



COUNTY OF OSCODA

Mr. Charles E. Varner, Jr, Chairman
Ms. Jackie Bondar
Ms. Libby Marsh

Mr. Tom McCauley, Vice Chairman
Mr. Ted Handrich

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 September 26, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner's was held on **Tuesday, September 26, 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:
Members Excused: N/A
Public Present: 9
Public by Teleconference: 3
Zoom Participants: 8

D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **September 26, 2023**, as presented, with two additions to Unfinished Business/New Business and Financial.

Bondar/Handrich a motion to approve the Agenda for **September 26, 2023**, as presented, with two
2023-258 additions.

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

E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for September 26, 2023.

The B.O.C. approved the Consent Calendar Items for **September 26, 2023**.

Marsh/McCauley a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **September 26, 2023**.
2023-259

Item #1 Unofficial Minutes for **September 12, 2023.**

Item #2 Budget Amendments

Prosecuting Atty: a request to increase the PA Victim Svcs. Grant-Restricted budget line 101.229.816.00 in the amount of \$500.00, and so, amend the budget.

EDC: a request to transfer funds from the Equipment Non-Capital budget line 101.728.775.00 to the Travel budget line 101.728.861.00 in the amount of \$250.00, and so, amend the budget.

Gypsy Moth: a request to transfer funds from the Spray Contracts budget line 239.428.806.01 to the Tax Refunds budget line 239.428.964.00 in the amount of \$106.65, and so, amend the budget.

Motor Pool: a request to increase the Equipment Non-Capital budget line 101.270.775.00 in the amount of \$511.64, to pay for the expense of Computer Monitor and HP LaserJet Printer, and so, amend the budget.

Trial Courts: a request to increase the TC Equip Non-Capital budget line 101.130.775.00 in the amount of \$500.00, and so, amend the budget.

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

AUGUST 2023 EXPENDITURES

	PAYROLL	EXPENSES	TOTAL
101 General Fund	\$172,483.73	\$322,503.34	\$494,987.07
102 Ambulance Equip	\$0.00	\$7,222.87	\$7,222.87
103 Sheriff Equip	\$0.00	\$1,719.41	\$1,719.41
104 911 Emergency	\$7,908.50	\$3,248.10	\$11,156.60
205 Officer Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
208 Park Fund	\$6,815.19	\$6,679.18	\$13,494.37
209 D.A.R.E.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
210 Ambulance Fund	\$64,355.62	#REF!	\$92,550.84
215 Friend/Court	\$6,274.17	\$2,609.98	\$8,884.15
216 Public Guardian	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
217 Fairgrounds	\$1,582.46	\$5,390.33	\$6,972.79
218 Smith Lake	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
230 Hazmat	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
232 Historical Comm	\$258.36	\$412.88	\$671.24
239 Gypsy Moth	\$0.00	\$106.65	\$106.65
245 Public Improvement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
249 Building Dept.	\$4,721.74	\$8,556.61	\$13,278.35
256 R.O.D. Automation	\$0.00	\$595.81	\$595.81
258 May 4 Courthouse Fire	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
260 MIDC	\$0.00	\$15,973.39	\$15,973.39
263 Concealed Pistol Licensing	\$0.00	\$28.35	\$28.35
265 Drug Law Enforcement	\$0.00	\$492.96	\$492.96
269 Law Library	\$0.00	\$340.10	\$340.10
271 Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
274 Council/Aging	\$0.00	\$30,194.17	\$30,194.17

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	\$1,127.07	\$1,127.07
290	LATCF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
292	Child Care	\$4,959.90	\$6,610.17	\$11,570.07
293	Soldiers / Sailors Relief	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
294	Veterans Trust	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
295	Airport	\$1,072.27	\$330.54	\$1,402.81
296	Basic Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
297	Smile/Counseling	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
298	Veterans Affairs	\$3,566.44	\$15,694.80	\$19,261.24
470	Courthouse Preservation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
516	DTRF	\$0.00	\$10,187.68	\$10,187.68
518	Foreclosure Fund	\$0.00	\$342.00	\$342.00
535	Housing	\$0.00	\$11,686.61	\$11,686.61
616	Tax Revolving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	SUB TOTALS	\$273,998.38	\$480,398.22	\$754,396.60

201	Road Commission			\$628,357.73
	Grand Total		\$1,382,754.33	

Item #4 Claims and Audit Docket for **September 26, 2023**, as received from the County Clerk’s Office. Total Claims & Audit **\$51,662.71**.

