



# COUNTY OF OSCODA

Board of Commissioners  
Telephone (989) 826-1130  
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Oscoda County Government Center, 311 S. Morenci Ave, P.O. Box 399, Mio, MI 48647

## Official Minutes August 23, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner's was held on **Tuesday, August 23, 2022 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.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call of Members:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Members Present:          | Commissioners Yoder, Bondar, Marsh, McCauley and Varner |
| Members Excused:          | 0   |
| Public Present:           | 14  |
| Public by Teleconference: | 5   |
| Zoom Participants:        | 2   |

\*\*Commissioner Yoder called today's "Public Meeting" to order at 10:00 a.m.; including those joining the meeting by teleconference.

\*\*The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **August 23, 2022** as presented, with three additions.

### Additions to Financial

**Varner/McCauley 2022-198** a motion to approve the agenda for **August 23, 2022**, to today's B.O.C Regular Meeting, as presented, with three additions.

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

The B.O.C approved the Consent Calendar Items for **August 23, 2022**, as presented.

**Item #1** Official Minutes for **August 9, 2022**, were approved.

**Item# 2** Budget Amendments were reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners as presented.

- Veterans Relief 298.682-800.00 - A request to increase budget line by an additional \$25,000.00.
- Veterans Food Vouchers 298.682-800.03 - A request to increase budget line by an additional \$9,000.00
- Historical Commission – 2023 Budget Amendments:
  - A request to decrease budget line 232.000-699.00 by \$4,000.00;
  - A request to increase budget line 232.000-675.00 by \$4,000.00;
  - A request to increase budget line 232.803-975.00 by \$50,000.00;
  - A request to decrease budget line 232.803-704.01 by \$1,400.00; and
  - A request to add a budget line 232.803-708.00 for Per Diem and move \$1,400.00 to the line.
- Veterans Affairs – A request to add new budget lines; Current Tax-Winter Levy 298-000-402.00 and Veterans Construction/Contractors 298-684-801.00

**Item #3** Claims and Audit Docket for **August 23, 2022**, were approved, as received from the County Clerk's Office. Total Claims & Audit **\$50,330.32**.

**Marsh/Bondar 2022-199**

a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **August 23, 2022**.

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

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

### **Appointments:**

- 1.) Ms. Lee Ann Fischer, RBDG Grant (Signature Required)

#### **Varner/Bondar 2022-200**

a motion to review and authorize the Oscoda County Board of Commissioners Chairman to sign the Rural Business Development Grant for \$100,000.00, as requested by Ms. Lee Ann Fischer, Owner of Housing Consulting Services, LLC.

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

- 2.) Mr. Kevin Marino, USDA Forest Service Asst. Fire Management Officer (Mio District) regarding Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program (CWDG)

Mr. Kevin Marino, Assistant Fire Management Officer, Forest Service, DNR and local fire department representation was in attendance to the meeting. They made the Board of Commissioners aware of a grant opportunity funded through the forest service for Community Wildfire Defense Grant program (Preparedness, preparation, readiness, etc.) This is a part of the infrastructure bill was signed back in October 2021. The government has decided to put out one billion dollars aimed towards Wild Fire Defense. This money is not to be spent on federal land. It is allowable to the communities, private, state and county land owners. Oscoda County has an extremely high wildfire danger within the nation ranking at approximately 80% for wildfire risks, which gives the county a good chance of approval for these grant funds.

Mr. John Norton-Jensen, Fire Management Officer Huron-Manistee National Forest, Huron Zone spoke in regards to sharing information with the Board of Commissioners regarding the CWPP grant funds that are available as well as mentioning the financial commitment of a 5% match from Oscoda County and encouraged the BOC to pursue applying for these funds.

Mr. Brian Sukuruoff, Tri-Town Fire Department Captain spoke in regards to the fire danger within Oscoda County and he expressed concerns for our area and the risk of wildfires. He stated that we need to prepare with further training, action plans as well as raising awareness. He encouraged writing for the CWPP grant funds. He stated that once this is in place with the federal government, this would also open the door to Oscoda County for further opportunities in the future. If the CWPP is not in place, then Oscoda County would not get considered. There is a 5% match required (approx. \$1,000 or less) by Oscoda County and this can also be done in-kind, which is a small investment. The funds from this grant can go towards training, clearing of roads and equipment. With the jack pines in our area and Oscoda County being in a high-risk area, we have been very fortunate! However, if the wildfires were to happen, we need to be better prepared as a county.

Commissioner Varner asked if Mr. Mike Bowers, Emergency Management would be the administrator of this project/grant. Commissioner Varner expressed his concerns of overstepping boundaries of the local townships. Mr. Mike Bowers stated that the townships need to get involved with this project and it is a wonderful opportunity for our community. Mr. Mike Bowers stated that he would work with each of the local fire departments within Oscoda County as well as report to the BOC with the progress of this grant. Commissioner Yoder stated that the initiation of applying for the grant would be the responsibility of Oscoda County. He asked if the funds would go through the county or would it be each individual fire departments responsibility to submit individually? They would develop the grants within each of the fire departments within each township.

