

**OSCEOLA COUNTY  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES  
July 1, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 9:28 a.m. by Chairman Gregory at the County Administration Building in Reed City.

Present: Commissioners Scott Stieg, Mark Gregory, Jim Custer, Russ Nehmer, Greg Gydesen and David Turner. Commissioner Michell absent.

Also present: Val Delamater – Equalization Director, Steve Young – E.M.S. Director, Jeff LaPlante – Community Corrections Director, Aaron Holsworth – Building Official, Sheriff Cool, Undersheriff Avery, Tracey Cochran-County Clerk, Tim Ladd-Administrator/Controller and other members of the public.

**Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Nehmer to approve the agenda as amended. Recommendation carried unanimously. Commissioner Michell absent.**

Public Comment: Donna Wheeler, Reed City resident, is putting together a history tour. She is looking for permission to post walking history boards for 301 W. Upton. Courthouse also has historical photos.

Employee Comment: None

**Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Custer to approve the minutes of June 17, 2025, as presented. Recommendation carried unanimously. Commissioner Michell absent.**

**County Benefits Provider Renewal**

Mike Cutlip, Advantage Benefits Group, spoke about the health insurance renewal. Renew it as is with a slight increase. Priority Health provided a quote, Admin Fees – HRA, COBRA, there would be no changes. Also, no changes in dental, life insurance, etc.

**Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Stieg to approve renewal of the County's medical plans with BCBS, BCN and BCN-HSA using Advantage Benefits Group as the Third-Party Administrator with plans effective 9-1-2025. Recommendation unanimously carried. Commissioner Michell absent.**

**County Benefits BCN HSA County Contribution**

County Contribution of \$1,000.00 for single and \$2,000.00 for double/family plans for those employees selecting health insurance for the 2025-2026 plan year.

**Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Nehmer to approve the County contributing \$1,000.00 for single and \$2,000.00 for double/family towards the BCN-HSA Plan for those employees selecting this health insurance choice for the 2025-2026 plan year. Recommendation unanimously carried. Commissioner Michell absent.**

**PA 152 Opt Out**

It is above the hard cap limit, previously waived.

**Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Custer to approve opting out of PA 152 for the 2025-2026 plan year. Recommendation unanimously carried. Commissioner Michell absent.**

**Demolition of Dining Hall at Rose Lake Park**

Aaron Holsworth, Parks Director, proposed Parks complete the demolition of the old lodge themselves and to rent an excavator to help in the demolition.

**Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Nehmer to approve the Parks rental of an excavator at a cost of \$2,013.14 to remove the dining hall at Rose Lake Park. Recommendation unanimously carried. Commissioner Michell absent.**

**Lease of Tractor by Parks**

Aaron Holsworth, Parks Director, has looked at tractors through different dealerships, looked at options, and John Deere is the only dealer who leases tractors. This would be a five (5) year lease with \$1.00 buyout, and 1 payment per year of \$10,105.00. It is recommended to go to the Health, Safety and Grounds Committee to give Parks direction on the tractor. Discussion held.

**Pricing on cabins at Rose Lake Park**

Aaron Holsworth, Parks Director, is looking at pricing on 8 rustic cabins. Rose Lake has 8 slabs of concrete; this would be a shed with a front porch. Quote of \$4,485.00 per shed. If 8 are ordered, they will price out at \$4,025.00 per cabin including delivery. Discussion held on the effect this would have on our license by adding cabins. No action taken.

**Discharge of Giese Mortgage**

Tim Ladd, Administrator/Controller, requested Board approval for the discharge of mortgage for Ivan and Bonnie Giese.

**Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Custer to approve the Discharge of Mortgage for Ivan and Bonnie Giese and to authorize the Board Chair to sign. Recommendation unanimously carried. Commissioner Michell absent.**

**County 2026 Budget**

Tim Ladd, Administrator/Controller, requested a recommendation on the percentage to use for the 2026 budget for non-union staff and to set the COLA for Budgeting Purposes. Unions will receive 5% and EMS will receive 2.5%. Mark Gregory stated the COLA is projected it to be 2.5%. Discussion held on this. Tim Ladd brought up a wage study. He is also asking about looking at 5% and then look at it again to see if there is a need to back the budget down.

**Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Custer to approve setting the COLA increase at 5% for the purpose of preparing the County's FY 2026 Budget. Recommendation unanimously carried. Commissioner Michell absent.**

**Resolution Opioid Settlement**

Tim Ladd, Administrator/Controller, requested board approval on the resolution with a one-time payment of \$41,956.40.

OSCEOLA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION #2025-0008

AUTHORIZING ENTRY OF PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS IN PARTIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE NATIONAL  
PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION

WHEREAS, Osceola County filed a lawsuit to address the public nuisance that is the Opioid Epidemic;

AND WHEREAS Sandoz, Inc. ("Sandoz") has negotiated a proposed settlement agreement ("Proposed Settlement") with Participating Subdivisions and Participating Tribes;

AND WHEREAS the Proposed Settlement contains an agreement for Sandoz to establish a \$99,500,000 settlement fund to resolve pending opioid-related litigation;

AND WHEREAS Osceola County previously executed Participation Agreements for the Distributor and Janssen Settlements, as well as the Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart, Walgreens, and Kroger Settlements, which have conferred and continue to confer valuable benefits;

NOW THEREFORE, Osceola County authorizes the execution of a Participation Agreement for the Sandoz Settlement Agreement.

**Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Nehmer to approve the Resolution Authorizing Entry of Participation Agreement in Partial Settlement of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation regarding Sandoz, Inc. as presented. Recommendation unanimously carried. Commissioner Michell absent.**

**Sheriff's Department Donation**

Sheriff Mark Cool received a letter and a check for a \$500.00 donation from the office managers of Northern Precision Products. Deputy Helmer was asked to teach a class for their employees on active shooters. Sheriff Mark Cool would like approval to accept the donation and use the money for training.

**Motion by Commissioner Stieg, seconded by Commissioner Gydesen to approve the Sheriff's Department accepting a donation from Northern Precision Products in the amount of \$500.00 and to utilize the donation for training. Recommendation unanimously carried. Commissioner Michell absent.**

Other Business: None

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Employee Comment: None

Public Comments: Pepper Lockhart, Evart City Manager, commented on a West Michigan Planning Meeting update.

Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Nehmer to adjourn at 10:25 a.m. Motion unanimously carried.

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Tracey Cochran, County Clerk

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Mark Gregory, Chairman