



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 December 16, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, December 16, 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 Breough, Handrich, Bondar (absent), McCauley and Varner

Members Excused:	Commissioner Bondar (absent)
Public Present:	8
Public by Teleconference:	2
Zoom Participants:	3

D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **December 16, 2025**, as presented.

Handrich/McCauley a motion to approve the agenda for **December 16, 2025**, B.O.C Regular Meeting, **2025-361** as presented, with one addition to Financial.

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

E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for December 16, 2025.

Varner/Breough a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **December 16, 2025**. **2025-362**

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

Item #2 Budget Amendments

Council on Aging: a request to increase funds to the Council on Aging Master Voucher budget line 274-672-800.00, in the amount of \$16,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

Clerk: a request to increase funds to Clerk BCN/VSP/DELTA budget line 101-215-716.00, in the amount of \$2,532.00, and so, amend the budget.

Elections: a request to increase funds to Elections Printing/Publish budget line 101-191-900.00, in the amount of \$83.00, and so, amend the budget.

Register of Deeds: a request to increase funds to Reg of Deeds Remonumentation budget line 101-236-826.00, in the amount of \$1,832.00, and so, amend the budget.

Ambulance Equipment: a request to increase funds to Ambulance Vehicle Repair/Maint budget line 102-651-932.00, in the amount of \$20,000.00, and so, amend the budget.

Item #3 Expenditure Report for **November 2025**.

NOVEMBER 2025 Expenditures

	PAYROLL	EXPENSES	TOTAL
101 General Fund	\$197,487.94	\$240,410.90	\$437,898.84
102 Ambulance Equip	\$0.00	\$16,494.89	\$16,494.89
103 Sheriff Equip	\$0.00	\$7,137.36	\$7,137.36
104 911 Emergency	\$11,663.44	\$1,909.29	\$13,572.73
205 Officer Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
208 County Park	\$4,707.10	\$3,962.69	\$8,669.79
209 D.A.R.E.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
210 Ambulance Fund	\$82,727.18	\$34,425.00	\$117,152.18
215 Friend/Court	\$6,895.41	\$3,412.58	\$10,307.99
216 Public Guardian	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
217 Fairgrounds	\$0.00	\$369.67	\$369.67
218 Smith Lake	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
230 Hazmat	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
232 Historical Comm	\$246.25	\$123.59	\$369.84
239 Gypsy Moth	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
245 Public Improvement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
249 Building Dept.	\$5,053.18	\$8,427.58	\$13,480.76
256 R.O.D. Automation	\$0.00	\$12,192.00	\$12,192.00
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	\$442.96	\$442.96
265 Drug Law Enforcement	\$10,116.53	\$7,768.16	\$17,884.69
269 Law Library	\$0.00	\$411.00	\$411.00
271 Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
274 Council/Aging	\$0.00	\$40,080.31	\$40,080.31
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	\$10,602.04	\$6,342.71	\$16,944.75
293	Soldiers / Sailors Relief	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
294	Veterans Trust	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
295	Airport	\$963.89	-\$14,330.68	-\$13,366.79
296	Basic Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
297	Smile/Counseling	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
298	Veterans Affairs	\$3,662.69	\$11,943.31	\$15,606.00
369	Building Authority Debt Fund	\$0.00	\$41,897.91	\$41,897.91
469	Building Construction Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
470	Courthouse Preservation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
516	DTRF	\$0.00	\$192,207.92	\$192,207.92
518	Foreclosure Fund	\$0.00	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00
535	Housing	\$0.00	\$54,465.96	\$54,465.96
616	Tax Revolving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
891	Perry Lk Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<i>SUB TOTALS</i>	\$334,125.65	\$694,345.11	\$1,028,470.76

201	Road Commission			\$188,189.57
	<i>Grand Total</i>		\$1,216,660.33	

Item #4 Claims and Audit Docket for **December 16, 2025**, as received from the County Clerk’s Office in the amount of **\$55,018.88**.

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

Commissioner Bondar joined via telephone at 10:04 a.m.

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

Mr. Eugene Wysocki, an Oscoda County resident spoke during public comments.

G. Appointments:

- 1) Mr. Shawn Petri, Superintendent - C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District Update

Discussion:

What COOR ISD does for Oscoda County and the services that they provide:

- o Instructional Services; professional development for teachers and para pros; and
 - o In December 2025, a new policy was implemented in a significant number U.S. States and individual school districts to eliminate or restrict student cell phone use in schools which has noticeably improved the communication skills of the students.
- o Special Education, Early Childhood and Career & Technical Education.
 - o There are over 200 students that benefit from these programs.

- 2) Ms. Rebecca Yuncker MP LPC, Executive Director – Northern Michigan Children’s Assessment Center – Update of Services and Partnership

Discussion:

Northern Michigan Children’s Assessment Center is excited to announce the newest addition to their team who is Eloise, a support dog who is in training.

- There has been approximately a 12% increased growth in Child Sexual Abuse Statistics of which Oscoda County consistently ranks above state average by approximately 94%.
- NMCAC is State & Federally funded, which has decreased substantially.
- A new program called “Kids Have Rights” has been developed which is a child abuse prevention program designed to protect children, address risk factors and foster safe environments.
- Statistics were provided specific to Oscoda County regarding the number of forensic interviews that were conducted, family advocacy sessions completed, mental health sessions provided, non-acute medicals completed, cases disclosed vs. cases prosecuted and community referrals.
- Discussion about the progress of their building renovations in Roscommon, MI.
- They are lacking board representation from Oscoda County.