Mr. Mike Janisse, DNR Fire Officer stated that in Crawford County the fire departments meet bi-monthly to review and approve the plans. The Fire Chiefs will need to get together and bring forth projects and approve for county-wide. The funds are disseminated to the county through the EOC and then the funds get funneled through the county controller for payment through the state. The state handles the funding to the local entities. It's a buy in with the fire chiefs and townships if they so choose. This is not mandatory! It is extremely beneficial to do this as a county versus individual townships. Since 2012, Crawford County has received \$80,000.00 from the CWPP grants, which is only going to increase with these other grants that are available. It would behoove the county to get onboard because all the future grants are tied to the CWPP grant. He encouraged the BOC to involved with these grant programs. The DNR has previously made recommendations back in 2012 and there was no interest shown by the BOC at that time. Part of this is also used for clearing breaks in fires to save homes.

Commissioner Yoder asked what the steps/requirements of this type of grant? Commissioner Marsh asked if we the County needs to have an action plan in place prior to applying for this grant? Mr. Kevin Marino explained the grant application process to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Marsh said that the common ground needs to support our local fire departments and that this needs to be a

priority! Mr. Mike Bowers has begun working with many others to get this in place. Commissioner Marsh asked what is needed/required from the BOC? Commissioner Varner stated that NEMCOG would assume the responsibility of writing for this grant. The CWPP grant must be submitted by October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Mr. Kevin Marino stated that a proposal has been submitted to the local fire departments. NEMCOG will charge \$2,000.00 for writing this grant and then submit for the grant. If the grant is awarded, there is a 5-year period for the CWPP Plan to be developed and for the funds to be spent. Commissioner Varner asked Mr. Mike Bowers if there are funds available through Emergency Management for something of this nature. Commissioner Yoder stated that he would review the budget to see where there are funds available. Commissioner Varner stated that it is our desire is to work with the townships on this project. Mr. Brian Sukuruoff said that no one took action previously and we need to start on this as soon as possible.

**Yoder/McCauley 2022-201** a motion to add a new budget line to the Emergency Management budget based on the Treasurer’s recommendation and to move funds from Contingency in the amount of \$2,000.00 to pay NEMCOG for their services to write for the CWPP grant opportunity to be paid out of the Emergency Management budget, and so, amend the budget.

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

**Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:**

**Unfinished Business/New Business:**

- 1.) Ms. Brenna Kirkpatrick, Trial Courts – Acknowledge the resignation of the Oscoda County Juvenile Officer/Juvenile Probation Officer

**McCauley/Bondar 2022-202** a motion to acknowledge the resignation from Ms. Emily Benjamin, Oscoda County Juvenile Officer effective Friday, August 19, 2022.

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

- 2.) Brenna Kirkpatrick, Trial Courts – Request to advertise and hire an Oscoda County Juvenile Probation Officer

**Varner/McCauley 2022-203** a motion to advertise and hire for filling the position of the Oscoda County Juvenile Probation Officer, as a full-time position with a starting salary of \$40,335.00, per the current United Steelworkers contract, effective immediately.

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

- 3.) Brenna Kirkpatrick, Trial Courts – Discuss the Oscoda County Annex Building Maintenance List

Commissioner Varner stated that he has reviewed the maintenance list but he would like to go over to the Annex building to do a walk through and see for himself. Getting a visual would help us to better understand the priorities, not to doubt the list of maintenance provided by the Trial Courts. There have been a couple of incidents of trips/falls that have occurred, but nothing in terms of law suits or injuries. Commissioner Varner will get with Mr. Joe Breaugh, Maintenance Supervisor to coordinate the repairs and maintenance based on priority. Mr. Joe Breaugh will be reaching out to contractors for quotes for the work that needs to be done. Commissioner Bondar and Ms. Brenna Kirkpatrick spoke on the severity, safety and other concerns listed on the maintenance list.

**Financial:**

**Addition:**

- 1.) Use of Community Center for Purple Heart Event

**Bondar/Varner 2022-204** a motion to allow the Military Purple Heart Backpack Event to be held at the Community Center at no cost to the Military Purple Heart and will need to be in coordination with Mr. Joe Breaugh, Maintenance Supervisor.

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

**Addition:**

2.) Tree Removal at the Motor Pool

Commissioner Bondar spoke on the health and/or removal of the tree located on the Motor Pool property. A bid in the amount of \$730.00 from Smity's Tree Service has been obtained for the removal of the tree to be paid for out of the Courthouse Grounds budget line 101-265-935.01. The property belongs to the Road Commission; therefore, Commissioner Bondar will need to communicate with the Road Commission regarding the removal of this tree. Commissioner Yoder stated that we also need to get with Mr. Joe Breugh, Maintenance Supervisor in regards to having this work done.

