Government Center Construction. He officially announced that physical construction has commenced inside the Government Center building. The county is moving forward with Clark Construction to execute the building renovations. The estimated completion window for the overall project is slated for the end of summer. Crews have formally begun installation and upgrade work on the building's fire suppression system. Remodeling and system installation will begin in the County Administrator, B.O.C. Executive Secretary, and Treasurer's offices. Upon completion of the initial administrative spaces, construction will systematically proceed throughout the remainder of the building.

G. Appointments:

N/A

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) Amend FY 2026-2029 Millage Language **Resolution 2026-004** "Proposed Oscoda County Sheriff Equipment Millage Proposal"

Handrich/McCauley 2026-116 a motion to amend the previously adopted **Resolution 2026-004**, "Oscoda County Sheriff Equipment Millage Proposal", to include the preamble language, as written.

This millage represents authorization to levy .50 mills for four years, 2026-2029, for costs of operating the Oscoda County Sheriff's Department, replacing previous authorization of .25 mills for such operating expenses, which expires with the 2029 levy.

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

- 2) Amend Language **Resolution 2026-007** "Submitting To A Vote Of The Electorate Authorization Of The Telephone Surcharge For Emergency Telephone Services (911 Services)"

Breough/Handrich 2026-117 a motion to amend the previously adopted **Resolution 2026-007**, "Oscoda County Submitting To A Vote Of The Electorate Authorization Of The Telephone Surcharge For Emergency Telephone Services (911 Services)", as written.

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

- 3) Mr. William Kendall – 1st Quarter 2026 Investment Report (Period Ending March 31, 2026)

Q1 2026 Portfolio Performance: The Board received the Q1 2026 Portfolio investment report detailing the performance and asset allocation of the county's investment portfolio. No Board action was required; the item was submitted for informational purposes only.

- 4) Ms. Suzanne Barker, Director – Oscoda County Council on Aging; Request for Letter of Support

A request was received to provide a letter of support to the Oscoda County Council on Aging for the Region 9 Area Agency on Aging Multi-Year Plan. The Board of Commissioners expressed full support for the Council on Aging, but declined to provide the letter of support due to a lack of sufficient details regarding the specific contents and obligations of the Multi-Year Plan and requested gathering comprehensive information on the plan to present at the next session.

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

- 1) Mr. Robert Stankiewicz, EMS Director – EMS Staffing

Breaugh/McCauley
2026-118 a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Mr. Yale Miller, from the Paramedic position, effective Monday, April 27, 2026.

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

McCauley/Breaugh
2026-119 a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Ms. Kerrie Eisbrenner, as a union employee to fill the Full-Time EMT position, with a hire date of Friday, May 22, 2026, at a starting wage of \$18.30 per hour, and eligible for County benefits.

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

Addition

- 2) Clerk's Office Staffing

Varner/Breaugh
2026-120 a motion to authorize the Clerk's office staff to work up to an additional 5 hours per week, as needed through August 15, 2026.

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

- 3) Mr. Jimmy Vance, Park Manager – Seasonal Help

Jagiello/Handrich
2026-121 a motion to acknowledge the re-hiring of Ms. Dawn Smith, as a part-time seasonal employee to fill the seasonal position at the Oscoda County Park, with a start date of Monday, May 18, 2026 through Thursday, October 8, 2026, working up to 28 hours per week, not to exceed 1000 hours over the duration of the season, with a starting wage of \$13.73 per hour, and so, amend the budget.

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

- 4) Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator – Motor Pool Staffing

Handrich/Breaugh
2026-122 a motion to acknowledge the termination of Mr. Rod Marsh, temporary part-time Motor Pool position, effective Friday, May 1, 2026.

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

Breaugh/Handrich
2026-123 a motion to authorize Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator to advertise and hire to fill the Motor Pool Mechanic position, as a full-time non-union position, working up to 40 hours per week, and eligible for County benefits.

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

5) Historical Commission – Seasonal Help

Handrich/McCauley
2026-124 a motion to acknowledge the re-hiring of Mr. Jim Larrison, as a part-time seasonal employee to fill the seasonal Maintenance position at the Historical Commission, with a start date of Thursday, May 7, 2026, working up to 24 hours per week at a starting wage of \$15.00 per hour, and so, amend the budget.

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

Handrich/Breaugh
2026-125 a motion to acknowledge the re-hiring of Ms. Kylee Fuhr, as a part-time seasonal employee to fill the seasonal position at the Historical Commission, with a start date of Thursday, May 7, 2026, working up to 24 hours per week at a starting wage of \$15.00 per hour, and so, amend the budget.

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

Breaugh/Handrich
2026-126 a motion to acknowledge the re-hiring of Ms. Jamie Abbie, as a part-time seasonal employee to fill the seasonal position at the Historical Commission, with a start date of Thursday, May 7, 2026, working up to 24 hours per week at a starting wage of \$15.00 per hour, and so, amend the budget.

