



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 August 22, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, August 22, 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 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 of Members:

Members Present:	Commissioners Bondar, McCauley, Varner, Handrich and Marsh
Members Excused:	N/A
Public Present:	11
Public by Teleconference:	6
Zoom Participants:	10

D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **August 22, 2023**, as presented with one addition to Correspondence.

Marsh/Bondar 2023-236 a motion to approve the Agenda for **August 22, 2023**, as presented, with one addition to Correspondence.

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

E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for August 22, 2023.

Handrich/McCauley 2023-237 a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **August 22, 2023**.

Item #1 Unofficial Minutes for **August 8, 2023**.

Item #2 Budget Amendments

Item #3 Expenditures for **July 2023**.

JULY 2023 EXPENDITURES

	PAYROLL	EXPENSES	TOTAL
101 General Fund	\$176,938.37	\$305,862.44	\$482,800.81
102 Ambulance Equip	\$0.00	\$3,738.23	\$3,738.23
103 Sheriff Equip	\$0.00	\$1,391.29	\$1,391.29
104 911 Emergency	\$11,266.73	\$5,844.00	\$17,110.73
205 Officer Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
208 Park Fund	\$7,241.46	\$6,734.47	\$13,975.93
209 D.A.R.E.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
210 Ambulance Fund	\$74,414.14	\$31,954.42	\$106,368.56
215 Friend/Court	\$6,274.20	\$5,089.63	\$11,363.83
216 Public Guardian	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
217 Fairgrounds	\$0.00	\$1,209.33	\$1,209.33
218 Smith Lake	\$1,687.96	\$0.00	\$1,687.96
230 Hazmat	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
232 Historical Comm	\$322.95	\$2,541.31	\$2,864.26
239 Gypsy Moth	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
245 Public Improvement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
249 Building Dept.	\$4,393.20	\$5,520.18	\$9,913.38
256 R.O.D. Automation	\$0.00	\$4,728.98	\$4,728.98
258 May 4 Courthouse Fire	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
260 MIDC	\$0.00	\$16,794.89	\$16,794.89
263 Concealed Pistol Licensing	\$0.00	-\$404.42	-\$404.42
265 Drug Law Enforcement	\$0.00	\$2,247.52	\$2,247.52
269 Law Library	\$0.00	\$340.10	\$340.10
271 Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
274 Council/Aging	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
281 EDC Revolving Loan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
285 OPIOID Settlement Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
286 ARPA FUNDS	\$0.00	\$5,750.00	\$5,750.00
290 LATCF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
292 Child Care	\$5,295.39	\$9,415.04	\$14,710.43
293 Soldiers / Sailors Relief	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
294 Veterans Trust	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
295 Airport	\$925.36	\$12,659.03	\$13,584.39
296 Basic Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
297 Smile/Counseling	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00

298	Veterans Affairs	\$3,476.02	\$17,227.78	\$20,703.80
470	Courthouse Preservation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
516	DTRF	\$0.00	\$7,397.92	\$7,397.92
518	Foreclosure Fund	\$0.00	\$342.00	\$342.00
535	Housing	\$0.00	\$12.75	\$12.75
616	Tax Revolving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<i>SUB TOTALS</i>	\$292,235.78	\$446,646.89	\$738,882.67

201	Road Commission			\$226,267.33
	<i>Grand Total</i>	\$965,150.00		

Item #4 Claims and Audit Docket for **August 22, 2023**, as received from the County Clerk’s Office. Total Claims & Audit **\$11,679.14**.

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

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

Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer:

Due to being on vacation he has not had the opportunity until now to thank the Board of Commissioners for his wage increase.

Mr. Greyling Brandt, Mio District Ranger:

Spoke to the Board of Commissioners in regards to the Secure Rural Schools Programs.

- Title I; Roads and Schools
 - Counties generally receive the majority of Secure Rural Schools funds under Title I, which is designated for the benefit of public schools and public roads. In years when the Secure Rural Schools Act is reauthorized by Congress, Title I payments are made from the USDA Forest Service to states. States then distribute the payment to all eligible counties. The funds must be passed through to local governmental entities for use at the county level (but not necessarily to county governments themselves). Each state must spend the funds on road and school programs, and state law sets forth how the payments are to be allocated between road and school projects. The state laws differ widely, generally ranging from 30% to 100% for school programs.
- Title II; Projects on Federal lands
 - Counties typically receive 20% or less of Secure Rural Schools funds under Title II, which are used by willing Federal agencies, State and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resource objectives on Federal land and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit these resources on Federal land.
- Title III; County Projects
 - carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program; reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols; cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency service; develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans; and provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services.