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

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

Ms. LeeAnn Fisher, Housing Commission:

- o Received notification that the MI-Hope grant projects can begin.
 - o Obtained a contractor to perform energy audits.
 - o A contingency for funding has been temporarily placed and there is a requirement to modify the Housing contract to include verbiage regarding the MI-Hope Program. Once the contract is revised, Ms. LeeAnn Fischer will re-submit the contract.

G. Appointments:

1.) Mr. Lee Walth, Mack Lake, Mentor Township Resident - Discuss options to save the Mio Dam

Discussion:

- o Masters in power plant technology.
- o The cost is no longer effective to continue operating the Dam. The cost of solar, wind and battery operation would amount to approximately 1/3 of the cost to operate the Dam.
- o FERC relicensing is due for renewal in 2034.
- o Our options would be a Class action law suit or to install a spill dam which requires no maintenance, seek contribution from Consumers Energy, from the money they were

going to have to spend for reclamation and put towards restoring the Dam back to a spillway dam.

- The effects of decommissioning the dams would be; 1) Decrease in property values, 2) Wells that are dependent on ground waters that are replenished by the dams, 3) Businesses that are supported by the revenue that comes with the AuSable River, 4) less tax revenue to the County, 5) Fishing and wildlife will be affected, etc.
- The cost of approximately \$150 million per year to operate the Dams throughout Michigan.
- The continual decrease in operation cost, is going to eliminate.
- We need to stand in solidarity to oppose this matter.

Commissioner Varner:

- Consumers Energy is willing to help us transition to whatever the plan is in the future. They have made an announcement that they are planning to abandon the dams. The Commissioners have a great relationship with Mr. Richard Castle, Consumers Energy Community Affairs Manager. There have been ongoing meetings and communications for the past year.

Commissioner Bondar:

- Suggested to communicate with the gentleman who came in to present and discuss this matter regarding the Dam earlier this year.
- The dams on the AuSable River to the west are vital.
- We do not want to see the dam go away, because of the effect this is going to have on our community.
- Clinton Township has a spillway that is very nice.
- Consumers Energy stated at a recent meeting that customers would have an increased cost of \$3.60 per month, in an effort to save the dam.
- Mentioned the new solar farm on Mishler Rd., Mio, MI.

Ms. Ann Galbraith, County Clerk:

- We are aware that Consumers Energy is working on a plan for a spillway.
- There is an upcoming meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 30, 2023 at the Mio School Auditorium.

2.) Ms. Rebecca Yuncker, Executive Director - Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center Annual Update and Annual Appropriation Request

- NMCAC has provided 9 years of services to the community. Their advocates meet with families, interviewing children to assess their needs, counseling, forensic interviews, reduce trauma, working with law enforcement and prosecutor's office on drug abuse, neglect and abuse situations.
- Three full-time counselors that specialize in mental health services.
- Continuing their 1st step program; nurses and advocates who are on-call 24/7 that can respond to anyone that has been assaulted.
- Raise awareness of the services within the community.
- Implementing a new program called "Kids have Rights." Providing education, prevention, and needs assessments.
- Education to identify inappropriate behaviors that lead to sexual abuse and developing a safe plan.
- The program has grown to employ 12 full-time employees. NMCAC currently provides services for six counties within Northern Michigan.

- DHHS and VOCA funding have decreased, however the proposed budget for 2024 has increased.
- Announced the next Open House; an extended an invitation to the Commissioners and staff.
- Currently working on office expansion in Roscommon, MI.

McCauley/Bondar a motion to authorize the 2024 appropriation of funds in amount of \$5,000.00 to
2023-260 be made payable to Northern Michigan Children’s Assessment Center and paid
 out of the Govt Admin Human Service Council budget line 101-115-883.00 for
 the 2024 calendar year.

