



# 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 November 14, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, November 14, 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 Handrich, Bondar, Marsh, McCauley and Varner
Members Excused:	N/A
Public Present:	15
Public by Teleconference:	5
Zoom Participants:	8

### D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **November 14, 2023**, as presented.

Bondar/McCauley a motion to approve the Agenda for **November 14, 2023**, as presented.  
**2023-299**

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

### E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for November 14, 2023.

The B.O.C. approved the Consent Calendar Items for **November 14, 2023**.

Marsh/Handrich a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **November 14, 2023**.  
**2023-300**

**Item #1** Unofficial and Closed Session Minutes for **October 24, 2023.**

**Item #2** Budget Amendments

**Treasurer:** a request to add a new budget line 101.191.729.00 to the General Fund for Elections.

**Treasurer:** a request to add a new budget line 101.000.574.01 to the General Fund for State Income Tax/Public Safety.

**Treasurer:** a request to add a new budget lines 535.000.511.00 MI-Hope Grant, 535.690.801.02 MI-Hope Contracted Labor and 535.690.809.00 MI-Hope Contracted Services to the Housing budget.

**Treasurer:** a request to add a new budget line 101.270.819.00 Computer Service to the General Fund Motor Pool budget.

**Board of Commissioners:** a request to increase BOC Per Diem budget line 101.101.708.01 in the amount of \$2,000.00, to be paid out of Contingency budget line 101.890.965.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Board of Commissioners:** a request to increase BOC Per Diem budget line 101.101.708.03 in the amount of \$1,800.00, to be paid out of Contingency budget line 101.890.965.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Board of Commissioners:** a request to increase BOC Per Diem budget line 101.101.708.05 in the amount of \$1,000.00, to be paid out of Contingency budget line 101.890.965.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Govt Admin:** a request to increase Govt Admin BCN Emp Contr/Retirees budget line 101.115.716.00 in the amount of \$57,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Govt Admin:** a request to increase Govt. Admin County Contr-Retirees/Cobra budget line 101.115.716.01 in the amount of \$10,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Govt Admin:** a request to increase Govt Admin – NEMCOG budget line 101.115.807.04 in the amount of \$33.52, and so, amend the budget.

**Govt Admin:** a request to increase Govt. Admin Health Ins Reimb budget line 101.115.834.00 in the amount of \$79,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Govt Admin:** a request to increase Govt. Admin HRA Admin Fee budget line 101.115.838.01 in the amount of \$27,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Govt Admin:** a request to increase Govt. Admin Human Service Council budget line 101.115.883.00 in the amount of \$5,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Emergency Management:** a request to increase Equipment Non-Capital budget line 101.426.775.00 in the amount of \$3,038.76, to be paid out of Contingency 101.890.965.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Health/Welfare:** a request to increase Cremation Fees Admin budget line 101.600.838.00 in the amount of \$250.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Health/Welfare:** a request to increase M E Transport budget line 101.600.865.00 in the amount of \$805.50, and so, amend the budget.

**Public Safety Academy Grant:** a request to increase Academy Program – Training budget line 101.304.960.00 in the amount of \$1,797.95, to be paid out of Contingency 101.890.965.00, and so, amend the budget.

**Airport:** a request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$18,000.00 to the Oscoda County Airport out of Contingency 101.890.965.00 and authorize the Treasurer's Office to transfer funds, and so, amend the budget.

**Airport:** a request to increase Airport Office Supplies budget line 295.442.729.00 in the amount of \$56.84, and so, amend the budget.

**Airport:** a request to increase Airport Travel budget line 295.442.861.00 in the amount of \$123.23, and so, amend the budget.

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

**Item #4** Claims and Audit Docket for **November 14, 2023,** as received from the County Clerk's Office. Total Claims & Audit **\$111,112.96.**

**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. Ann Galbraith, Chamber of Commerce

- The Wine Tasting event on Saturday, November 11, 2023 was a success!
- The Holiday Light Parade will be held on Saturday, November 25, 2023 beginning at 6:00 p.m. which will also include:
  - Santa & Ms. Claus will be at the Chamber of Commerce for visits and pictures, letters to Santa. children's crafts, milk and cookies
  - Tree Lighting Ceremony
  - Petting Zoo from 4:00 pm. to 6:00 pm.

G. Appointments:

- 1) Ms. Natalie Davis, Career and Technical Education Director at C.O.O.R. ISD – CTE Millage Proposal

The Presidential Primary election will be held on February 27, 2024. C.O.O.R. ISD is pursuing a 1 mil/10 year to support their Career and Technical Education Center. This millage is expected to generate approximately \$3 million per year. Transportation is offered to Mio & Fairview students at no cost. Students are welcome to attend programs offered which include automotive, welding, cosmetology, public safety, medical occupations and business/marketing, etc. College credits, certifications and degrees are earned for any program offered and there is no local tuition cost. The Career and Technical Education Center is in Roscommon at the Middle School. They have offered programs to a total of 221 students' participation.

