



COUNTY OF OSCODA

Board of Commissioners
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 June 27, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner's was held on **Tuesday, June 27, 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.

A. Call to Order

Commissioner McCauley 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 of Members:

Members Present:	Commissioners Marsh, Handrich, Bondar and McCauley
Members Excused:	Commissioner Varner
Public Present:	6
Public by Teleconference:	1
Zoom Participants:	3

D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **June 27, 2023**, as presented, with one addition to Financial.

Bondar/Marsh a motion to approve the Agenda for **June 27, 2023**, as presented, with two
2023-185 additions to Financial.

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

E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for June 27, 2023.

Marsh/Bondar a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **June 27, 2023**.
2023-186

Item #1 Unofficial Minutes for **June 13, 2023**.

Item #2 Budget Amendments

- Govt Admin: a request to increase budget line Govt Adm – MTA Dues (101.115.807.05) in the amount of \$2,500.00 to cover the increase in annual dues, and so, amend the budget. **In prior year during the budget planning, we allocated \$505.00, which was the cost of annual dues. This year’s dues have increased substantially. Please review the letter in the Dropbox that justifies what our dues cover.*
- Administrator: a request to transfer \$3,000.00 from budget line Admin Equip Repair/Maint (101.172.931.00) into budget line Admin Equip Non-Capita (101.172.775.00) to pay for office computer equipment, and so, amend the budget.
- Ambulance: a request to transfer \$43,741.23 from budget line Amb Wages (210.651.704.03) into budget lines Ambulance Wages #557 (210.651.703.03) in the amount of \$21,870.62 and Ambulance Wages #675 (210.651.703.06) in the amount of \$21,870.61 to pay for new hire wages, and so, amend the budget.

Item #3 Claims and Audit Docket for **June 27, 2023**, as received from the County Clerk’s Office. Total Claims & Audit is **\$195,178.25**.

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

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

N/A

G. Appointments:

- 1) Ms. Jen Sprik, Administrative Assistant – Mid-Michigan Medical Examiner Group, LLC – 2022 Annual Presentation

Discussion:

- In 2022, cases increased in Oscoda County.
- Discussed stats on services (Toxicology Findings, Confirmed Drug Related Deaths, Special Cases, etc.).
- Sheriff Grace stated that MMMEG has been doing a very good job in working with law enforcement agencies.

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) Treasurer – 2023 Payments in Lieu of Taxes

We have received the 2023 Payments in Lieu of Taxes for Oscoda County which was \$237,873.00, and we budgeted for \$225,000.00 in revenue, so that gives us an additional \$12,873.00. These funds are deposited into the General Fund account.

- 2) Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Admin/Human Resources Director – Request to Amend the Courthouse Preservation Fund Resolution 2015-005

Handrich/Marsh
2023-187 a motion to amend the two sections of Resolution 2015-005 and replace with Resolution 2023-008 “Courthouse Preservation Fund”. The changes will read as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Oscoda wish to maintain, preserve, and protect Oscoda County Court Buildings, commonly known as the Courthouse/Annex; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Oscoda desire to create a fund for the continued repair, preservation, maintenance and improvement of the Courthouse located at 105 Court Street, Mio, MI.

Expenditures. Expenditures from the Fund may only be made by joint agreement of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioners and the Oscoda County Trial Courts. Any expenditures from the Fund below \$2,500 by the Oscoda County Trial Courts can be approved by the court/county building liaisons prior to purchasing and do not need to go to the full board for approval.

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

- 3) Ms. Ann Galbraith, County Clerk – Statewide Septic Code (HB4479 & HB4480 SB 299 & SB300)

Discussion:

- This bill is still being worked on through the House and Senate. The District Health Department along with other counties are working on Resolutions in opposition of the bill. Unsure how the County will keep up with the mandates of the bill.
- Who will enforce the bill? Will the County prosecute? What will be done about fines, consequences and lack of manpower for inspections. According to the bill, it would require 40 inspections performed per day. This is going to create an enormous backlog. It would make sense that this mandated at the time of sale of a home, unless there is water quality issue on a lake/river. Pumped and inspected every 5 years, is the verbiage in the bill.
- Mr. Rob Pallarito, District Director Michigan Senate 36th District stated that other counties are having these same discussions and concerns regarding HB4479, HB4480, SB299 and SB300. The Senator is opposing the bill. This an unaffordable bill to the residents.

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

N/A

J. Financial:

- 1) 2023 Title III Awards

Marsh/Handrich
2023-188 a motion to award a total of \$17,445.00 from 2023 Title III Funds, awarding Mentor Township/McKinley Fire Dept#1, in the amount of \$3,500.00, Tri Town Fire Dept., in the amount of \$8,430.00, Luzerne Fire Dept., in the amount of \$5,515.00, and authorize the County Treasurer to issue checks, in the awarded amounts at the end of the advertised 45-days which will be no later than Friday, August 25, 2023.

