



# 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 December 19, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner's was held on **Tuesday, December 19, 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 McCauley, Varner, Marsh, Handrich and Bondar
Members Excused:	N/A
Public Present:	8
Public by Teleconference:	0
Zoom Participants:	3

### D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **December 19, 2023**, as presented, with one addition to Financial and omitted the Closed Session.

Bondar/Handrich 2023-328 a motion to approve the Agenda for **December 19, 2023**, as presented, with one addition to Financial and omitted the Closed Session.

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

### E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for December 19, 2023.

The B.O.C. approved the Consent Calendar Items for **December 19, 2023.**

Bondar/McCauley 2023-329 a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **December 19, 2023.**

**Item #1** Claims and Audit Docket for **December 19, 2023**, as received from the County Clerk's Office. Total Claims & Audit **\$10,295.12.**

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

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

N/A

### G. Appointments:

1) "Public Hearing" 2024 General and Special Fund Budgets

Handrich/McCauley 2023-330 a motion to hold a Public Hearing 10:05 a.m. for the 2024 County Proposed Budgets, as advertised.

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

McCauley/Bondar 2023-331 a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing 10:10 a.m. and return to the Regular Board Meeting.

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

McCauley/Handrich 2023-332 a motion to adopt the 2024 General Fund Budgets, in the amount of **\$6,532,119.47** including the 2024 Appropriations and 2024 Special Fund Budgets, as presented.

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

Handrich/Bondar 2023-333 a motion to authorize the 2024 Finance Committee and the County Treasurer to balance the 2023 Budget with the necessary funds from the Tax Revolving Fund.

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

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) 44North – 2024 Oscoda County Health Insurance – Opting Out of the PA152

McCauley/Bondar 2023-334 a motion to adopt **Resolution 2023-015** the “Oscoda County Health Insurance for the Calendar Year of 2024” as written and to Opt Out of the PA152 for 2024.

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

- 2) Acknowledge Retirement of Maintenance Supervisor

Handrich/Marsh 2023-335 a motion to acknowledge the retirement from Mr. Joe Breaugh, Maintenance Supervisor, effective Sunday, June 30, 2024.

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

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

- 1) Mr. John Mattson, EMS Director – Staffing Changes (Amendment to Motion#2023-323)

Previous Motion 12.12.23:

Marsh/Bondar 2023-323 a motion to acknowledge the change in status of Mr. Timothy Forton who is moving from a full-time paramedic to a part-time contingent paramedic, with an effective date of January 1, 2024, with a wage of \$18.99 per hour, to be paid out of Contingent EMT Shifts budget line 210.651.704.10, and not eligible for County benefits.

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

Marsh/McCauley 2023-336 a motion to amend the previous Motion#2023-323 dated December 12, 2023 and acknowledge the change in status of Mr. Timothy Forton who is moving from a full-time paramedic to a contingent paramedic, with an effective date of December 6, 2023, with a wage of \$18.99 per hour, to be paid out of Contingent EMT Shifts budget line 210.651.704.10, and not eligible for County benefits.

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

- 2) Mr. John Mattson, EMS Director – Staffing Changes

McCauley/Bondar 2023-337 a motion to acknowledge the change in status of Mr. Yale Miller who is moving from a part-time paramedic to a full-time union contracted paramedic, with an effective date of Sunday, December 31, 2023, with a starting wage of \$18.06 per hour, and will be eligible for County benefits.

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

3) Mr. John Mattson, EMS Director – Acknowledgement of Resignation

Bondar/Marsh  
**2023-338** a motion to acknowledge the resignation from Mr. John Mattson, EMS Director, effective Sunday, December 31, 2023.

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

4) Mr. AJ Welser, Veterans Affairs Director – Veterans Affairs Wait Time Pay (Amendment to Motion#2023-286)

Marsh/Bondar  
**2023-339** a motion to amend Motion#2023-286 and authorize “Wait Time Pay” to all Veteran Affairs drivers that transport clients to and from their appointments and if the wait time exceeds three hours, the driver will be paid for their entire wait time at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, out of Veterans Affairs Contracted Services budget line 298.682.806.00. If the wait time is less than three hours, there will be no wait time pay issued. The wait times excludes travel time. Drivers will be contracted with a Form 1099 being issued annually. Drivers will not be paid a wait time if they chose to drop off the client, return home and then back to pick up the client from their appointment, and so, amend the budget.

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

J. Financial:

1) Oscoda County Park – Equipment Purchase

Marsh/Bondar  
**2023-340** a motion to review the estimate from Home Depot and authorize the expense of **\$1,954.92** to purchase a Commercial Ice Maker for the Oscoda County Park, and authorize the Treasurer’s office to transfer funds from the General Fund SOM-License- Adult Use MJ Pmt. (101.000.439.00) into the County Park, per Motion #2022-154, as requested, and so amend the budget.

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

Addition

2) Housing Commission – Locking slide window

Marsh/Bondar  
**2023-341** a motion to approve the recently quoted Locking Slide Window to be installed by J&K Contracting LLM in the Housing Commission office in the amount of \$3,840.00, to be paid for out of budget line Courthouse Grounds Equipment Non-Capital 101.265.775.01, and so, amend the budget.

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

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

Mr. Frank Beek, Veterans Affairs:

Extended his appreciation to Commissioner Bondar, Veterans Affairs Liaison who has been helpful to the Veterans Affairs department and their board, to keep things running smoothly. Ms. Michelle Knepp, County Administrator/HR Director has been a sweetheart and a savior for their department and Mr. Richard Landry, Veterans Affairs has also been a huge help to the Veterans Affairs department.

