



COUNTY OF OSCODA

Mr. Charles E. Varner, Jr, Chair
Ms. Jackie Bondar
Mr. Joe Breough

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 September 23, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** “Open to the Public” and offered to join by Teleconference and zoom, 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 and zoom.

B. Invocation and/or Pledge

Pledge to the Flag

C. Roll Call of Board Members

Roll Call: Commissioners Varner, Breough, Handrich, Bondar and McCauley

Members Excused:	N/A
Public Present:	6
Public by Teleconference:	2
Zoom Participants:	5

D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **September 23, 2025**, as presented.

McCauley/Bondar a motion to approve the agenda for **September 23, 2025**, B.O.C Regular Meeting, as presented.

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

E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for September 23, 2025.

Bondar/Handrich a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **September 23, 2025**.
2025-272

Item #1 Unofficial Minutes for **September 9, 2025**, as presented.

Item #2 Budget Amendments

Treasurer: a request to add a new budget line 101-130-711.00 Sheriff – Deputy PT to the General Fund budget.

Treasurer: a request to add a new budget line 208-000-503.00 Federal USDA Domestic Grant to the Special Fund budget.

Friend of Court: a request to increase funds to Equipment Non-Capital budget line 215-141-775.00, in the amount of \$5,577.34, and so, amend the budget.

Trial Courts: a request to authorize the following budget amendments within the Trial Courts budget, as requested, and so, amend the budget.

DESCRIPTION	DECREASE BUDGET LINE	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE BUDGET LINE	AMOUNT
TC LIBRARY	101-130-982.00	PMT TO OTHER COUNTY	101-130-945.00	\$300.00
TC LIBRARY	101-130-982.00	TC TELEPHONE	101-130-850.00	\$300.00
TC COMPUTER LINE	101-130-734.00	TC POSTAGE	101-130-730.00	\$700.00
INTERPRETER FEE	101-130-820.01	COMPUTER SERVICE	101-130-819.00	\$1,000.00

Ambulance Equipment: a motion to increase funds to Equipment Non-Capital budget line 102-651-775.00, in the amount of \$2,500.00, and so, amend the budget.

Ambulance: a request to increase funds to Contingent EMT Shifts budget line 210-651-703.00, in the amount of \$11,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

Ambulance: a request to increase funds to Amb Maint/Supplies budget line 210-651-726.00, in the amount of \$1,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

Ambulance: a request to increase funds to Ambulance Office Supplies budget line 210-651-729.00, in the amount of \$1,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

Ambulance: a request to increase funds to Ambulance Postage budget line 210-651-730.00, in the amount of \$100.00, and so, amend the budget.

Ambulance: a request to increase funds to Ambulance Uniform Allowance budget line 210-651-741.00, in the amount of \$2,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

Ambulance: a request to increase funds to Ambulance Physicals budget line 210-651-835.00, in the amount of \$400.00, and so, amend the budget.

Item #3 Expenditure Report for **August 2025**

AUGUST 2025 EXPENDITURES

	PAYROLL	EXPENSES	TOTAL
101 General Fund	\$280,959.65	\$162,619.57	\$443,579.22
102 Ambulance Equip	\$0.00	\$16,926.27	\$16,926.27
103 Sheriff Equip	\$0.00	\$44,983.03	\$44,983.03
104 911 Emergency	\$11,634.69	\$2,529.19	\$14,163.88
205 Officer Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$793.43
208 Park Fund	\$11,367.26	\$8,785.02	\$20,152.28
209 D.A.R.E.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
210 Ambulance Fund	\$127,941.42	\$36,921.34	\$164,862.76
215 Friend/Court	\$10,349.20	\$5,399.70	\$15,748.90
216 Public Guardian	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
217 Fairgrounds	\$797.68	\$2,460.12	\$3,257.80
218 Smith Lake	\$1,441.97	\$0.00	\$1,441.97

230	Hazmat	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
232	Historical Comm	\$3,223.33	\$174.12	\$3,397.45
239	Gypsy Moth	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
245	Public Improvement	\$0.00	\$22,078.99	\$22,078.99
249	Building Dept.	\$7,561.92	\$9,567.18	\$17,129.10
256	R.O.D. Automation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
258	May 4 Courthouse Fire	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
260	MIDC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
263	Concealed Pistol Licensing	\$0.00	\$166.47	\$166.47
265	Drug Law Enforcement	\$14,478.43	\$3,294.39	\$17,772.82
269	Law Library	\$0.00	\$411.03	\$411.03
271	Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
274	Council/Aging	\$0.00	\$40,236.04	\$40,236.04
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	\$0.00	\$0.00
290	LATCF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
292	Child Care	\$18,264.51	\$5,478.46	\$23,742.97
293	Soldiers / Sailors Relief	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
294	Veterans Trust	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
295	Airport	\$1,279.35	\$327.86	\$1,607.21
296	Basic Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
297	Smile/Counseling	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
298	Veterans Affairs	\$5,927.65	\$11,837.90	\$17,765.55
469	Building Construction Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
470	Courthouse Preservation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
516	DTRF	\$0.00	\$10,404.51	\$10,404.51
518	Foreclosure Fund	\$0.00	\$20,994.30	\$20,994.30
535	Housing	\$0.00	\$319.29	\$319.29
616	Tax Revolving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
891	Perry Lk Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	SUB TOTALS	\$495,227.06	\$406,958.21	\$902,185.27

201	Road Commission			\$368,841.06
	Grand Total		\$1,271,026.33	

Item #4 Claims and Audit Docket for **September 23, 2025**, as received from the County Clerk's Office in the amount of **\$121,082.00**.

