



# COUNTY OF OSCODA

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

Mr. Tom McCauley, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Ted Handrich

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Oscoda County Government Center, 311 S. Morenci Ave, P.O. Box 399, Mio, MI 48647

## Official Minutes October 10, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, October 10, 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:	7
Public by Teleconference:	4
Zoom Participants:	8

### D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **October 10, 2023**, as presented.

Handrich/Bondar a motion to approve the Agenda for **October 10, 2023**, as presented.  
**2023-271**

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

### E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for October 10, 2023.

The B.O.C. approved the Consent Calendar Items for **October 10, 2023**.

McCauley/Handrich a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **October 10, 2023**.  
**2023-272**

**Item #1** Unofficial Minutes for **September 26, 2023.**

**Item #2** Budget Amendments

**Treasurer:** a request to add a new budget line 101.000.553.00 to the General Fund for Academy Program Grant.

**Treasurer:** a request to add a new fund 101.304 to the General Fund for an Academy Program along with the appropriated budget lines:

101-304-703.00 – Academy Program / Wage

101-304-706.00 – Academy Program / Overtime

101-304-707.00 – Academy Program / Holiday

101-304-715.00 – Academy Program / FICA

101-304-716.00 – Academy Program / BCN/VSP/DELTA

101-304-718.00 – Academy Program / Retirement

101-304-861.00 – Academy Program / Travel

101-304-960.00 – Academy Program / Training

**Item #3** General & Special Funds Summary for **September 2023.**

**Item #4** Claims and Audit Docket for **October 10, 2023,** as received from the County Clerk's Office. Total Claims & Audit **\$63,875.68.**

**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)**

N/A

**G. Appointments:**

- 1.) Mr. Nico Tucker, Senior Planner of NEMCOG – Discussion of Materials Management

Michigan's NEW solid waste statute was signed into law December 2022.

Currently each county has a Solid Waste Management Plan, soon to be a Materials Management Plan, that ensures adequate disposal capacity and assures that all non-hazardous solid waste generated in the county is collected and recovered, processed, or disposed at facilities that comply with state laws and rules. Counties will be transitioning to plans with a materials management focus. The current Solid Waste Management Plans remain in effect until a new Materials Management Plan is approved.

EGLE is focused on reducing the impacts of material choices on our natural resources, the environment, and climate by establishing convenient, inclusive access to recycling, organics management, waste reduction opportunities, and adequate disposal options.

Consistent with Michigan's Solid Waste Policy, our programs recognize waste as a resource that should be managed to promote economic vitality, ecological integrity, and improved quality of life in a way that fosters sustainability. In addition to ensuring that waste disposal practices are protective of the public and environment, we promote a systematic approach to using/reusing resources productively and sustainably throughout their life cycles, from the point of resource extraction through material recycling or final disposal.

Materials management includes managing recyclables, organics, tires, wood, concrete, and other materials traditionally considered trash and landfilled.

NEMCOG is an available resource to assist with this process and is willing to guide us through the process. They are staffing to prepare for this mandate. There are financial incentives available; \$10,000 per county, +\$60,000 per year over a three-year period + .50 per capita

Commissioner Varner attended a presentation by EGLE. He mentioned that fines can be implemented to the Counties. Oscoda County is 1/3 owner of the MOA Landfill. Oscoda Counties preference would be to utilize Mr. Nico Tucker, NEMCOG as our designated planning agency.

Commissioner Bondar stated that Solid Waste and Materials Management is being combined. The cost to develop the plan can come from the financial incentives.

Commissioner Handrich asked the question; “Will the liability be on the county after the three-year financial incentive period? Commissioner Varner answered yes, that the liability is always on the County and secondly “Does the landfill have the potential for other counties to join?” Commissioner Varner replied by saying that there can be as many counties that want to cooperate in the Materials Management program within the State however, the landfill is under separate ownership by the counties of Montmorency, Oscoda and Alpena.

Commissioner Bondar and Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator/HR Director will be involved in the process. EGLE notifications should be coming soon.

Holcim Tire Recycling in Alpena is a tire-derived fuel facility that converts tires into energy to fuel one of the largest cement plants in the United States.

#### H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1.) Resolution to Authorize Issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2023

Handrich/McCauley      a motion to adopt **Resolution 2023-013** “Authorize Issuance of General  
**2023-273**                      Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2023” as written, and allow the County  
Clerk to certify the Resolution and the Chair to sign.