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

Bondar/McCauley
2023-189 a motion to re-advertise by email to award the remainder of the unallocated 2023 Title III funds available in the amount of \$393.86, and for request to be submitted no later than Friday, July 14, 2023.

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

2) Ms. Ann Galbraith, Chamber of Commerce – 4th of July Donation Request

Discussion:

- Ms. Ann Galbraith, Chamber of Commerce approached the Board of Commissioners requesting a donation towards the Chamber of Commerce efforts to raise \$10,000.00 to go towards the Oscoda County 4th of July fireworks.
- Commissioner Marsh stated that in the past, the Board of Commissioners have refrained against making donations and suggested allocating funds from other sources during budget planning towards donations.
- Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer recommended asking for a legal opinion before allocating public funds towards donations.

Tabled for research and further discussion.

3) Equalization Department – Cellulose Proposal

Discussion:

- Mr. Austin Neyer, Clark Construction Services requested that Clark Contracting Services (CCS) come to the Equalization Department to assess the “Cold Room” issue that has been brought to our attention by employees who have been dealing with unstable temperatures (too cold/too hot) within their offices. An estimate has been provided by Clark Contracting Services (CCS) for review and consideration. This proposal is based on the site walk through performed on April 5, 2023. This issue was tabled until the Sheriff Department project is done to avoid additional cost of mobilization. After reaching out to Clark Construction to notify them of the Board of Commissioners decision, it has been confirmed that there is not a cost savings for this project as the work would be performed by a different department aside of the Sheriff Department building team.
- Mr. Joe Breaugh, Maintenance Supervisor is currently monitoring and making adjusts accordingly. Equalization is working with other offices to help find a comfort level for everyone.

Tabled for research and further discussion.

4) FY2023 Secure Rural Schools – Title I, II & III

Marsh/Bondar
2023-190

a motion to receive a payment and to allocate the State payment from the Forest Service and continue to commit 80% of the payment to Title I Schools, 13% of the payment for Title II Federal Projects and 7% of the payment to Title III County Projects as recommended by the RAC Committee, and authorize the County Treasurer to sign and submit the Michigan Election Form for Oscoda County.

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

5) Ms. Brenna Kirkpatrick, Court Administrator – Request to Hire Part-Time Trainer for District Court

Marsh/McCauley
2023-191

a motion to request permission to hire Ms. Donna Lowe on a part-time temporary basis to assist with training the two new District employees. The training would be done once a week for a period of three months, with a start date of June 30, 2023, and ending three months later working a maximum of 7 hours per week at

the rate of \$15.00 per hour, without County benefits, and be paid out of budget line TC Temp Help Wages (101.130.705.11), and so, amend the budget.

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

6) Treasurer's Office – Additional Licenses

Marsh/Bondar
2023-192 a motion to authorize the purchase of an additional two licenses in the amount of \$5,000.00 from Harris to meet the need for the number of users, and for funds to be transferred out of the Contingency budget, and so, amend the budget.

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

7) Ms. Brenna Kirkpatrick, Court Administrator – Amend the Clean Slate Legislature; Set Aside Overtime Pay Motion

Marsh/Handrich
2023-193 a motion to amend Motion 2023-180 and authorize permission to the Circuit and District Court staff to work additional hours and/or overtime hours as needed, effective June 13, 2023 through September 30, 2023, not to exceed of which the State offering reimbursement to cover overtime cost associated with the “Clean Slate Legislature” requirements, as requested to be submitted with the review and approval of County Admin/Human Resources Director.

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

8) Commissioner Bondar – Tree Removal at Oscoda County Fairgrounds

Bondar/McCauley
2023-194 a motion to approve the Quote from Smity's Tree Service for the removal of a tree at the Oscoda County Fairgrounds, in the amount of \$625.00 to be paid out of Contingency, and so, amend the budget.

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

9) Commissioner Bondar – Quote from Esch's Septic Service for Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport

Bondar/Marsh
2023-195 a motion to approve the Quote from Esch's Septic Service for the rental of a hand sanitation station and cleaning of the porta potty for the July 8th fly in event at the Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport, in the amount of \$125.00, and so, amend the budget.

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

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

Mr. Robert Pallarito, District Director Michigan Senate 36th District:

- Addressed the concerns of events missing in Oscoda County from the mailer, due to lack of space.
- There is a QR code that can be scanned and that takes you to the Senator's website. From there you would email the events to be added and they would make the necessary changes to the flyer and/or website, as requested. Ms. Ann Galbraith will send the email to add Oscoda County events to the mailer.
- The budget is a big outcry this week and the Appropriations Committee will be meeting at 2:30 a.m. We will be awaiting what the Senator has allocated for our county.