3) Remonumentation Grant Administrator

McCauley/Handrich a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Libby Marsh-Shephard, Oscoda
2025-363 County Clerk/Register of Deeds, to serve as the Oscoda County
 Remonumentation Grant Administrator, as required by the Michigan
 Remonumentation Statue.

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

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

N/A

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

1) Oscoda County Veterans Affairs Board – Board Member Appointment

Handrich/Breaugh a motion to appoint Mr. Richard Landry to the Oscoda County Veterans Board,
2025-364 with a term expiring December 31, 2029.

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

J. Financial:

Commissioner Bondar stated that while reviewing the FY26 Budgets, she noticed classification changes throughout the budgets and addressed the following questions:

- Q. Who decided on these changes?
- Q. Where did the titles come from?
- Q. Are any of them union related?
- Q. Would the title changes have any bearing on wages?

Ms. Michelle Knepp provided an explanation to Commissioner Bondar’s questions and concerns stating that the changes were part of a restructure from the previous year and will not affect any wages nor will it change the Maintenance Supervisor position.

1) Ms. Libby Marsh-Shephard, Clerk/Register of Deeds – Project Plan

McCauley/Handrich
2025-365

a motion to approve the quote from J&K Contracting LLC for the office remodel in the Clerk/Register of Deeds office and to allow Ms. Libby Marsh-Shephard, Clerk/Register of Deeds to move forward with the project plan in the amount of \$12,352.10 with the down payment of \$6,176.05 to be funded out of Contingency 101-890-965.00 and the balance of \$6,176.05 to be paid out of the CPL budget in FY 2026, and so, amend the budgets.

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

Addition

2) Sergeant Ryan Blair, Sheriff Department – Sealed Bid

Varner/Breough
2025-366

a motion to advertise and accept sealed bids for the 2017 Polaris 550 Adventure, VIN#SN1CEEEXHC724498, to be sold as is, and to be awarded to the selected bidder, and for funds to be deposited into the 103 Sheriff Equipment budget, as requested.

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

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

Mr. Richard Landry, Chair of the Veterans Affairs Board and Mr. Eugene Wysocki, an Oscoda County resident spoke during public comments.

L. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Bondar:

Nothing to report. She wished a Merry Christmas to everyone. Commissioner Bondar departed at 10:56 a.m.

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended Michigan Township Association (MTA) Meeting
- District Library Meeting - Foregone

Commissioner Breough:

- Chamber of Commerce Meeting - Cancelled
- Attended Veterans Affairs Board Meeting

Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended Historical Commission/Steiner Museum Meeting
 - They are working through some issues.
 - One board member is resigning from the Steiner board.
- Reviewed Claims & Audit
- Attended Michigan Township Association (MTA) Meeting

Commissioner Varner:

- Attended a Building Dedication for the Sheriff Department
- Attended M.O.A Landfill Authority Board Meeting
 - Met with the State DNR EGLE Representative who oversees the landfill. The landfill has an exceptional rating with the State of Michigan.

- Attended Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMSCA) in Grayling, MI
- Reviewed Claims & Audit
- Attended Northern Michigan Regional Entity Meeting in Gaylord, MI
 - The testimony has ended, and is now in the hands of the Judge to determine whether the privatization of the PHIP’s can move forward. They have bypassed the legislative processes.

In the final Oscoda County Board of Commissioners meeting of 2025, Commissioner Varner acknowledged the successful preparation of the FY26 budgets.

Key details from the end-of-year included:

- Year-End Financial Review: The Board previously moved to conduct a final review of Claims & Audit before the 2025 year-end to ensure financial timeliness.
- FY26 Budget Preparation: Commissioner Varner commended the collaborative effort between the Finance Committee and key administrative staff, specifically:
 - Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator/HR Director; and
 - Ms. Rene Welser, Board of Commissioners Executive Secretary.

M. 2026 Proposed General & Special Fund Budgets

1) “Public Hearing” 2026 General and Special Fund Budgets

Breaugh/Handrich
2025-367 a motion to hold a Public Hearing 11:02 a.m. for the 2026 County Proposed Budgets, as advertised.

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

Handrich/McCauley
2025-368 a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing 11:03 a.m. and return to the Regular Board Meeting.

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

McCauley/Breaugh
2025-369 a motion to approve the 2026 “Proposed Budgets” for the General Fund, in the amount of **\$7,269,765.08** and the Special Funds, as discussed, and hold a “Public Hearing” to adopt the 2026 Oscoda County General and Special Fund Budgets at the December 16, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

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

Handrich/McCauley
2025-370 a motion to authorize the Finance Committee and the County Treasurer to balance the 2025 Budget with the necessary funds from the Tax Revolving Fund.

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

N. Adjournment:

Handrich/Breaugh
2025-371 a motion to adjourn today’s meeting at 11:04 a.m.

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

The Board of Commissioners will hold their “Regular B.O.C Meeting” scheduled for **Tuesday, January 13, 2026 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**