

Stark County Board Meeting Minutes  
February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Stark County Board met in the Courthouse for the February 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting at 6:30 pm. Chair Bush called the meeting to order. Roll call shows Howes, Schaffer, Loane, Wilson, Orwig, Nowlan, and Bush present. Absent was McMillen. A quorum was established, and Mr. Howes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Howes made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Loane with all present voting aye, motion carried.

No Public Comment.

A motion was made by Nowlan to approve the minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting with a second by Orwig with all present voting aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Loane to approve the minutes of the January 30<sup>th</sup> special meeting with a second by Nowlan with all present voting aye, motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

Police-None

Legislative-None

Economic Development-Mr. Orwig reported he attended the most recent SCCI meeting. The organization has lowered the price for new members to help increase membership.

Health Board-Ms. Bush reported there will be three health board reappointments on the agenda for next month. There is still a vacancy for a dental field appointment to the health board. The pharmacy planned for the new Stark County Health Department office is still working through all the paperwork before it can open. Ms. Bush took this opportunity to read a thank you note from the Bruce Fehrenbacher family thanking the county for the memorial flowers that were sent for his funeral.

Road & Bridge-Mr. Nowlan gave the County Engineer report for the month. There were some repairs made to the snowplow attachment to the grader. MFT paperwork has started and there will need to be a special meeting to pass a resolution regarding MFT paperwork.

Finance-The monthly bills were presented for approval. After discussion, a motion was made by Nowlan with a second from Howes to approve the payment of the bills with all present voting aye, motion carried.

**FFA Presentation**

The Stark County FFA chapter represented by Taylor Wilkinson addressed the board to highlight some of the awards and recognition that the members have received in the last year. Miss Wilkinson also took this opportunity to address the board on their work to highlight the county as a food desert and what has been done to address this issue. The current objective is to create a ten-person committee with members from the community. Two board members volunteered to be on this committee, Adam Wilson, and Joe Orwig.

## Finance Report

County Treasurer Paula Leezer was absent from the meeting, but did provide her monthly report and an extra report to highlight the ongoing overtime issues in the Sheriff's Department.

## Sheriff's Report

The new E911 building is nearing completion, with a tentative opening in May.

## New Business

- I. There were two Planning Commission reappointments presented for approval. Motion made by Nowlan to approve the reappointment of Dale Jackon that was seconded by Loane with all present voting aye, motion carried. Motion made by Orwig to approve the reappointment of Jim Robison that was seconded by Loane with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- II. The bi-annual closed session meeting minutes resolution was presented for approval. Motion made by Loane to approve the resolution and seconded by Orwig with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- III. A resolution for a joint downstate operation system for public transportation with Marshall County was presented for approval. Howes made a motion to approve the resolution seconded by Orwig with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- IV. An ordinance for public transportation was presented for approval. Nowlan made a motion to approve the ordinance seconded by Loane with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- V. The last item on the agenda was the discussion of passing a resolution to designate the county as a non-sanctuary county for immigrants. A representative from the Stark County OEM office addressed the board on the OEM perspective of passing such a resolution. The risk of this happening in Stark County is extremely unlikely and they have a plan in place if this were to occur. Passing a resolution could also interfere with recouping any funds that were expended relating to the housing of immigrants. The board took the advice of the OEM office and will not be pursuing this matter.

At 7:29 pm Nowlan made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Howes with all present voting aye, meeting **adjourned**.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather L. Hollis  
County Clerk