



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 October 14, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, October 14, 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:	5
Public by Teleconference:	1
Zoom Participants:	3

D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **October 14, 2025**, as presented.

McCauley/Bondar a motion to approve the agenda for **October 14, 2025**, B.O.C Regular Meeting, 2025-287 as presented, with one addition to Unfinished Business/New Business.

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

E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for October 14, 2025.

Breough/Handrich a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **October 14, 2025**. 2025-288

Item #1 Unofficial Minutes and Closed Session Minutes for **September 23, 2025**, as presented.

Item #2 Budget Amendments

Treasurer: a request to add a new budget line 101—229-900.00 Prosecuting Attorney – Printing & Publishing to the General Fund budget.

Treasurer: a request to add a new budget lines 265-301-775.01 K9 Equipment and 265-301-706.01 Sheriff Overtime K9 to the Special Fund budget.

Treasurer: a request to add a new budget line 103-000-503.00 Federal Grant/HSGP to the Special Fund budget.

Treasurer: a request to add a new budget line 249-371-964.00 Building Department Refunds to the Special Fund budget.

Treasurer: a request to add new budget lines regarding Small Business Taxpayer Exemption (PPT) as listed to the General and Special Fund budgets:

- General 101-000-441.01
- Ambulance 102-000-441.01
- Ambulance 210-000-441.01
- D.E.A.O. 265-000-441.01
- Gypsy Moth 239-000-441.01
- Sheriff 103-000-441.01
- C.O.A. 274-000-441.01
- Veterans 298-000-441.01

Item #3 General and Special Funds Summary for **September 2025**.

Item #4 Claims and Audit Docket for **October 14, 2025**, as received from the County Clerk's Office in the amount of **\$158,085.98**.

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

Ms. Libby Marsh-Shephard, Clerk/Register of Deeds arrived at 10:06 a.m.

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

N/A

G. Appointments:

- 1) Mr. Richard Castle, Consumers Energy - Reliability Roadmap and Hydro Strategy update

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) Ms. Amber Woehlert, Director of Equalization – Oscoda County “Annual Apportionment Report”

Handrich/McCauley 2025-289 a motion to accept the 2025 Apportionment Report, as presented by Ms. Amber Woehlert, Oscoda County Equalization Director, at the Board of Commissioners Meeting, held on **October 14, 2025** as required, under MCL 46.1.

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

- 2) Ms. Dawn Bock, Senior Consultant of MGT – FY 2024 Cost Allocation Plan (presenting via Zoom)

McCauley/Bondar 2025-290 a motion to accept the 2024 Cost Allocation Plan, as presented by Ms. Dawn Bock, Senior Consultant of MGT, at the Board of Commissioners Meeting held on **October 14, 2025**, and authorize the chair to sign the Certification Letter.

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

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

1) MDHHS Board Position

Handrich/McCauley 2025-291 a motion to acknowledge the resignation of appointment of Mr. Julian Stenson from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services board, effective September 30, 2025.

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

2) Sheriff Kann – Sheriff Department Staffing

Breaugh/Handrich 2025-292 a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Mr. Vance Stringham, as a non-union employee to fill the part-time Dispatcher position, paid out of budget line 104-301-704.00, with a hire date of Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at a starting wage of \$18.00 per hour, and will not be eligible for County benefits.

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

McCauley/Bondar 2025-293 a motion to acknowledge the change of employment status of Mr. Andrew Taylor, from a full-time Dispatcher position to a part-time Dispatcher position, effective October 6, 2025, and will not be eligible for County benefits.

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

Handrich/McCauley 2025-294 a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Mr. Norman LaBonte, as a union employee to fill the full-Time Deputy position, paid out of budget line 101-301-711.01, with a hire date of Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at a starting wage of \$25.46 per hour, and eligible for County benefits.

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

3) 2025 Committee Appointments

McCauley/Handrich 2025-295 a motion to acknowledge the revision to the 2025 Committee Appointments and appoint Commissioner Breaugh as the Emergency Management liaison, replacing Commissioner Bondar, effective immediately.

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

4) Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator - Veterans Affairs Staffing

Breaugh/Bondar 2025-296 a motion to advertise to hire a part-time Veterans Affairs Service officer, at a starting rate of \$17.60 per hour, not eligible for County benefits and to allow time to receive Letters of Interest for the position.

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

Addition

5) Ms. Libby Marsh-Shephard, County Clerk/Register of Deeds Staffing

McCauley/Handrich
2025-297 a motion to acknowledge the retirement from Ms. Lisa Frank, Deputy Clerk, effective Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

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

Handrich/Breaugh
2025-298 a motion to advertise and hire a full-time employee and work with Ms. Michelle Knepp, Human Resources to fill the Clerk/ROD position within the Clerk's office based on the needs of the office and use of the current pay structure, eligible for County Benefits, effective immediately.

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

J. Financial:

1) Clark Construction – Dedication Plaque

Breaugh/Bondar
2025-299 a motion to approve the quote from Maxwell Medals & Awards for the for the dedication plaque at the Sheriff Department, in the amount of \$3,600.00 to be fully funded out of Contingency 101-890-965.00 and to be paid for out of Public Improvement Contracted budget line 245-294-806.00, with reimbursements coming back to Oscoda County from Clark Construction and Sidock for their 1/3 portion in the amount of \$1,200.00 each, and so, amend the budget.