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

J. Financial:

1) Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport – Aviation Ground Operation Liability Insurance Renewal

Jagiello/Breaugh
2026-127 a motion to approve the quote, and authorize the Chair to sign, for the Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport Aviation Ground Operations Liability Insurance from Global Aerospace, with an annual premium of \$1,988.00, which is inclusive of War and (Terrorism Risk Insurance Act) TRIA for the policy period of May 14, 2026 through May 14, 2027 and continue with the multi-year policy (3-years), and so, amend the budget.

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

2) Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer – Transfer of Funds

McCauley/Handrich
2026-128 a motion authorizing the Treasurer’s office to move funds in the amount of \$254,375.00 from the DTRF Transfer Out budget line 516-294-999.00 to the General Fund budget line 101-000-699.03 to pay the principal and interest in 2026 on the bond to Mercantile Bank for the Sheriffs Building, and so amend the

budget.

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

- 3) Ms. Susan Avery, Big Creek Township Treasurer – Oscoda County Tire Recycling Event & EGLE Rural Electronics Recycling Grant

Discussion:

Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator updated the Board on the five-county Materials Management committee's progress on a mandated 5-year recycling plan. Oscoda County is receiving an EGLE grant totaling \$74,110 annually for the first three years, dropping to \$70,000 annually for the subsequent two years, to assist with countywide implementation. State mandates require the county to establish a recycling drop center open to the public for a minimum of 24 hours per month over the next five years.

Ms. Susan Avery previously requested that Oscoda County utilize its EGLE planning grant funds to support Big Creek Township's upcoming Electronics Recycling event, as the township's independent grant application was denied. Ms. Knepp consulted with EGLE and confirmed that county grant funds can only reimburse the event if the vendor contract is officially held under Oscoda County's name. Direct cash allocation to the township without a county contract will be denied reimbursement by EGLE.

Past county contributions to this event typically averaged \$500 annually. The current request is \$2,000, representing a \$1,500 increase. Commissioner Varner and Commissioner Handrich expressed reservations about committing county funds without guaranteed reimbursement eligibility and raised concerns regarding reported township hesitation to partner contractually with the County. Commissioner McCauley noted that Greenwood Township declined to contribute after the township's primary grant fell through.

Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator has reached out to the vendor, Resourceful Recycling, to evaluate contract restructuring under the County's name. Additionally, an EGLE Tire Grant application remains pending; if approved or managed under the County, it could also be covered by the planning grant, provided the township cooperates. The Electronics Recycling event is currently scheduled for June 13, 2026.

The Board made a unified decision to table the request until additional information is received.

Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator was directed to contact the other local townships to gauge their willingness to partner with Oscoda County on centralized grant opportunities and report back at the next board meeting.

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

Ms. Rhonda Barnhart, Mobility Manager for the Roscommon County Transportation Authority, addressed the Board regarding regional mobility management services. She acknowledged the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) recent presentation concerning Oscoda County's transportation shortages following the closure of the Oscoda County Area Transit Service (OCATS). She explained that regional mobility management is a new state initiative designed to assess local transit gaps. She offered her services to help identify community needs, conduct senior outreach, and develop targeted transportation solutions for Oscoda County.

Commissioner Varner confirmed that state transportation executives are fully aware of the county's current transit challenges. He noted that public transportation options are scheduled for a formal discussion on an upcoming Board of Commissioners (BOC) agenda. He advised Ms. Barnhart to request an official appointment on a future BOC agenda to deliver a formal presentation to the full Board. Ms.

Michelle Knepp, County Administrator, will coordinate and hold a follow-up discussion with Ms. Barnhart later this week.

L. Committee Reports:

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended Oscoda County Road Commission Meeting
 - Host on a computer server; trying to partner with the high school.
 - Approved a motion to install stop signs at 11th Street in Mio, MI.
- MTA Meeting in Greenwood Township was cancelled.

Commissioner Breagh:

- Attended Council on Aging Board Meeting
 - They are seeking a board member to fill a vacancy; and
 - Discussion regarding an addition on front of the existing building. Working with an Architect to draw plans.

Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended M.O.A Landfill Authority Board Meeting
- Attended MMPC/ILA Meeting
- Reviewed Oscoda County Claims & Audit

Commissioner Jagiello:

N/A

Commissioner Varner:

- Attended Michigan Legislative Conference, Lansing, MI
 - Representatives for Oscoda County were in attendance.
- Reviewed Oscoda County Claims & Audit
- Attended M.O.A Landfill Authority Board Meeting
- Attended in-house meetings
- Attended Northern Michigan Substance Use Disorder Board Meeting, Gaylord, MI

Commissioner Varner thanked the Sheriff Department and Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator for successful Emergency Operations Center implementation and community support during the recent fires that occurred in Oscoda County. Commissioner Varner signed a proactive State of Emergency declaration. The declaration secures potential external funding opportunities for the County if needed.

M. Adjournment:

Handrich/McCauley a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 10:57 a.m.

2026-129

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

The Board of Commissioners will hold their next scheduled "Regular B.O.C Meeting" on **Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** held at the Mio Community Center, 305 9th Street, Mio, MI 48647.

Charles E. Varner, Jr., Oscoda County

Libby Marsh-Shephard, Oscoda County

Board of Commissioners Chairman

Clerk & Register of Deeds