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

- 2.) Ms. Amber Woehlert, Director of Equalization – Oscoda County “Annual Apportionment Report” and the Resolution 2023-014 “Tax Certification for Taxes Levied in 2023”.

McCauley/Handrich      a motion to accept the 2023 Apportionment Report, as presented by Ms. Amber  
**2023-274**                      Woehlert, Oscoda County Equalization Director, at the Board of Commissioners  
Meeting, held on **October 5, 2023** as required, under MCL 46.1.

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

#### I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

N/A

#### J. Financial:

- 1.) Mr. Joe Breaugh, Maintenance Supervisor – Request to Amend Motion#2023-115 to Extend Term of Seasonal Employee

Marsh/McCauley  
2023-275

a motion to amend the original Motion#2023-115 dated April 25, 2023, and extend the term for Mr. Herb Baker through October 31, 2023, working up to 28 hours per week at the rate of \$14.00 per hour, and be paid out of Fairgrounds Wages budget line (217.751.703.00), and so, amend the budget.

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

2.) Commissioner Handrich - EDC Training Hours; Request to Amend Motion#2023-256 to Extend Term of Training Period

Handrich/Bondar  
2023-276

a motion to amend the original Motion#2023-256 dated September 12, 2023, and extend the term for Ms. Rene Welsler, BOC Executive Secretary to work up to an additional 5 hours per week for training purposes to the new EDC Director, at the current hourly rate of \$17.51 per hour to be reimbursed out of EDC Contracted Services budget line (101.728.806.00) through October 31, 2023, and so, amend the budget.

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

3.) Sheriff Grace – Wage Increase Request

Bondar/McCauley  
2023-277

a motion to request a wage adjustment for part-time employee, Deputy Donald McLean from his current hourly rate of \$18.00 per hour to \$20.03 per hour, to be in line with the other part-time certified deputies, effective October 10, 2023, and so, amend the budget.

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

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

McCauley/Marsh  
2023-278

a motion to approve and sign 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:** Marsh, yes; Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes; McCauley, yes; Varner, yes. **Motion Carried.**

K. 2023 Contract Agreement Renewals:

1.) ASVCMH Fiber Sharing Sublease Agreement

Marsh/Bondar  
2023-279

a motion to renew the ASVCMH Fiber Sharing Sublease Agreement with Oscoda County and AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Services, as written, effective 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024, and authorize the Chairman to sign.

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

2.) Oscoda County Electrical Inspector Contract Renewal

Handrich/Bondar  
**2023-280** a motion to renew the Electrical Inspector Contract with Oscoda County and Mr. William Uhouse, as written, effective 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2025, and authorize the Chairman to sign.

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

3.) Oscoda County Mechanical Inspector Contract Renewal

Marsh/Bondar  
**2023-281** a motion to renew the Mechanical Inspector Contract with Oscoda County and Mr. John Jagelewski, as written, effective 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2025, and authorize the Chairman to sign.

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

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

Ms. Samantha Frank addressed the Board of Commissioners with her concerns regarding the staffing shortage at the Sheriff Department. The Board of Commissioners would not dis-agree that the safety of the public and staffing appropriately is one of our top priorities. The shortage is a result of having several positions that are currently out on leave of absences.

Sheriff Grace:

- The DEA Take Back Drug Day is scheduled on October 28, 2023.
- In his efforts to address the public comment from Ms. Samantha Frank, he stated that the Sheriff Department is doing their best to cover shifts and continue providing security for the community. The Sheriff Department is working with the Michigan State Police to cover shifts while employees are out on leave. As far as the burn-out of officers, yes, it is a concern. They are deserving of their wind down time with their families. Commissioner Varner responded by stating that Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Admin/HR Director can sit down to analyze the matter and determine what can be done for part-time staffing and any other solutions. Oscoda County will need to look into increasing the millages next year for the Sheriff Department.

Mr. Rob Pellerito, Director of District 36<sup>th</sup> for Senator Michele Hoyenga:

- He is also the NEMCOG Board President who stated that the Materials Management is going to be a huge project! The preparation for a project of this size is going to be a he undertaking. There are a lot of municipalities that are joining their efforts along with NEMCOG in anticipation of accomplishing the goal.
- There are no current updates in regards to the Statewide Septic Code. This is a huge cost to health departments, building departments and increased staffing.