They recently received a \$2.5 Million grant from the State of Michigan to expand programming in Michigan. They opted to build additional shop space to centralize all their programming to offer to all students within the region, which covers a 26 square mile radius. They will be holding an open house on January 9, 2024 from 4:00p.m.- 6:30p.m.

- 2) Ms. Mary Hanna, Alpena County Administrator – MI Solid Waste Management Discussion

Discussion included:

- Joint planning- Materials management planning
- 45-50% of waste to be recycled is the goal over the next 10-15 years
- State of Michigan is offering funds (\$10K incentive) per county x 3 years
- Discussion w/EGLE to front funding up front, \$60K incentive over a 3-year period
- Multi-stream recycling facility in Alpena (MERF)
- Seeking for commitments from the surrounding counties – approximately \$60K
  - A portion of the proceeds will come back to the County
- Waiting for proposals from NEMCOG and RSS who is based out of Ann Arbor
- Notice of Intent from Counties, form planning boards from all counties
- Holcom (glass and tire recycling)
  - Glass is crushed and used in asphalt and cement products
- The goal to be operational by Spring 2025
- Grants are offered for tire recycling
- Multi county planning would be ideal to utilize cost savings
- Townships will have to increase their cost to offset the cost to transfer of materials

- The planning requirement is at the County level. The County is responsible for coming up with a plan that meets the State of Michigan requirements. Which means that the County will be diverting up to 40% of waste into recycling.
- Options could include a recycling surcharge (one-time annual fee of \$25 per household), a millage, a tipping fee through the MOA Landfill or a combination of all to help support the cost.
- What has the State decided?
  - Waiting for EGLE to start the timelines
  - 180-day period to submit Notice of Intent
    - Planning agent, scope of plan, designation of representation
    - 3-year time to submit a plan to State
- Review the changes to MI Solid Waste Management that will be enacted this year
- Discuss the Regional Recycling Facility (Materials Management Facility) to be constructed for the region in Alpena; and discuss the financial plan and needs.

Mr. Michael Bowers, Emergency Management mentioned the possibility of helping with funding on this project. He recently received notice from NEMCOG that states that only \$1 million of the \$9 million dollars have been filled. MIPlace.org and point of contact will be sent via email to Commissioner Bondar.

- 3) Ms. Jennifer Wanstead, 44 North Account Executive – Virtual presentation of Plan Performance, HRA Tracking, Renewal and ST/LT Benefits

Discussion included:

- HRA tracking, plan performance and cost savings with the various plan options
- Overall renewal cost is \$926,987 which includes an increase of \$162,808/21.30%
- Dental and VSP renewal rate remains the same with no increase.
- Life, AD&D, ST/LT Disability
  - now partnering with MetLife administered through 44North including an approximate discount of \$2,579.19/5.37% and the plan now includes salaried employees which were not previously covered per policy.

Commissioner Marsh and Ms. Michelle Knepp recently met with Ms. Jennifer Wanstead at 44North; research has confirmed that it makes sense to stay with 44North. This is a huge increase, but there is not any more cost savings unless we offer less coverage/lower plans.

Ms. Michelle Knepp stated that the rates can be managed better by offering communications of benefits, wellness, education, what our employees are utilizing of the benefits.

McCauley/Bondar  
**2023-301** a motion to authorize the renewal of the plans (Medical, Dental and Vision) with 44North with an overall increase in rates of 21.3% for 2024, as presented by Ms. Jennifer Wanstead, 44North.

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

Marsh/Handrich  
**2023-302** a motion to allow full-time salaried employees to enroll in ST/LT disability benefits paid in full by Oscoda County effective January 1, 2024, and so, amend the budget.

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

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) Michigan State Flag

It has been suggested that a Michigan State Flag be placed on the Oscoda County Government Center premises, inside of the Board of Commissioners Room.

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

- 1) Ms. Amber Woehlert, Gypsy Moth Coordinator – Advertise 2024 Spongy Gypsy Moth Aerial Spraying Program

McCauley/Bondar  
**2023-303** a motion to approve the advertising of the 2024 Spongy Gypsy Moth Aerial Spraying Program for Oscoda County, for the Large Parcels, as written and recommended by Ms. Amber Woehlert, Oscoda County Gypsy Moth Coordinator, and to accept bids from a “Aerial Spraying Company” and advertise in the Oscoda County Herald, posting on the Oscoda County Website and notify known Spraying Companies; to be paid out of the Gypsy Moth Budget (239.428.806.01).

