

Stark County Board Meeting Minutes
June 11th, 2024

The Stark County Board met in the Courthouse for the June 11th Board Meeting at 6:30 pm. Chair Bush called the meeting to order. Roll call shows Howes, Schaffer, Loane, Wilson, Orwig, Nowlan, McMillan, and Bush present. A quorum was established, and Ms. Bush 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.

During public comments, several residents of South Union Street in Toulon spoke in opposition to the purchase of property located at the end of their dead-end street for county highway facilities. They were concerned about the machinery and trucks going up and down their quiet street. They were also upset that they had not been contacted about this potential purchase. The speakers were Andy Colgan, Billy Price, Kenny Lain, and Laurie Orrick. They urged the board to abandon this project. Also, during public comment Chief Deputy Chuck Demetreon introduced K-9 dog Hunter to the board. He also introduced the new Sheriff's Deputy Caleb Ingle and his K-9 dog Alex.

A motion was made by Howes to approve the minutes of the April 23rd board meeting with a second by McMillen with all present voting aye, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Police-None.

Legislative-Mr. Howes met with Congressman LaHood and State Senator Stoller to discuss the need for money to address the aging courthouse facilities. Mr. Howes and Mr. Wilson both reported on the leadership academy they recently attended that was hosted by the University of Illinois Extension and UCCI.

Economic Development-None

Health Board-Ms. Bush reported the health department will be bringing back the drug testing program at the high school next year. With the opening of the Toulon office, all the testing will be able to be done locally.

Road & Bridge-None

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

Highway Report

The County Engineer gave the monthly report. The main topic was the ongoing issues with IDOT and the MFT funds being held up until these issues are resolved.

Finance Report

County Treasurer Paula Leezer reported that \$9,324,221 for tax payments has been received thus far. The first distribution will be the week of July 3rd.

Sheriff's Report

Chief Deputy Demetreon gave the Sheriff's Report. There was only one bid received for the removal of a tree from the grounds near the new E911 center. The bid was from Saw 'n Logs for \$950.

New Business

None

Old Business

The discussion regarding the purchase of real property for county highway facilities was the only item to be discussed during old business. At 7:08 pm Nowlan made a motion to close the open session and go into a closed session to discuss this agenda item. Orwig seconded the motion with a voice roll call indicating that all were in favor of this motion.

At 7:39 pm the meeting was reopened. No action was taken at this time on the purchase of the proposed land acquisition.

At 7:41 pm Howes made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Wilson with all present voting aye, meeting **adjourned**.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather L. Hollis
County Clerk