



COUNTY OF OSCODA

Mr. Charles E. Varner, Jr, Chair
Ms. Jackie Bondar
Ms. Libby Marsh

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 May 14, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Oscoda County Board of Commissioner’s was held on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024 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: Commissioners Marsh, Handrich, Bondar, McCauley and Varner

Members Excused:	N/A
Public Present:	6
Public by Teleconference:	0
Zoom Participants:	2

D. Approval of Agenda

The B.O.C approved the Agenda for **May 14, 2024**, as presented.

McCauley/Handrich a motion to approve the agenda for **May 14, 2024**, B.O.C Regular Meeting, as presented, with one addition to Financial.
2024-123

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

E. Approval of the Consent Calendar Items for May 14, 2024.

The B.O.C. approved the Consent Calendar Items for **May 14, 2024**.

Bondar/McCauley a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for **May 14, 2024**.
2024-124

Item #1 Unofficial and Closed Session Minutes for **April 23, 2024**, as presented.

Item #2 Budget Amendments

DEAO: a request to appropriate funds into the DEAO Officer 265-301-704.01 budget line in the amount of \$38,934.00, and so, amend the budget.

Item #3 General and Special Fund budget Summary for **April 2024**.

Item #4 Claims and Audit Docket for **May 14, 2024**, as received from the County Clerk's Office in the amount of **\$186,141.96**.

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

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

Mr. Ryan Blair introduced two deputies that graduated on May 3, 2024 from the Police Academy; Deputy Logan O'Brien and Deputy Todd Easterday. They are on their third day of training, with a busy schedule ahead of them. As shift bids play out, these deputies will be assigned to a shift.

G. Appointments:

N/A

H. Correspondence/Reports/Resolutions:

- 1) Ms. Michelle Knepp – Opioid Settlement Discussion

Opioid settlement funds are projected to be received annually over the next 10-15 years. It is to be determined on how the funds are spent? Ms. Michelle Knepp has been participating over the past couple of months in a collaboration with other MAC, MSU, Ogemaw, Crawford and Roscommon Counties. The first initiative is to reach out to the stakeholders within the counties to determine what kind of experiences that people have had within our counties. The group has developed two different surveys; one of which will be launched today to those who have had personal experiences and the second survey will be sent out to those who have had professional experiences such as mental health professionals, health department, law enforcement, emergency services, schools, etc. Once the survey results are received, the group will reconvene for further discussion and a steering committee will be developed. There are guidelines and restrictions as to how the funds can be spent.

- 2) **Resolution 2024-009** "Oscoda County Council on Aging Operating Millage Proposal"

McCauley/Bondar a motion to adopt **Resolution 2024-009** the "Oscoda County Council on Aging Operating Millage Proposal FY2024- FY2027", as written, and authorize the County Clerk to place it on the August 6, 2024 Primary Election.

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

- 3) **Resolution 2024-010** "Oscoda County Sheriff Operating Millage Renewal Proposal"

Marsh/McCauley a motion to adopt **Resolution 2024-010** the "Oscoda County Sheriff Operating Millage Renewal Proposal FY2024- FY2027", as written, and authorize the County Clerk to place it on the August 6, 2024 Primary Election.

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

- 4) **Resolution 2024-011** "Oscoda County Drug Enforcement Operating Millage Renewal Proposal"

Handrich/Bondar
2024-127 a motion to adopt **Resolution 2024-011** the “Oscoda County Drug Enforcement Operating Millage Renewal Proposal FY2024- FY2027”, as written, and authorize the County Clerk to place it on the August 6, 2024 Primary Election.

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

I. Unfinished Business/New Business:

1) Mr. Jim Vance, Oscoda County Park Manager – Seasonal Help

Bondar/Handrich
2024-128 a motion to acknowledge hiring Mr. Richard Lloyd, as an Oscoda County Park temporary seasonal employee with a start date of June 2, 2024 through September 15, 2024 at \$12.75 per hour, working up to 6 hours per week, not eligible for County benefits, and so, amend the Oscoda County Park Budget (208).