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

2) Michigan Supreme Court – Judges Salaries

Handrich/McCauley
2025-300 a motion to increase the Trial Court budget line Probate Judge 101.130.702.01 in the amount of \$1,371.14 to allow for the salary increase during the 2025 calendar year, effective on October 1, 2025, and as written in the letter from the Michigan Supreme Court, and in accordance with Public Act 31 of 2016, and so, amend the budget.

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

3) MIDC Grant Funds

McCauley/Bondar
2025-301 a motion to review the Amendment to Allow for Expenditure of Fiscal Year 2025 Unexpended Funds, subject to the terms and conditions between the State of Michigan, the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and Oscoda County to enter into this Amendment to allow the Grantee to use funds remaining from the grant after September 30, 2025, and authorize the Chair to sign.

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

4) Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport - Fueling Station

Bondar/Handrich
2025-302 a motion to amend the previous Motion#2025-247 and authorize the revised quote from Highland Tank LLC to purchase a 2,500-gallon Horizontal Storage Tank in the amount of \$17,533.00, and to defer payment to the 2026 calendar year, and for the expense to be paid out of Airport New Equipment Cptl over \$5,000 budget line 295-442-977.00, and allow the Chair to sign.

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

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

N/A

L. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Bondar:

She extended her gratitude to Ms. Linda Jagiello, Ms. Shawn McCosh, Ms. Sarah Nowak and Mr. Jim Vance all of their hard work done for the Halloween event held at the Oscoda County Park. It was a huge success and they did an awesome job!

- Attended Michigan Association of Counties Annual Conference held in Acme, MI
 - Great information was shared at the conference. Workshops included Crisis Intervention Teams and Mental Health, Opioid Revenue, Enbridge Presentation, Dealing with consequences of 2025 Ice Storm, etc.
- Attended M.O.A Landfill Authority Board Meeting
 - To begin digging a new pit as the existing pit is almost at capacity.
- Attended Council on Aging Meeting
 - Discussion on cost-of-living increases for employees for FY26; and
 - They have formed a three-person committee to research, discuss and establish a policy next month; and
 - A Listen & Learn Veteran Information Session was presented by the Oscoda County Veterans Affairs Department, wage a huge success and was well received by everyone in attendance; and
 - There was an open position on the board of which Mr. Tom Siegler was appointed.
- Attended Tri-Town Fire Department Open House
 - Great turnout! Mr. Robert Stankiewicz, EMS Director brought two pieces of Ambulance equipment to the event to be shown to the community and answered questions.
- Thanked Amy for providing the movies at the County park for the Halloween event.

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended Road Commission Meeting
 - They are working on an Asset Management Plan;
 - Received correspondence from the AuSable Valley Natural River Zone Review Board
 - They are installing a new boat ramp and dock in Crawford County at the black hole on the AuSable River.
- Oscoda County District Library
 - Sponsored the Exotic Zoo at the Oscoda County Park, which was a great turnout; and
 - An author who attended and gave a speech.
- Plans to attend the District Library Meeting and Michigan Township Association (MTA) next week.

Commissioner Breaugh:

- Attended Veterans Affairs Board Meeting
 - There is an 8-part series that is being promoted on their Face Book page. Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator explained that this is an effort to promote what is happening within the department, their goals, changes that are being made within the department, services that are provided and community resources that they offer. Their policy is that “No Veteran Is Ever Left Behind”, so they recognize that every veteran has different needs and their goal is to meet those needs from financial to emotional wellbeing for every veteran that comes in for assistance.

Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended Comins Township Meeting
 - New Deputy Supervisor; and
 - They are searching for record keeping software.
- Planning to attend the EDC meeting tomorrow
- Attended Historical Commission/Steiner Museum Meeting
 - The strategic plan was approved so they are moving forward.
- Attended a couple of finance meetings
- Reviewed Claims & Audit

Commissioner Varner:

- Attended Michigan Association of Counties Annual Conference held in Acme, MI
 - There were a lot of breakout sessions and a lot of interesting information was shared. There was a workshop held for discussion about dealing with the consequences of the 2025 Ice Storm.
 - Ms. Elizabeth Hertel, Director of DHS spoke at the conference but would not take questions about the proposed privatization of PHIP's due to legal challenges that have been filed.
- Reviewed Claims & Audit
- Attended a meeting with Mr. Mike Bowers, Emergency Management
- Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMSCA) Verification
 - All board members are required to complete training.
- Attended Wellvance Program Committee Meeting
- Wellvance Buildings and Grounds/Facilities Committee Meeting was cancelled
- Plans to attend an upcoming Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) Annual Meeting on Friday, October 17, 2025.

M. Adjournment

Handrich/Breaugh a motion to adjourn today’s meeting at 11:17 a.m.
2025-303

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

The Board of Commissioners will hold their “Regular B.O.C Meeting” scheduled for **Tuesday, October 28, 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**