**Addition:**

3.) Vandalizing at Smith Lake

Commissioner Bondar spoke in regards to the damage to the swing set at Smith Lake. There were two incidents; the first incident was slight damage to the swing set and then there was a second incident causing additional damage by turning the entire swing set over and breaking the legs off. Mr. Joe Breugh, Maintenance Supervisor has filed a police report as well as contacting the insurance company to report the incident. Mr. Joe Breugh and Ms. Rene Welser have provided pictures and details to the insurance company regarding the damages. Commissioner Varner stated that the area seems to be a hazard and said that an adjuster needs to be expedited so that the damage can be cleaned up. Commissioner Yoder stated that the playground needs to be upgraded and suggested to see what the insurance offers for replacement and then the BOC could add funds to the budget to upgrade the swing set. Mr. Joe Breugh will reach out to get a replacement bid.

**Committee Reports:**

**Commissioner Yoder:**

- Sheriff's Building: We will be reviewing the tentative site plans with Mr. Tim Miller. Sidock Group has requested a meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 1:00p.m. to be held in the BOC Conference Room to discuss the plans and to decide which route to go with the Sheriff's Department addition. The concern is the potential of an expansion in the future to include the Courthouse Annex building. One alternative is the best site plans for expansion will include removing the Sheriff's existing building prior to the new addition being built. Commissioner Yoder expressed concerns of continuing the current operations in the existing building without disruption. We will have to consider the cost, and the future of rebuilding the Oscoda County Annex building.

**Commissioner Varner:**

- Attended all meetings virtually while on vacation
- Attended MOA Meeting. Our contract for the injection well is with Petro Tech LLC in Denver, Colorado. The MOA Landfill Attorney has reviewed the contract. The financing and bonds will be done through Nicolet Bank. This project cost approximately \$3 million dollars, but it will save the MOA approximately \$1 million dollars per year.
- Attended District Health Department Meeting – Both of the Ogemaw County Commissioners that are currently sitting on the DHD2 board will be leaving. The D variant of Covid is contagious, but the CDC says that 95% of the population has either contracted or developed immunity to the virus. They have lifted the social distancing guidance, etc.
- Attended AuSable Valley Community Mental Health – There is a new board of officers.
- Attended Joe Stone's retirement party in West Branch, MI. was a nice event. Mr. Joe Stone was an asset to the community. He will be moving to the Grand Rapids area. Mr. Stone was the longest serving member of the State board.
- Attended a virtual meeting with the National Forest Service

**Commissioner Bondar:**

- Attended Northern Michigan Association of Counties Meeting. Their reports are available online.
- Attended a Presentation on Early Childhood Development. Due to the conference, there will be no meeting in September 2022.
- Oscoda County Dennis Kauffmann Memorial Airport – There was an issue with our Ferrell Gas account resulting in our account being past due and the issue has been corrected. This was due to them having an incorrect mailing address. Ms. Rene Welser has reached out to Ferrell Gas and our account has been updated with all the correct information, therefore this should be resolved.
- Fiber Internet installation is moving along quickly in Northern Michigan.
- Attended MOA Meeting – Claims & Accounts was done.

- Encouraged attendance to the upcoming Review of Hydro Operations Meeting which will be held on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mio-AuSable High School Auditorium
- Oscoda County Park – The Pavilion Roof is complete and it looks amazing.
- A meeting will be held on Thursday, August 24, 2022 to plan for the Halloween Event that will be held on Sept 30<sup>th</sup> and Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Marsh:

- Attended all required meetings
- 211 recently went through their auditing process. Covid has caused an increase in their services, which was not expected. They have a huge connection to a lot of resources in the community.

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended Big Creek Township Meeting. The township thanked the Board of Commissioners for the Title III funds.
- Recycling/Recovery Meeting will be held on August 30, 2022 at the Thunder Bay Resort from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. They are trying to get all the townships on board to attend.

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

Ms. Ann Galbraith, County Clerk:

\*\*Hiring of a Human Resource person needs to be escalated! Commissioner Varner and Commissioner Marsh will be meeting in regards to this matter to develop a job description for this position.

Mr. Robert Hunter, EMS Director:

\*\*A new paramedic has been hired. Ms. Lisa Thomson will be filling the position effective Tuesday, August 22, 2022.

M. Adjournment

**Varner/McCauley** a motion to adjourn today’s meeting (11:42 a.m.)  
**2022-205**

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

\*\*The B.O.C will hold their next Regular B.O.C Meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, September 13, 2022 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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**Kyle Yoder, Oscoda County  
Board of Commissioners Chairman**

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