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

McCauley/Marsh
2024-129 a motion to acknowledge hiring Ms. Kayla Whiting, as an Oscoda County Park temporary seasonal employee with a start date of May 9, 2024 through October 5, 2024 at \$12.75 per hour, working up to 20 hours per week, not eligible for County benefits, and so, amend the Oscoda County Park Budget (208).

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

Marsh/McCauley
2024-130 a motion to acknowledge hiring Ms. Khloe Holland, as an Oscoda County Park temporary seasonal employee with a start date of May 11, 2024 through October 5, 2024 at \$11.00 per hour, working up to 10 hours per week, not eligible for County benefits and so, amend the Oscoda County Park Budget (208).

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

2) Historical Commission – Seasonal Help

McCauley/Handrich
2024-131 a motion to acknowledge hiring Mr. Jim Larrison, as a part-time seasonal employee to fill the position at the Historical Commission, effective April 24, 2024, at \$14.00 per hour, working up to 50 hours per month, not eligible for County benefits, and so, amend the budget.

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

3) Mr. Robert Stankiewicz, EMS Director – EMS Staffing

Handrich/McCauley
2024-132 a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Ms. Kayla Atkins, as a part-time employee to fill the contingent EMT position, with a start date of Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at a starting wage of \$15.83 per hour, not eligible for County benefits, and so, amend the budget.

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

Marsh/Handrich a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Ms. Kristen View, as a part-time

2024-133 employee to fill the contingent EMT position, with a start date of Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at a starting wage of \$15.83 per hour, not eligible for County benefits, and so, amend the budget.

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

McCauley/Bondar
2024-134 a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Mr. Adrian Brooks, as a part-time employee to fill the contingent EMT position, with a start date of Wednesday, May 6, 2024, at a starting wage of \$15.83 per hour, not eligible for County benefits, and so, amend the budget.

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

4) Sheriff Kevin Grace – Sheriff Department Staffing

Handrich/Marsh
2024-135 a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Mr. Todd Easterday, as a full-time employee to fill the Deputy position, with an effective date of Sunday, May 5, 2024, at a starting wage of \$23.69 per hour, to be paid out of budget line 101-301-703.00, and eligible for County benefits, and so, amend the budget.

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

McCauley/Handrich
2024-136 a motion to acknowledge the hiring of Mr. Logan O’Brien, as a full-time employee to fill the Deputy position, with an effective date of Sunday, May 5, 2024, at a starting wage of \$23.69 per hour, to be paid out of budget line 101-301-711.02, and eligible for County benefits, and so, amend the budget.

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

Bondar/Marsh
2024-137 a motion to acknowledge the assignment of position for Mr. J. Bryce DeGrammont, as a full-time employee to fill the School Liaison Officer position, with an effective date of Sunday, May 5, 2024, with the wage per hour to remain the same, and to be paid out of the designated budget lines listed below, and eligible for County benefits, and so, amend the budget.

- Drug Law Enforcement Regular 265-301-704.01
- Drug Law Enforcement Overtime 265-301-706.00
- Drug Law Enforcement Holiday 265-301-707.00
- Drug Law Enforcement LT/ST Disability 265-301-838.00

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

5) Mr. William Kendall, Treasurer – 2024 Title III Notification

Marsh/McCauley
2024-138 a motion to advertise for Title III Funds, in the amount of \$38,070.48. Title III Projects must include one or more of the following: Fire Wise Community Programs, Reimbursement for Emergency Services Performed on Federal Land, and/or Develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Roll Call Vote: Handrich, yes; Bondar, yes; Marsh, yes;

McCauley, yes; Varner, yes. **Motion Carried.**

J. Financial:

1) Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport - 2024-2025 Pollution Liability Renewal Quote

McCauley/Handrich a motion to approve the Quote for the renewal with EnviroSURE Agency, Inc
2024-139 (Mid-Continent Casualty Company), in the amount of \$500.00 for Oscoda County's Pollution Liability Coverage at the Dennis Kauffman Memorial Airport, effective July 11, 2024 through July 11, 2025 and authorize the Chair to sign, on behalf of the County.