In years when the Secure Rural Schools Act is reauthorized by Congress, Title III payments are made from the Forest Service to States. States then distribute the payment to all eligible counties.

- There is an opportunity this year to re-allocate the percentages that were distributed previously.

Previous Motion on June 27, 2023:

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.**

G. Appointments:

- 1.) Ms. Frances Ommani, Strategy & Development Director – NEMSCA 2022 Annual Report Presentation

Topics of Presentation:

- Introduced Ms. Lori Sauer, AAA Director of Senior Services
- NEMSCA celebrated their 55 years
- Services provided to hard working individuals and families.
- Low-income family assistance programs, NEMSCA early children’s programs, programs for children, youth enhanced programs, volunteers
- Food distribution for low-income seniors
- School Success Partnership program with Fairview Schools
- BOSS Pilot Program
- Program Impact Study
- Financial Overview (Revenue/Expenses)
- Staff Highlights; Homeless Prevention

Ms. Lisa Bolen, Executive Director/CEO was recently appointed by the Governor to represent the Community. She is a voice for our community.

Commissioner Varner stated that he thoroughly enjoys being a part of the NEMSCA Board.

Ms. Lori Sauer, AAA Director of Senior Services spoke on their Senior Services offered and the requirements of the program

- Available funding for grandparents who raise their grandchildren, dementia programs, Council on Aging, etc.

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1.) Mr. Roger Swets, Bond Attorney – Resolution to Purchase, Acquire, and Construct Capital Improvements and to Publish Notice of Intent to Issue Municipal Securities

McCauley/Handrich
2023-238 a motion to adopt “**Resolution 2023-011** to Purchase, Acquire, and Construct Capital Improvements and to Publish Notice of Intent to Issue Municipal Securities” and is intended to satisfy the requirements of Section 150 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and published in accordance with Section 517 of Act 34, as written, and authorize Ms. Ann Galbraith, County Clerk to sign.

Roll Call Vote: Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes; Bondar, no; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes. **Motion Carried.**

2.) Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer – Foreclosing Governmental Unit Report of Real Property Foreclosure Sales

The Foreclosing Governmental Unit Report of Real Property Foreclosure Sales is provided to the Board of Commissioners to meet requirements under Public Act 225 of 1976; MCL 211.78m(8)(i) which requires this report to be submitted to the Board of Commissioners by September 30th each year. This report shows the number of properties foreclosed for outstanding property taxes in 2021, the total amount of those taxes, the total amount paid at tax auction and the remaining net proceeds.

Varner/Bondar
2023-239 a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Foreclosing Governmental Unit Report of Real Property Foreclosure Sales provided by Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer.

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

3.) Ms. Amber Woehlert, Equalization Director - Resolution 2023-012 “Tax Certification for County Winter 2023”

Marsh/Bondar
2023-240 a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-012 “Tax Certification for County Winter 2023” as requested by the Oscoda County Equalization Director, Ms. Amber Woehlert and authorized by the Chairman and the County Clerk to sign the L-4029 certificate form.

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

4.) Commissioner Bondar – Letter of Support to Mio Schools

Ms. Michelle Knepp:

The school is interested in applying for the Community Center Grant which is due by the end of this month. The funds would be to make improvements within the outside athletic areas (track, softball fields, baseball fields, little league area as well as the high school area) with the intent that they could open the areas up for community use in the future. This would provide an area for individuals to walk the track and allow Mio to have a track and field team, which has not been an option for many years.

Ms. Michelle Knepp stated that she will draft a Letter of Support after receiving additional information from the school. Upon completion, the Letter of Support will be submitted to and signed by Commissioner Varner, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

1.) Ms. Brenna Kirkpatrick, Court Administrator – District Court Civil Clerk Position

McCauley/Handrich 2023-241 a motion to advertise and hire for filling the position of the District Court Civil Clerk, as a full-time non-union position, working 35 hours per week with a starting wage of \$16.11 per hour, and eligible for County benefits.

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

2.) Ms. Deb Coulon, EDC Board – EDC Director

The EDC Board has agreed on \$20,000 annual salary (beginning with a partial year payment of \$6,500 due by September 1, 2023 and then \$5,000 per quarter thereafter).