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

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

N/A

G. Appointments:

- 1) Mr. Steve Defour, Oscoda County Drain Commissioner – 2025 Perry Lake Dam Inspection Discussion

McCauley/Handrich
2025-273 a motion to approve the quote received from James T. Pawloski, PE, LLC, in the amount of \$1,500.00, unless the Engineering Firm is unable to meet the deadline of December 31, 2025, then the Board of Commissioners has approved the second quote received from Wade Trim, in the amount of \$1,650.00 for the required Perry Lake - Dam Re-Certification Inspection, to be paid out of the Gov Admin Drain Commission budget line 101-115-806.00, and authorize Mr. Steve Defour, Oscoda County Drain Commissioner to act on Oscoda County's behalf, and so, amend the budget.

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

- 2) Ms. Chiara Cameron-Wood, Executive Director – 211 Northeast Michigan Presentation

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) Department of Human & Health Services Board

Handrich/Breaugh
2025-274 a motion to advertise for the Department of Human Services board position, in the Oscoda County Herald and on the Oscoda County website, and to allow time to receive Letters of Interest for the position with a deadline of October 17, 2025.

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

- 2) Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator – Veterans Affairs Board

Breaugh/Bondar
2025-275 a motion to acknowledge the resignation of appointment of Mr. Dennis Cooper from the Veterans Affairs Board, and post to fill the remainder of the term ending on December 31, 2027, and to allow time to receive Letters of Interest for the position with a deadline of October 31, 2025.

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

McCauley/Handrich
2025-276 a motion to advertise for the Oscoda County Veterans Affairs board position, in the Oscoda County Herald, on the Oscoda County website and within the Veterans Service Organizations within Oscoda County for the term of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029, and to allow time to receive Letters of Interest for the position with a deadline of October 31, 2025.

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

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

- 1) 2025 MERS Officer and Employee Delegate Certification & Annual Conference

Handrich/McCauley
2025-277 a motion to amend previous motion 2025-232 dated August 12, 2025 and appoint Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator/HR Director as an Officer Delegate, and to appoint Ms. Libby Marsh-Shephard, Clerk/Register of Deeds and/or Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer as Officer Alternate Delegates and authorize their attendance to the “2025 MERS Annual Conference” scheduled to be held on October 16-17, 2025 at the Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI to represent Oscoda County.

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

2) 2026 General & Special Fund Budget Planning

Breaugh/Bondar
2025-278 a motion to authorize the Finance Committee to begin reviewing the 2026 General & Special Fund Budgets and Contract Renewals for the sake of budget planning for FY26, as requested.

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

J. Financial:

1) Montmorency-Oscoda-Alpena Solid Waste Management Authority – Financial Assurance Documentation

McCauley/Bondar
2025-279 a motion to review and approve the Montmorency-Oscoda-Alpena Solid Waste Management Authority, Financial Assurance Documentation, as presented, in contingency with all three Counties approval, and allow the Chair to sign.

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

2) Memorandum of Understanding for Materials Management Planning funds to Alpena County

Breaugh/Handrich
2025-280 a motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding for Materials Management funds to Alpena County and authorize the Oscoda County’s financial contribution to the development of a Material Management Plan (MMP) that best serves the region and select payment Option B, as described:

Option B

Alpena County will invoice each participating County on a monthly basis on a one fifth portion of the total amount of work accomplished in the previous month in association with the Work Program.

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

K. 2025 Contract Agreement Renewals:

1) MIDC Attorney Administrator Agreement Renewal

Handrich/Bondar
2025-281 a motion to approve the renewal MIDC Attorney Administrator’s Agreement, as written, and re-appoint Attorney Mr. William Pfeiffer, as the Oscoda County’s MIDC Attorney Administrator, as of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, and authorize the Chair to sign.

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

2) Northeast Michigan Regional Public Defender Office Agreement

McCauley/Breaugh a motion to approve the renewal Northeast Michigan Regional Public Defender Office Agreement with Oscoda County, as written, effective October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, and authorize the Chairman to sign.
2025-282

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

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

Ms. Chiara Cameron-Wood, Executive Director – 211 Northeast Michigan:

Addressed the question about continuation of County services remaining available to the public if the State Government were to shut down?

Commissioner Varner responded, yes and stated that our local government will continue to operate as long as we can, unless we become dependent on the State for something that is necessary for operations. Therefore, we can't guarantee that what we need from the State is going to be available, but regardless, our offices will remain open. She also announced the intentions of 211 Northeast Michigan is to continue operations and treating a Government shutdown as if there were a disaster by allowing offices to remain open to the public.