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

Addition:

Discussion on internet installation at the Steiner Museum.

- Commissioner Marsh stated that the Board of Commissioners previously approved the budget for FY2024 for the Historical Commission which included internet installation, but was not aware of the additional cost for a modem and switch since they have never had internet service, which is approximately \$500.00 and will be paid out of the IT budget. The IT Department has suggested to tie the Steiner Museum into the County network which will entail some additional cost as well. We are in favor of being tied into the network for the sake of securing information and backing up data onto the network. The Historical Commission board also intends on having cameras installed in the near future, due to a recent theft. There is not a need for a motion or budget amendment at this time.

K. Agreement Renewal

1) Michigan Department of Corrections Agreement Renewal

Bondar/Handrich a motion to approve the Michigan Department of Corrections Agreement
2024-140 Renewal, as written, as of April 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025, and authorize the Chair to sign.

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

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

Mr. Robert Stankiewicz, EMS Director:

- The monitors have been installed into the ambulances and in service and the company has held training sessions and the crews are pleased with monitors.
- The State of Michigan will be performing inspections on two EMS vehicles to run as first responder vehicles.

Ms. Amber Woehlert, Gypsy Moth Coordinator:

- The Gypsy Moth project is complete and this is the last year. There were 6500 acres that were serviced, which has been the largest project thus far.

Mr. Doug Marsh, who is the Oscoda County Herald reporter introduced himself. Commissioner Varner complimented him by saying that he likes his writing style in a recently viewed article.

M. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Bondar:

- Attended Big Creek Township Meeting
 - The township is seeking volunteers for recycle day;
 - Condolences and sympathy for Mr. Randy Booth, Township Supervisor who suddenly loss his father. The funeral services will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024 at Lashley Funeral Home at 1:00 p.m.
- Attended Veterans Affairs Board Meeting
 - K&M Builders; construction is being performed at the site;
 - The plumbing (water and sewer) is pending as they are tying into existing lines;
 - The \$50K grant that was received by the Veterans Affairs will be used for purchasing furniture for the new building. Mr. AJ Welser, Veterans Affairs Director will be working with Ms. Michelle Knepp relative to the grant requirements, timely reporting and to ensure that the money will be spent appropriately;
 - Mr. AJ Welser attended training course/convention in Kalamazoo, MI and stated that he experienced a hassle when requesting reimbursement. Ms. Michelle Knepp researched the issue and determined that there was no reason he would have had to use his own credit card in order to pay for an expense that occurred while out at a training course;
 - Mr. AJ Welser mentioned having old electronics that could possibly be donated. Per policy, these things need to go through the IT Department and they can determine what should be done with the equipment.
- Attended Council on Aging Meeting
 - Suggested that the Chamber of Commerce holding “Meet the Candidate” meetings in place. Ms. Ann Galbraith stated that the Republican party will hold a meet and greet;
 - Report was given that there was a bad gas odor when using the oven and they are working to get that resolved;
 - There is an issue with the well and they are working with Morse Excavating to get the issue resolved;
 - The Chamber of Commerce is working together with Project Fresh which is offered through NEMSCA. You can register and receive a booklet of coupons to use at various stores in our community;
 - Thia Chi and exercises classes are going well;
 - The meals that are provided by Council on Aging are good a reasonably priced;
 - They are accepting donation of wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, etc. and are available to be loaned out to individuals in the community.

Commissioner McCauley:

- Attended Road Commission Meeting
 - Reported \$87 million dollars to be distributed to municipalities throughout Michigan from the marijuana sales this year;
 - They have developed policies on public access and video recording on road commission property, video recording of road commission employees by the public and social media policy;
 - The Road Commission has signed the dust control contracts.
- Attended District Library Meeting
 - There were approximately 30 people in attendance who addressed complaints and concerns as well as good topics that were discussed. There has been a lot of controversy recently regarding the employee that was arrested at the library, who is out on bond but has been inside of the library premises on a few occasions. Those in attendance to the meeting announced their concerns about the safety of their children. It was announced that there are cameras inside of the library. There attendees were told that if anyone comes into the library and begins talking to children or acting inappropriately, the

Sheriff's Department will be contacted immediately. There are additional policy changes that will be coming in the near future to try to satisfy the public and their concerns as well as reviewing all of the policies as that is supposed to be every couple of years. The District Library recently adopted the Library Bill of Rights from the American Library Association. There were some good speakers and some individuals who addressed valid points. Commissioner McCauley personally feels like their needs to be some research done and employees should receive training on how to deal with the public. There are discrimination laws in place, regardless of each individuals' personal beliefs are.