Discussion regarding the Veterans Affairs travel pay issue that caused misinterpretation/misunderstanding; therefore, it was suggested to include the original Motion date to resolve any further misunderstanding.

1) Mr. AJ Welser, Veterans Affairs Director – Veterans Affairs Wait Time Pay (Amendment to Motion#2023-339)

McCauley/Handrich  
**2023-342** a motion to amend Motion#2023-339 authorize “Wait Time Pay” to all Veteran Affairs drivers that transport clients to and from their appointments and if the wait time exceeds three hours, the driver will be paid for their entire wait time at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, out of Veterans Affairs Contracted Services budget line 298.682.806.00. If the wait time is less than three hours, there will be no wait time pay issued. The wait times excludes travel time. Drivers will be contracted with a Form 1099 being issued annually. Drivers will not be paid a wait time if

they chose to drop off the client, return home and then back to pick up the client from their appointment, effective October 24, 2023, and so, amend the budget.

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

Sheriff Kevin Grace:

Have a happy and safe Christmas and New Years! He also thanked the Board for everything that they have done in the 2023 year, and looking forward to 2024.

Commissioner Varner:

There have been a lot of questions about the Sheriff Department building project from residents in the community, who are wondering why we are building a new building when the Rite Aid building is vacant and could possibly be used for a new Sheriff Department. Commissioner Varner explained that the Building Committee has been meeting and planning with Michigan Department of Corrections to follow specific requirements since July 2022. The Rite Aid building was not available at the time to even be considered to utilize the building space, nor would the building have meet compliance requirements. We had already began entering into contracts and agreements in advance of Rite Aid closing their doors, and we were financially obligated to the building project. Commissioner Handrich's knowledge in construction has been greatly appreciated. Once the Sheriff Department building project is complete, we need to begin planning for the Annex building.

Sheriff Kevin Grace:

The contractor and building crew have been pleasant to work with. The contractor has also stated that the sub-contractors are great to work with. The result, is that we will be proud of the new facility.

Mr. Frank Beek:

Historically, his family was able to make a living by doing laundry in the basement of the Sheriff Department for local families. There has also been previous Sheriffs and their families that have lived in the existing building. The building has served its purpose, however the building is 90+ years old, it is out of code and we are not meeting the State mandates on what is required for recording and interview rooms, etc., although it falls under being Grandfathered.

L. Committee Reports:

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended Greenwood Township Meeting
  - They will have to spend \$3600 for larger gas meter to be able to service the larger generator that was installed.
- Attended Road Commission Meeting
  - The sign projects are completed throughout Oscoda County;
  - One of their drivers will be retiring soon.

Commissioner Bondar:

- Attended Veterans Affairs Meeting
  - Mr. AJ Welser, Veterans Affairs Director is meeting with Ms. Kate Patterson for training on the use of Teams Meetings so that he can attend online webinars that are required for the Grant that they were recently awarded;
  - Mr. Richard Landry, Ms. Rene Welser and Commissioner Bondar spoke in regards to an email that came from Habitat for Humanity; advertising a pilot program for Housing for Veterans who are disabled and/or low income. Ms. Rene Welser will reach out to see if they want to do a presentation;
  - There were 91 veteran visits in November 2023.
- Attended Council on Aging
  - The meals have increased
  - Special programs (exercise, etc.). Their space is limited, therefore Commissioner Bondar suggested that they reach out to Mr. Joe Breaugh, Maintenance Supervisor to request use of Community Center.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended District Health Department Meeting
  - A resident from the T Lake area with concerns of lots being too small for wells and septic's to be installed, most of which were camp sites;
  - There are reports of people dumping gray water;
  - An update was given on PFOS in Lincoln, MI and Hopkins, MI
    - Testing was completed with very little contamination;
  - Oscoda County is the lowest county in the state for vaccinations in children. We are currently at 32% of children that have been immunized.

- There are concerns about the dangers in vaccinations, due to increased rates of autism, ADHD, etc.
- Commissioner Handrich stated that he finds this to be a good thing, as he expressed his concerns about the safety of the vaccinations and the increased numbers of autism in children. He will be sending information to Dr. Hamed to review. This could be due to the Amish population in our community.
- Commissioner Bondar referred to an article British Medical Association that discussed the dangers of vaccinations given to children.

Commissioner Varner:

- Oscoda County recently signed a contract with Mead & Hunt.
- The airport license has been re-instated, with the assistance of MDOT.
  - Commissioner Bondar, Mr. Brian Smutek, Assistant Airport Manager and Commissioner Varner have put in a lot of hard work and effort.

Commissioner Bondar:

A questioned was addressed to Commissioner Handrich, “Is the State is getting involved in the septic system because of small lots”? Commissioner Handrich stated that is one of the many reasons that the State is getting involved. The problem with the T Lake area is that there are many small lots that have 55-gallon drums buried underground that is being used for a septic system, which is what the State is trying to eliminate, as well as the septic’s that are draining into the lakes. Commissioner Bondar then stated that the State is punishing everyone because of an issue that is primarily focused around lake front properties.

Ms. Rene Welser, BOC Executive Secretary gave an update stating that Oscoda County is on track for receiving the Federal funding for Oscoda County Dennis Kauffman Memorial airport. All correspondence has been submitted to MDOT, deadlines and requirements have been met and MDOT. Therefore, we should be receiving funding in January 2024 that will go towards the updated Airport Layout Plan.

M. Adjournment:

Handrich/Marsh                      a motion to adjourn today’s meeting at 11:07 a.m.  
**2023-343**

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

The B.O.C will hold their “Regular B.O.C Meeting” scheduled for **Tuesday, January 9, 2024 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**