

Stark County Board Meeting Minutes
August 13th, 2024

The Stark County Board met in the Courthouse for the August 13th Board Meeting at 6:30 pm. Chair Bush called the meeting to order. Roll call shows Howes, Schaffer, Loane, Wilson, Orwig, Nowlan, McMillen 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 comment a group of citizens from Winnebago County read a resolution on behalf of the United Sovereign Citizens that requested the board to consider passing a voting reform resolution. Also, during public comment, Phil St. John and his attorney David Cover addressed the board concerning a county highway structure that is on his property according to a survey he had done. The board will look into doing a survey as well to verify and will take action to remedy the situation if needed.

A motion was made by Nowlan to approve the minutes of the July 9th board meeting with a second by Orwig with six voting aye and two abstaining, motion carried.

A motion was made by Loane to approve the minutes of the July 22nd special meeting with a second by Nowlan with four voting aye and four abstaining, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Police-There was nothing to report from the committee members, however some board members expressed concern on the lack of presence of the Sheriff for many months now. Committee Chair Loane will address this matter with the Sheriff. The expiration of Sheriff's Union contract and lack of negotiations was also discussed. Chief Deputy Demetreon informed the board that union representative Deputy Shipp will be reaching out to start negotiations once there are less than ninety days left in the current contract as required.

Legislative-Mr. Howes and Mr. Wilson attended legislative administration school at the University of Illinois recently. Mr. Howes also attended the annual UCCI meeting in Galena.

Economic Development-Mr. Orwig reported on the opening of Butchie's Gym in Toulon. There will be a SCCI meeting next week. Mr. Wilson mentioned the upcoming Labor Day Weekend festivities in Bradford.

Health Board-The yearly budget from the Health Department has been submitted for approval.

Road & Bridge- Board members Loane and Orwig were contacted by a property owner regarding some brush removal that resulted in damage to a fence on his property. Upon investigation, the fence was in complete disrepair prior to the brush removal and the request was deemed unreasonable, therefore no action was taken.

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

Audit Report

Representatives Lori Salmi and Tom Burroughs from Phillips, Salmi & Associates, LLC were at the meeting to discuss the audit. The audit overall went well and came out clean. Ms. Salmi did point out some internal control issues in the Treasurer's Office due to only one employee who handles all transactions. They commented that all departments were easy to work with and they look forward to working with us in the future.

Highway Report

The County Engineer gave the monthly report. Approval from IDOT for the resolutions that were passed last month was received.

Finance Report

County Treasurer Paula Leezer gave the finance report. Sheriff's Department salaries were again overbudget, but were offset by ARPA salaries. There was a bill in the County Clerk's office that caused the monthly allotment to look over budget, but the year to date was fine.

Sheriff's Report

Chief Deputy Demetreon gave the Sheriff's Report. He provided the board a list of recent drug arrests made by Deputy Ingle and K-9 officer Alex in the county. He also reported he is in week 3 of handlers training with K-9 officer Hunter.

New Business

- 1) A rezoning permit for TLS Investment was tabled because the Zoning Board tabled it from their meeting until more information has been provided.
- 2) Up for approval were six special use permits for MET towers for the following properties:
 - i. Michael Harmon-Special Use Permit
 - ii. Venette Webster Pittman-Special Use Permit
 - iii. Barry Streitmatter-Special Use Permit
 - iv. Nancy Morrissey-Special Use Permit
 - v. Frank Shafer-Special Use Permit
 - vi. Ronald Streitmatter-Special Use PermitMotion made by Orwig to approve all six permits with a second from Howes with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 3) Resolution #24-25 to maintain the confidentiality of closed session minutes was presented for approval. Motion made by Orwig to approve with a second from Howes with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 4) The annual membership dues to Stark County for Continuous Approvement were up for discussion. The board decided to go with the gold membership at a cost of \$1000. Motion made by Wilson to approve the gold membership with a second from Howes with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 5) Ordinance #24-26 to prohibit the use of groundwater as potable water at property located at 11522 Twp Rd 700 N Wyoming was presented for approval. Motion by Orwig to approve with a second by Nowlan with all present voting aye, motion carried.

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 7:45 pm Nowlan made a motion to close the open session and go into a closed session to discuss this agenda item. Howes seconded the motion with a voice roll call indicating that all were in favor of this motion.

At 8:31pm the meeting was reopened. No action was taken at this time on the purchase of the proposed land acquisition.

At 8:32 pm Nowlan made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Loane with all present voting aye, meeting **adjourned**.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather L. Hollis
County Clerk