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

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

1.) Fairgrounds - Dispose of Equipment Discussion

Bondar/Marsh a motion to allow Mr. Rod Marsh to remove the tractor from the Oscoda County
2023-261 Fairgrounds property without liability to Oscoda County, as requested.

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

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

1.) Commissioner Varner - Cleanup of Tree Removal Discussion

Bondar/McCauley a motion to appropriate funds in the amount of \$4,000.00 from Contingency into
2023-262 the Airport budget to cover expenses of clean-up from tree removal at the
 properties located at the Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport as well as from the
 County property located next the EMS Department by Mr. Kyle Forbing, Kyle
 Tree Service, and so amend the budget.

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

Addition:

2.) Oscoda County Park Playground Equipment

Marsh/Handrich a motion for the Park Manager to sell or donate the playground equipment and
2023-263 for any funds to be deposited into the Oscoda County Park budget.

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

3.) Ms. Ann Galbraith, County Clerk - Board of County Canvassers Resignation and Vote to Elect
 Canvassers

Marsh/Bondar a motion to acknowledge the resignation from Ms. Laura Kendall to the Oscoda
2023-264 County Board of Canvassers, effective immediately.

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

4.) Mr. Vincent Ruchala, Juvenile Officer – Diversion Officer Position

Tabled for further research and additional information.

5.) Motor Pool Building – Building Repair Discussion

Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Admin/HR Director:

Mr. Chris Fuhr, Motor Pool Supervisor addressed the issue of water leaking into the Motor Pool building onto a wall of electrical components, restrooms and other areas of the building as well. Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Admin/HR Director has a quote from 2022 for \$62,000.00 to replace the roof. She has contacted the company and they stated that they would honor the quote. There is one area that is noted on the quote that states removal of an entire section of the roof.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to move forward to see what our options are, partial repair, etc. and return to the Board with a recommendation.

J. Financial:

1.) Ms. Amber Woehlert, Equalization Director – Mentor Township Clerical Agreement

Marsh/Bondar
2023-265 a motion to renew the Clerical Agreement between Oscoda County Board of Commissioners, Oscoda County Equalization and Mentor Township. The Township agrees to pay Oscoda County \$2.00 per parcel for three years beginning in 2023 and ending in 2026 for the services listed within the agreement, and authorize the Chair to sign.

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

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

Original Motion 06.27.23:

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.**

McCauley/Handrich
2023-266 a motion to amend the original Motion#2023-191 dated June 27, 2023, and extend the training period for Ms. Donna Lowe on a part-time temporary basis through November 30, 2023 to coincide with the Second Amendment to the Clean Slate Legislature; Set Aside Overtime Pay Motion, 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: Varner, yes; Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes. **Motion Carried.**

3.) Mr. Michael Bowers, Emergency Management – HMEP Grant Purchase

Bondar/Handrich
2023-267 a motion to approve the payment to Safeware, Inc. in the amount of \$980.00 for the purchase of an Altair 4XR Multigas Detector. This purchase is 100% reimbursable Up to through the HMEP Grant, and should be received in January or February 2024, and so, amend the budget.

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

Addition

4.) Ms. Kristi McGregor, Prosecuting Attorney – Security System

Varner/Bondar
2023-268 a motion to approve the expenditure of \$4,900.00 to be paid out of the Victim Advocate Grant funds, and for a check to be issued on/before Friday, September 29, 2023 for the purchase of a Security System for the Prosecutor’s and the Victim Advocate office.

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

K. Agreement Renewal:

1.) MIDC Attorney Administrator Agreement Renewal – October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024

Marsh/McCauley
2023-269 a motion to approve the 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, 2023 through September 30, 2024, and authorize the Chair to sign.

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

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

Sheriff Grace:

- Ogemaw County Jail:
 - Having battles, mostly financial and possible cuts of staff (transportation and medical). This will result in the Oscoda County Sheriff Department having to absorb the responsibilities, resulting in extra cost and staffing.
- Staffing issues:
 - Another employee will be out on medical leave.
 - Looking into sending another employee or two to the academy.
 - 24/7 coverage is becoming difficult, due to staffing shortages.
 - Concerns of safety of the officers as well as public safety.