Commissioner Bondar suggested that the District Library have a sign put up to identify the building? She also asked "What does the State of Michigan do to support the library now that they are a District library? It was explained that this makes them eligible to receive grant funding.

- Attended Michigan Township Association Meeting
 - There was discussion about the library;
 - They announced the Big Creek Township Tire & Electronic recycling day that is scheduled to be held on June 8, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Varner:

- There is lobbying work being done by Commissioner Varner who has met with Senator Michelle Hoitenga and Representative Ken Borton regarding a bill that was going to "Sunset," and was passed for another two years by both chambers prior to sunset. SCAO studies will determine whether court employees should become state employees.
- Attended Sheriff Department Construction Meeting
 - Clark Construction is staying on budget;
 - The job is running on schedule;
 - Bi-Weekly meetings are being held;
 - Commissioner Bondar asked the following questions:
 - Is the contract manager helping us out financially?
 - Where are we at with budget?
 - Commissioner Varner responded by saying, we were exceeding budget a few weeks ago, but the cost has been brought back down. They were having a difficult time obtaining contractors and there were delays on obtaining generator, etc. Clark Construction has been working diligently to stay on schedule and stay within budget. The projected cost is currently at \$4.4 million, however that is expected to be reduced once all bids have been received and accepted. The estimated completion date is November 2024.
- Attended Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency Board Meeting in Hale, MI
- Attended Substance Use Disorder Board Meeting for Northern Michigan Regional Entity in Gaylord, MI
- Attended (2) AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Meetings
 - Narcan vending machines are available at no cost. Machines have been placed in the Mio, West Branch and Tawas offices.
- Plans to attend AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Executive Finance Meeting on Tuesday.
- Plans to attend Community Mediation Services Liaison Board in Gaylord, MI on Wednesday.
- Attended M.O.A. Landfill Authority Board Meeting
 - Loads of limestone were delivered to the Steiner Museum. Commissioner Handrich discovered that limestone had been stolen from the Steiner Museum and the suspects have been reported, investigated and arrested.

- Northern Michigan Community Service Agency is supporting Project Fresh.

Commissioner Marsh:

- Attended Steiner Museum Meeting
 - Making a point to visit all of the townships to inform them of what the Steiner Museum means to the community. The Steiner Museum has been needing attention for a while now. Commissioner Marsh did not want to see Oscoda County continue investing money into something that none of the other owners were contributing towards. The museum has been a huge undertaking for Commissioner Marsh. It is a hidden gem that has a ton of potential. They have an active board that consist of most townships who are actively participating. Commissioner Marsh has been an advocate of getting a plan in place, working on budget and future planning for FY2025. There have been a large number of volunteers and board members who have put in a lot of hard work and time into helping out at the museum. This year will be the first year that they have opened a gift shop which will be ready for business on opening day. The long-term goal is to have the museum become financially self-sufficient. The board is working well together in the right direction. Once inventory is complete, they will begin addressing the layout of the museum. With the addition on the museum, the next step is needing an electrician to provide an estimate to install electric.
 - Friends of Steiner will be hosting the annual pancake breakfast which is next Saturday, May 25, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Handrich:

- Attended Steiner Museum Meeting
 - Commissioner Marsh is doing a tremendous job at the museum.
- Attended Sheriff Department Construction Meeting
- Plans to attend EDC Meeting tomorrow night.

N. Adjournment

Handrich/Marsh a motion to adjourn today’s meeting at 11:18 a.m.

2024-141

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

The Board of Commissioners will hold their “Regular B.O.C Meeting” scheduled for **Tuesday, May 28, 2024 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**

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