Sheriff Grace:

- Badges for a Cause 5K Walk/Run will be held on August 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Oscoda County Sheriff Department. There is a QR Code available on the website for registration and there is an opportunity for early registration, if interested. Looking forward to this fundraising event towards helping to fight cancer.
- Ramping up for a busy holiday weekend. Parade will be moved to 9th street which eliminates detours and traffic issues.

Mr. AJ Welser, Veterans Affairs Director:

- Zoom participation is coming through clearly with both sound and viewing.
- 9 & 10 news station, there was discussion about Traverse County shutting down their Road Commission due to the DNR ordering the Road Commission to pick up road kill. Uncertain as to how this may impact Oscoda County. There is discussion of fines being assessed to the Road Commission.

L. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Bondar:

- Interview Committee
 - Interviewed six applicants, three of the applicants were brought in for second interviews.
 - Will be meeting with Human Resources Director to follow-up on closure to make offer.
- Attended NEMCOG Meeting
 - Met with Mr. Nico Tucker regarding the Michigan Spark Grant approval.
 - The submission was made in advance of the deadline.
 - There were letters of support submitted with the grant request from Consumers, Big Creek Township, Mio-AuSable Schools and Economic Development Commission.
 - These grant funds will be used at the Oscoda County Park and used for a new playground.
- Attended a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for The Deer Camp located in Mio, MI and sponsored by the Economic Development Commission and The Chamber of Commerce.
- North Michigan Association of Counties
 - Recommends going to the MAC website which list of legislatures in the works, along with other topics are covered on their website.
- PILT Grant funds have been received.
- Attended MOA Landfill Authority Meeting
 - Looking for seasonal help, position will pay \$15.00 per hour.
 - Approved for the building move forward.
- Attended Consumers Power Stakeholders Meeting
 - Encouraged Representatives to get involved to give their input so that Consumers will understand how important these dams are.

- Big Creek Township will be contacting an Attorney to find out what our stance is on this situation.
- Michigan Works Managers Report (handout)
- Attended Veterans Affairs Meeting
 - \$11,000 in the fund and they are still selling bricks.
 - Mentor Township has donated \$3,000.00, of which \$2,000.00 of the donation came from their ARPA Funds.
 - A bucket lift is needed to fix one of the flagpoles that were recently installed. The flagpoles are solar operated and one flagpole is not working. The company that installed the flagpoles is opposed to coming from Lapeer, MI to fix the flagpole.
 - The memorial stone for the Veterans Memorial Site was approved.
- A new park placement was discussed at the Mentor Township meeting.

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended Greenwood Township Meeting
 - Dust control options and the Township decided to apply to opt back in.
 - The residents were requesting blacktop roads, which is unaffordable. Gravel needs to be placed onto dirt roads, which will help with dust control. There will be additional discussion with the Road Commission to determine a solution to remedy the issue.
- Attended District Health Department 2 Meeting
- Attended Oscoda County Road Commission Meeting

Commissioner Handrich:

- 2nd Libby on the Steiner Museum
- Attended District Health Department 2 Meeting
 - Septic Bill – Concerns of the impact on the County.
 - The accountant that was recently hired has decided to retire.
- Economic Development Corporation Update
 - Mr. Richard Castle, Ms. Deb Coulon and Commissioner Handrich has met with Michigan Works to pursue the possibility of partnering with Michigan Works and the Economic Development Corporation to become their Economic Development Corporation Director. The next meeting is scheduled for July 5, 2023 for further discussion.

Commissioner Marsh:

- Attended Health Services Council Meeting
 - Project Connect was a success! There were 34 vendors that were present at the event including the Book Bus and it was a great turnout.
 - The Oscoda County committee does a really good job in reaching out for vendor participation.
- Update on the Steiner Museum
 - There are issues going on and there are Townships that are looking to withdraw from the Board. There are decisions that need to be made going forward. There are some special meetings scheduled in hopes to review a budget and discuss what will it take to get the Steiner Museum moving in a forward direction. Hopefully decisions can be ready to present to the MTA Meeting in September 2023 with the Townships in attendance and determine who is on board and/or who is ready to withdraw from their ownership. Commissioner Marsh stated that it is her recommendation that Oscoda County will no longer be the only funding source, as Oscoda County is 1/6th of the ownership. We should not be the only

entity funding unless the other entities step up and contribute as well. A complete audit has been performed of the financials back to 2017, and it has been discovered that there has been very little funding towards the operations that has been contributed from other Townships.

M. Adjournment:
McCauley/Marsh
2023-196

a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 11:32 a.m.

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

The B.O.C will hold their "Regular B.O.C Meeting" scheduled for **Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** held in the **B.O.C Boardroom or join the meeting by Teleconference** by dialing 989-826-1163 (Pin#353).

Tom McCauley, Oscoda County
Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman

Ann Galbraith, Oscoda County
Clerk & Register of Deeds