Commissioner Marsh:

- The Mio/Fairview Pink Out Event will be held this evening at Mio AuSable School; doors open at 5:00 pm. and games begin at 6:00 pm. They have record numbers of funds raised at the silent auction. The pre-event “Glitter Fluff” was held last night and they raised approximately \$1,100.00 during the event. The junior high program made pink out applesauce and apple cider, which sold out! Ms. Michelle Knepp spends a tremendous amount of time by making this event happen annually. The Mio Volleyball team has put together blankets to go into the chemo bags that can be sponsored for \$25.00 and those get donated to the Munson Cancer and Infusion

Center for patients that are going through treatment. This event has brought in over \$80,000 since the event began, which goes to recipients within Oscoda County.

M. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Bondar:

- Attended Council on Aging Meeting
  - They have lost one of their largest donors. They are looking for people who can help with donations. Ms. Rene Welser, BOC Executive Secretary will be sending the flyer out to His Love Family Resources, Love Inc and all churches within our community.
  - They are looking into the possibility of purchasing the Wild Life Plaza. If successful, they will be looking for Contractors that can build a commercial kitchen.
- Commissioner Bondar addressed Ms. Samantha Franks who made the announcement during public comment by stating that the Board of Commissioners agree with the concerns. As the District 3 Representative, I get a lot of feedback for those who are in attendance to those meetings and I have been in attendance to the Township Meetings and is aware of the complaints such as “Why are we building a new building when we do not have the staff to put into the building?”. I also see comments on social media regarding the feelings within our community. The building is nearly 90 years old! She then discussed the wages in Alcona County and the fact that they are not sustainable. I do not feel that the public will have any problem with a millage increase to support their wage increase as they are aware of the impact that this has on our County. The Academy provides education, but once they are trained and then we risk losing those cadets to other areas, due to the smaller wages that Oscoda County has to offer? We share the concerns and they do not go unnoticed.
- Attended MOA Landfill Meeting
  - The estimated completion time on the Injection Well remains to be October 2023.
- Attended Michigan Works Meeting
  - Discussed their budget and the grants that they have received.
- Oscoda County Park
  - The Halloween Party at the Park was a great turnout despite of the weather!
  - The Chamber of Commerce loaned their bounce houses to the park for the event.
- Oscoda County Fairgrounds
  - The Tractor Club has completed the building of the safety half-wall.
- Charges for Emmet County recycling is available.

Commissioner Marsh:

- Attended DHHS Meeting
  - They are going through the re-application process.
- Planning to attend Steiner Museum Meeting

Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended Comins Township Meeting
  - Discussion about Perry Lake and their efforts to control the invasive milfoil problem that they are having.
  - Fall Harvest Festival was a great turnout!
  - Fairview Tree Lighting Event is scheduled for December 1, 2023
- Oscoda County Park
  - Assisted with the pancake breakfast
- Attended Building Committee Meeting
  - Proposed drawings for the outside view of the Sheriff Department were provided and they look very nice.

- The first bid package for the Sheriff Department is expected to be released on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 and will be provided to the public via the Oscoda County website. The bids will be due within three weeks.

Commissioner Varner:

- Attended the MAC conference in Kalamazoo, MI
  - Ms. Michelle Knepp was able to network with other County Administrators.
- Will be attending a MAP Meeting in Lansing MI at MDOT Aeronautics with Airport Manager, Asst. Airport Manager, Commissioner Bondar and Ms. Rene Welsler.
  - Our Mead & Hunt Representation will be present.
  - Tree obstructions have been cut and cleared.
  - Our local DNR Forester identified the trees, improper mapping was provided to us by MDOT.
- Attended NEMSCA Meeting
- Attended Community Mental Health Meetings

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended District Health Makeup Meeting
- Attended Natural River Review Board Meeting
  - Variance of a place located on the AuSable at Townline Road that was approved for demolished.
- Attended Road Commission Meeting
- Will be attending a Greenwood Township Meeting tonight.

N. Adjournment:

Marsh/Handrich a motion to adjourn today’s meeting at 11:22 a.m.  
**2023-282**

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

The B.O.C will hold their “Regular B.O.C Meeting” scheduled for **Tuesday, October 24, 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).

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

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