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

- 2) Sheriff Kevin Grace – Acknowledgement of Resignation

Bondar/Handrich  
**2023-304** a motion to acknowledge the resignation from Mr. Jacob F. Hughes, Deputy/Secondary Road Patrol, effective Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

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

- 3) Sheriff Kevin Grace – Part-Time Administrative Assistant

Handrich/McCauley  
**2023-305** a motion to advertise and hire for a part-time position of an Administrative Assistant as a part-time, non-union position, not to exceed working 24 hours per week with a starting wage of \$15.00 per hour, to be paid out of Sheriff Non-Deputy PT budget line 101.301.704.07, and will not be eligible for County benefits, effective immediately, and so, amend the budget.

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

- 4) Mr. John Mattson, EMS Director – EMT Basic Position

McCauley/Handrich  
**2023-306** a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Mr. Brandon Adamson, as a full-time TPOAM union employee to fill the position of EMT Basic, with a hire date of Wednesday, October 11, 2023, working 48 hours per week at a starting wage of \$14.93 per hour per the current TPOAM contract, to be paid out of budget line 210.651.703.13, and eligible for County benefits.

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

J. Financial:

1) Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer – DTRF (Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund)

Marsh/Bondar  
**2023-307** a motion to move \$20,000.00 from the restricted account within the DTRF to the General Fund to cover costs involved in administrating the delinquent tax foreclosure process in the Treasurer’s office.

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

Handrich/McCauley  
**2023-308** a motion to move \$154,000.00 from the DTRF to the General Fund; This represents the interest and admin fees collected in 2021 on delinquent taxes used to balance the 2023 budget.

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

2) Orkin Pest Control

Bondar/McCauley  
**2023-309** a motion to pre-pay the Oscoda County account with Orkin Pest Control one-year in advance in the amount of \$1,968.65 which includes a 4% discount, to be paid out of Contingency, due on/before November 30, 2023, and so, amend the budget.

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

3) Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer – FY22 LEPC Payment

McCauley/Bondar  
**2023-310** a motion to authorize the Treasurer’s Office to appropriate \$1,500.00 to Special Fund (230) Hazmat, received from the State of MI for FY22 LEPC Payment on January 10, 2023, and so, amend the budget.

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

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

A student from Youth in Government asked the question, what is a millage? Answer: It is an amount of money that is added to the tax bills of the tax payers of the County depending on what amount is requested. The tax payers must vote for the millages.

Ms. Jenny Cronkright attended a meeting with MTA last night. The 2024 budget for the Steiner Museum was discussed. She is attempting to have all the owners involved with the funding in the budget for the museum. She is expecting to receive word next week once they have decided about funding. There were two townships (Big Creek & Comins) that have committed to their portion of the funding.

Other items mentioned were:

- The Steiners Museum will be on the cover of the Oscoda County visitors guide.
- A Christmas program for the kids will be held on December 2, 2023 from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Tours of the museum are available during the open season (Memorial Day through September 30)
  - Off-season tours are optional if requested and planned for in advance.
- Phase 1 is complete and Phase 2 is expected to begin once funding is determined.

Ms. Jenny Cronkright is planning to attend the Greenwood Township meeting tonight to approach them for their portion of funding towards the Steiner Museum.

Sheriff Kevin Grace:

Take Back Drug Day

- 35 lbs. of medication were disposed of through the Drug Enforcement Agency
- This program is no cost to the County and it gets the medications off the streets.
- This program is available 24/7 or 365 days per year.
- The Sheriff Department has a disposal container onsite.
- This is a great program.

No shave November

- This is an annual event.
- Funds are donated to a charity or family in need within the community.
- Females are allowed to dress down for the month.

Commissioner Marsh:

- Mio Volleyball program was a great success this year. The team made it to a regional finals level this year. The tremendous support from the community was amazing!
- The team received a police escort out of town as they headed out to the regional final game.
- Volleyball players were recognized for their hard work and dedication.

Ms. Jenny Cronkright:

Stated that the topic came up at the MTA Meeting last night that the MI-Hope grant program has only received three applications from Oscoda County. The program needs to be promoted as there are many homeowners that would qualify in this community.

Commissioner Bondar:

Mentioned that Michigan Works has great opportunities for students.

L. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Marsh:

- Attended DHHS Meeting
  - Local communities, their normal fundraising source is no longer able to help with funding.
  - They are seeking donors from the community to help support families in need.
- Attended Community HSCC Meeting
  - Ongoing planning, not a lot of changes.