Mr. Douglas McDermaid, President of the Perry Lake Association:

Addressed his concerns of the Perry Lake Dam inspection being performed timely as well as concerns about the overall operation of the dam. He requested a meeting with a Commissioner and Mr. Steve Defour, Oscoda County Road Commission to discuss some issues with the dam.

M. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Bondar:

- Oscoda County Park
 - We are receiving the final check from the unused portion of a grant to be used for completion of the staircase project at the Oscoda County Park in the Spring 2026.
- Consumers Energy representative stated that the dams have been sold to Hull Street Energy located in Bethesda, MD. The transaction will need approval from state and federal regulators and is expected to take place in approximately 12 to 18 months, with the sale expected to be finalized in late 2026 or early 2027. Under terms of the agreement, Confluence Hydro will enter into a contract with Consumers Energy to provide power from the facilities for 30 years. Confluence Hydro plans to seek approval to renew the dams' federal operating licenses, which are set to expire beginning in 2034.
- Attended M.O.A Landfill Authority Board Meeting
- Attended Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting
- Attended Council on Aging Meeting
 - A Lesson & Learn presentation was given by the Veterans Affairs department.
 - Mr. Heath Nemeth from the Veterans Affairs, Roscommon County was in attendance. It was a great presentation and good turnout.
- Attended Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) Meeting
 - Mentor Township has agreed to pay their dues to NEMCOG.
 - NEMCOG will be working with Mentor Township on their Master Plan.

- M.O.A Landfill Claims & Account
- Attended Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Meeting
 - At a standstill until the Memorandum of Understanding is complete.
- Attended Regional Materials Management Planning Committee Meeting; serving as a Proxy for Ms. Susan Avery.
 - Ms. Michelle Knepp explained that the Materials Management Planning Committee is in the planning stages. There are plans to do some community involvement within the next 3-6 months, one of which will include a survey that will be mailed out to the community to get a better idea of the needs in terms of recycling and where their interest lies.
- Attended Big Creek Township Meeting
- Attended NE Michigan Consortium (Michigan Works) Meeting
 - Concerns were addressed about the delay in approving the State and Federal budgets as well as the possibility of a shutdown. They are working on a plan in case the budgets don't get passed.

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended District Health Department #2 Meeting
 - They are concerned about funding and the effect that it will have on their employment positions, resulting in the possibility of having to furlough employees or job loss;
 - Ogemaw County offered 0% contribution in response to the request for contribution, due the fund balance that they have in the savings account;
 - Dr. Hamed reported that Syphilis is on the rise.
- Attended Road Commission Meeting
 - Perry Lake Dam inspection discussion

Commissioner Breaugh:

- Attended Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- Attended Veterans Affairs Board Meeting
- Attended Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Meeting

Commissioner Handrich:

- Reviewed Claims & Audit
- Attended Steiner Museum Meetings
 - Budget Planning
 - Strategic Planning
- Attended Economic Development Corporation (EDC) & Brownfield Board Meeting
 - Resignation of a board member
- Attended District Health Department #2 Meeting
- Plans to attend Comins Township Meeting tonight

Commissioner Varner:

- Attended N. MI Substance Use Disorder Board Meeting
- Attended Meeting w/Ms. Michelle Knepp and Commissioner Handrich
 - Union Negotiation Discussion
- Attended M.O.A Landfill Authority Board Meeting
- Attended Wellvance Program Committee Meeting
- Attended Wellvance Executive Finance Committee Meeting
- Attended Local Planning Team Meeting
 - Decreased attendance in comparison to the July meeting, however all basis is covered.
- Attended Community Mediation Services Meeting in Gaylord, MI
- Grant submission for MSHDA

- Reviewed Claims & Audit
- Attended Emergency Management Meeting
 - Review and discussion of Federal funding
 - They are expecting the Oscoda County reporting this week.
- Attended Community Mental Health Meeting
 - Advocating to the State regarding privatizing local control
- Plans to attend Northern Michigan Regional Entity Meeting in Gaylord, MI tomorrow

N. Closed Session – Union Negotiation Discussion

1) Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator – Tentative Agreement

McCauley/Handrich
2025-283 a motion to go into Closed Session at (11:17 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: Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes; Breough, yes. **Motion Carried.**

Breough/McCauley
2025-284 a motion to return to the B.O.C Meeting at 11:33 a.m.

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

Handrich/Bondar
2025-285 a motion to accept and approve the Tentative Agreement, with an effective date for the changes to be on the first full pay period following January 1, 2026, and allow the Chair to sign.

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

O. Adjournment

Handrich/Varner
2025-286 a motion to adjourn today’s meeting at 11:36 a.m.

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

The Board of Commissioners will hold their “Regular B.O.C Meeting” scheduled for **Tuesday, October 14, 2025 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

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

**Libby Marsh-Shephard, Oscoda County
Clerk & Register of Deeds**