Commissioner Marsh:

- Pink Out Event will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at the Mio AuSable School.
- Raised over \$70,000.00 since the beginning of this annual event.

- These funds go towards helping those within our community.
- T-Shirts for sale and concessions will be available for sale.
- This year Glitter Fluff (boys) has been an added event. This will become an annual event and will be hosted the day before the Pink Out event.

M. Committee Reports:

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended Oscoda County Road Commission Meeting
 - The State recently did a speed study on dirt roads.
- Attended District Health Department
 - Dr. Hamed presented the following information:
 - Covid cases are on the rise; and
 - There is an increase in drug overdose deaths, due to counterfeit Fentanyl.
- Has to go back to the District Health Department for another meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, due to not having a quorum to meet.

Commissioner Bondar:

- Oscoda County Fairgrounds
 - Met with Commissioner Handrich, Mr. Joe Breagh, Maintenance Supervisor.
 - The bleachers are rotting; one set has a rotten frame that can be scrapped.
 - We need to have maintenance replace boards on bleachers.
- Mental Health Picnic was recently held at the Oscoda County Park Pavilion
 - It was reported that there needs to be improvements made to the wheelchair access into the pavilion area.
- Attended Council on Aging Meeting
 - They are looking into purchasing a new building. They will need a commercial kitchen and air conditioning.
- Attended Veterans Affairs Meeting
 - Ms. Michelle Knepp attended and offered her services.
 - Mr. Ryan Sanderson, Veterans Affairs Advocate from Gaylord, MI was in attendance.
 - Spoke on a grant that would be beneficial for the Veterans Affairs.
- Attended Northern Michigan Associate of Counties
 - Emmet County offers recycling tours;
 - Assist with Waste Management
 - Working with NEMCOG
 - Require county contribution
- Veterans Memorial Site
 - Concrete has been installed
 - Nice to see the progress
 - Obtained a quote for fencing (6ft high along the tree line)
 - Searching for upright concrete walls
- Attended M.O.A. Landfill Meeting
 - Accounts & Claims
 - Board Presentation
- Big Creek Township
 - Grant funds received and needs to be spent by September 30, 2023. The funds were awarded to the fire department.
 - Looking to purchase a used fire truck.
- Oscoda County Fairgrounds
 - Tractor club is installing ½ walls for safety purposes

- Michigan Works
 - Reviewed the grants that they have received to support the programs that they offer.

Commissioner Marsh:

- Attended 211 Meeting
- Attended Health Services Council Commission Meeting
- Attended Department of Health and Human Services Meeting

Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended Steiner Museum Meeting
 - Budget discussion to present
- Attended EDC Meeting, no meeting held due to not having a quorum
- Attended District Health Department, no meeting held due to not having a quorum
- Plan to attend Comins Township Meeting this evening
- Attended Building Construction Committee Meeting
 - Plans are progressing with the Sheriff Department building project.
 - Town Hall Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023. This will be an opportunity for local contractors to be involved in the Sheriff Department building project.
 - The flyers have been distributed and the event has been advertised on the Oscoda County website.

Commissioner Varner:

- Attended Building Construction Committee Meeting
- Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport
 - Cutting Crew has removed the tree obstructions as deemed necessary by MDOT
 - Meet and discuss with property owners
- Attended NEMSCA Meeting
- Attended Substance Abuse Board Meeting
 - Appropriated funding for the Ogemaw County Jail for an Intake Officer
 - Working to establish a program on vaping
- Attended AVCMH Program Planning Committee
- Attended AVCMH Facilities Committee Meeting
- Attended AVCMH Executive Finance Committee Meeting
- Attended AVCMH Board Meeting
- Attended M.O.A. Landfill Meeting
 - Making progress on the injection well

N. Adjournment:

Handrich/Marsh a motion to adjourn today’s meeting at 12:50 p.m.
2023-270

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

The B.O.C will hold their “Regular B.O.C Meeting” scheduled for **Tuesday, October 10, 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**