Ms. Alayne Hansen:

- Currently the office is opened one day per week on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- It is the desire to work towards having additional hours added (i.e., 9-10 hours per day and possibly a half day one day per week on a Tuesday or Thursday).
- Services in Oscoda County has been underutilized by employers, job seekers and current working individuals.
- Would like to see grant opportunities being pursued and awarded, if possible.
- Working with IT and the Treasurer’s office to develop access to email, phone and fax.

Commissioner Handrich:

At the last meeting, Ms. Alayne Hansen was present and it was so refreshing to hear what she has to offer the Economic Development Corporation.

Ms. Deb Coulon, EDC Board:

- The Treasurer, Mr. William Kendall has agreed to receive EDC loan payments through the Treasurer’s office.
- Thanks to Mr. Richard Castle who has been pursuing this opportunity to partnership with Michigan Works.
- Thanks to Mr. Ted Handrich and Ms. Rene Welsler for the hard work and time that has been put into the EDC.

Handrich/McCauley 2023-242 a motion to authorize the Economic Development Corporation to enter the partnership contract with Michigan Works to hire Ms. Alayne Hansen as the EDC Director per the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding/Contract, with a start date of September 1, 2023, pending final approval of the Board of Commissioners, and authorize the Chairman to sign as requested.

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

J. Financial:

N/A

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

Sheriff Grace:

- Badge for a Cause 5K Run/Walk Event
 - Everything went well! Thanks to Ms. Shannon Lunning, the businesses, the community, volunteers, coordinators and participation. Sheriff Grace got soaked at the event by Linda Whaley. They raised approximately \$9,500 to be donated to Friends Together.
- Cadet Wage Discussion
 - This was previously presented to the Board of Commissioners and tabled for further discussion. Ms. Michelle Knepp has been working with the labor attorney to develop a Letter of Understanding to the Union. Sheriff Grace has been working diligently with Ms. Michelle Knepp the last two weeks trying to get this matter resolved. Wages have to get more competitive to become more attractive! The surrounding counties are paying much higher wages. We are having a difficult time retaining employees. Services may be reduced due to lack of staff, which is a scary thought.
 - Cadet program through MCOLES is offering funding.
 - Hopeful of sending two people to the academy in January 2024.
 - Working with Ms. Michelle Knepp to achieve the goal to apply for reimbursement from the State.
 - Michigan State Police is also recruiting people due to low staffing issues.

L. Committee Reports:

Oscoda County Sheriff Department Update:

Commissioner Varner provided an explanation to the audience regarding that Sheriff's Department. The Building Committee paused on the Sheriff Department project because we wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of where things stood, including the cost of the project. The Building Committee has reached out to a Bond Attorney for advice and guidance as well as contacting Mercantile Bank for their Bond rates. The Board of Commissioners have voted, and the Bond Issue was approved, which will cover over half of the cost of the Sheriff Department building project. Since then, a meeting was held with Clark Construction, Sidock Group and the Building Committee to get things moving forward again. There are plans to hold a Town Hall Meeting on September 28, 2023 which will be open to all local contractors to give them an opportunity to bid on the project as well.

Commissioner Marsh asked if the current floor plan in the Dropbox is what they are aiming towards? Is this the scaled down version of the floor plan, that includes a Fitness Room, a Conference Room, a Training Room, a Squad Room and four bathrooms? I would like some conversation with one of you regarding the plans. I understand that there are statutory things that need to be included in the project, but I am just curious as to why there are four bathrooms and all of the additional rooms mentioned.

Commissioner Varner responded by saying that this is a scaled down version from 9,500 sq ft to 8,500 sq ft. We are looking to build a facility that will last for the future. Commissioner Marsh would like to have someone explain to her why this floor plan is necessary, then she might have a different opinion. My thoughts when looking at this floor plan was that I was not looking at the scaled down version. We need to be able to afford what we are building! Commissioner Varner suggested that Commissioner Marsh meet with Commissioner Handrich, Sheriff Grace or himself to further discuss any questions that needs to be addressed as well as understanding what the Department of Corrections require and what regulations need to be met.

Commissioner Bondar asked about the Sheriff Department building project being scaled down from 9,500 square foot to 8,500 square foot and asked what was the estimated cost of the project when the square footage was at 9,500? Commissioner Varner responded to say that the estimates cost was \$3.8-\$3.9 mil. After scaling down 8,500 sq ft, and the estimated price has increased. Due to having a Construction

Manager there is a guaranteed maximum price, and they are going to protect themselves by over-estimating the cost of the project. The cost is continually increasing for many projects.