Commissioner Handrich:

- EDC Committee
  - Working with Ms. Alayne Hansen (Training)
  - Planning another community event in January 2024, guest speaker and introduction of new EDC Director.
  - Educating businesses on how EDC works
- Attended Steiner Museum Meeting
  - No quorum
- Attended MTA Meeting
- Attended OCSD Construction Meeting
  - Awarded a couple of bids.
  - Awaiting ground breaking for the new Sheriff Department

Commissioner Varner:

- Attended Substance Abuse Meeting
- Attended OCSD Construction Meeting
  - Signed new contract for the Oscoda County Sheriff Department to lower the cost
  - GOLT Bond will be issued on December 5, 2023
  - Ground breaking is anticipated in November 2023
  - Drawings have been released and the new facility is going to be nice.
- Attended MOA Landfill Meeting
  - The estimated completion date for the injection well is June 2024
- Attended CMH Executive Finance Committee Meeting
- Attended CMH Board Meeting
- Attended Mediation Session with Bargaining Unit
- Airport Update: MDOT team will be flying in on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 to identify three tree obstructions, pending approval of provisional license. Mr. Brian Smutek and Mead & Hunt representation will be present.

Youth In Government was dismissed at 11:57 a.m.

Commissioner McCauley:

- Natural River Review Board
  - Notice of drilling on 489 at the AuSable to install fiber optic lines
- Attended Road Commission Meeting
  - Installation of signs throughout the County by utilizing a countywide signage project that is grant funded
- Attended District Library Meeting
  - Discussion on purchasing the building
- Attended MTA Meeting
  - Presentation by Ms. Jenny Cronkright regarding the Steiner Museum

Commissioner Bondar:

- Attended MOA Meeting
  - The ancil tank for the injection well? They have moved forward; new lines have been run and the new pump has been installed. Currently awaiting permit.
  - As of last Friday, things were looking good. The building went to final inspection and was kicked by quality control because of paint.
  - They are planning a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 3, 2023.
  - They were found to be in compliance with their corrective action plan.
  - The financial committee met and approved a motion to give their employee raises.
- Oscoda County Park
  - A question was addressed inquiring about funds that were available for the Oscoda County Park that had to be spent on certain projects while Commissioners Marsh and Bondar were doing their work and improvements back in 2021. Commissioner Bondar, Mr. Jimmy Vance, Park Manager and Ms. Rene Welser, BOC Executive Secretary spent time doing research from 2021 tracking Motions and funds that were appropriated to the park, but never found a Motion allotting a set amount that was awarded to be spent. Our findings were that there were too many internet boosters that the Park had been charged for, therefore Mr. Jim Vance is working to try and get those monies reimbursed.
  - Grant reimbursement of \$9,000.00 did come through in July 2023. After researching this reimbursement, the funds were received and were mistakenly applied into the airport budget instead of the park budget. The Treasurer is making the correction.



- The marijuana funds have been accounted for from the time that the funds were designated to the park in 2022 to current date. Commissioner Marsh stated that she would like for Mr. Jimmy Vance to submit his plans to spend the remainder of the remainder of the marijuana funds so that this money is not sitting in our budget. Commissioner Bondar explained that his intentions are to spend those funds on materials for the stairway project and to restore the electric at the park. The remainder of approximately \$29,000.00 in marijuana funds have been earmarked into the 2024 budget planning to the park budget.
- He is limited to having the luxury of purchasing through other vendors such as Home Depot, etc. due to not having access to the use of credit card through the Treasurer's department. If the County would allow him to use of the credit card, he would then could purchase at vendors elsewhere so that he is not having to pay higher prices. Ms. Michelle Knepp has sent Mr. Jimmy Vance information regarding the use of the credit card.
- Attended Big Creek Township Meeting
  - They are passing a Resolution to keep the local government in the control of light/noise reduction for the energy efficient areas.
- Attended Consumers Energy Meeting
  - Mr. Ken Borton, our Representative of District 106 was in attendance. He never spoke in support of our district, which was a disappointment.
  - EGLE recently gave a grant for dam reduction worth millions of dollars to cover repairs, moderations or removal.
- Attended Council on Aging Meeting
  - They will be closed on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> as well as December 22, 2023 through January 2, 2024 due to holidays.
  - They will continue to deliver meals on wheels.
  - Budget review
  - Christmas donations are still needed.
- Attended MAAE Meeting
- Legislatures are on break until year-end.

The meeting was adjourned for approximately 10 minutes beginning at 12:14 p.m.

The meeting re-adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

#### M. 2024 Budget Workshop

- 1) 2024 General & Special Fund Budget Review

The Board of Commissioners reviewed and discussion the General and Special Fund budgets for FY2024. A continuation will be done at our next BOC Meeting scheduled on Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

#### N. Adjournment:

Marsh/McCauley      a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 2:08 PM  
**2023-311**

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

The B.O.C will hold their “Regular B.O.C Meeting” scheduled for **Tuesday, November 28, 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**