Commissioner Varner:

- Attended three different AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Meetings
- Planning to attend Northern Michigan Regional Entity Meeting coming up this Thursday
- Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport
 - Meet with Forester to address the tree obstructions
 - The forester was originally going to cost \$200.00, and now he has decided to donate his time to the County for locating the tree obstructions.
- Attended NEMSCA Meeting in Cheboygan
- Attended Elmer Township Meeting

Commissioner McCauley:

- Plans to attend Health Department Meeting next week
- Attended Natural River Review Board Meeting
 - DNR fish habitat into the rivers.
- Attended Greenwood Township Meeting
 - Wireless broadband
- Attended Big Creek Township Meeting
- Attended Road Commission Meeting

Commissioner Bondar:

- Toured the Motor Pool building with Ms. Michelle Knepp and Mr. Christopher Fuhr, Motor Pool Supervisor.
 - Christopher Fuhr is working hard on the clean-up of the building.
 - The Motor Pool has approx. 200 tires that needs to be disposed of. Asked about the Recycle Program.
- Attended Council on Aging Meeting
 - Home deliveries and indoor meals are increasing
 - Addition on building has been halted due to building design.
 - Searching for other opportunities to expand.
- Oscoda County Fairgrounds
 - Will be meeting with Mr. Ted Handrich and Mr. Joe Breaugh to go out to look at bleachers that need repair.
- Attended M.O.A. Landfill Meeting
 - Moving forward with the injection well
 - The landfill has been approved to purchase the additional land surrounding the landfill.
- Attended Veterans Affairs Meeting
 - Mr. AJ Welser, Director gave an update regarding the CSFF grant is delayed.
- Oscoda County Park
 - They are dealing with a blocked sewage line.
 - Checklist has been turned into Ms. Michelle Knepp showing where the park recently passed an inspection.
- Attended NEMCOG Meeting
 - Shortage of police officers.
 - Presentation given by Michigan Department of Rural Development
 - Grant opportunities for non-profits, fire departments, sheriff's department, and senior centers. You can either apply for a grant and/or a loan with low interest rates.
 - Sent Ms. Michelle Knepp the PowerPoint presentation.

- Spark Grant has been delayed.
- Children’s apprenticeship program, available through NEMCOG
- All counties in the state of Michigan are going to be required to have a material waste program/solid waste in place that will be mandated by the State.
- Open Meetings Act has been tabled at Legislature.
- Two other counties are looking into Insurance pools.
 - Cost effective
 - Meetings will be held in September
 - Excellent coverages
- Two counties have hired contracted grant writers and their budgets have increased substantially. One grant writer is from the Oscoda Press and the other is from Newaygo County.
- Labor law changes coming in September.
 - Aggregate
 - Environmental
 - Labor Laws
 - Study of involvements and transparencies within Commissioner involvement.

Commissioner Marsh:

- Courthouse Annex Building Improvements
 - The Courthouse ramp has been installed
 - The area around the ramp has been cleaned up and seeded
 - The memorial tree has been replaced
 - The windows will be installed soon
 - Some interior lower cost projects to come
 - Obtained quotes for tree removal on County property.
 - Maintenance will clean-up
 - Community service hours will be utilized towards these projects
- Steiner Museum
 - The Mio football team volunteered on Sunday
 - Lots of cleaning has been done
 - 2024 budget is figured out and is ready to present
 - Impressed with how things are coming along outside.
 - Phase 1 of the building addition is almost complete. Has had some issues to work through.
 - The board has done their due diligence to make improvements at the museum.

Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended Steiner Museum
 - Thank you, Libby for all of the work that you are doing! It looks amazing!
- Plans to attend Comins Township Meeting tonight
 - Continuation of the new sidewalks in town
- Attended EDC Meeting
 - Reached an Agreement; New EDC Director

Commissioner Varner stated that there is an article in the MAC Newsletter regarding the 2023 Annual Conference to be held October 1-3, 2023 in Kalamazoo, MI at the Radisson Hotel. Commissioners and Ms. Michelle Knepp are encouraged to attend. If interested, get with Ms. Rene Welser for arrangements.

M. Adjournment:

Marsh/Bondar
2023-243

a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 11:50 a.m.

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

The B.O.C will hold their "Regular B.O.C Meeting" scheduled for **Tuesday, September 12, 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).

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

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