

Stark County Board Meeting Minutes
November 12th, 2024

The Stark County Board met in the Courthouse for the November 12th Board Meeting at 6:30 pm. Chair Bush called the meeting to order. Roll call shows Howes, Loane, Orwig, Nowlan, and Bush present. Absent were Schaffer and Wilson. A quorum was established, and Chair Bush led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

No Public Comment

A motion was made by Nowlan with a second from McMillen to approve the minutes of the October 8th board meeting with all present voting aye, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Police-Mr. Loane reported that the Sheriff's Union contract negotiations have concluded.

Legislative-Mr. Howes reported that the Farm Bureau has funds for grant money at the state level and that the county should investigate applying for some of these grants. He also reported on a recent leadership program sponsored by UCCI and the University of Illinois Extension that he attended along with Mr. Wilson.

Economic Development-None.

Health Board-The Health Department has some job openings at the Kewanee location. The Toulon site is fully staffed.

Road & Bridge- None

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

Highway Report

The County Engineer gave the monthly report. Due to scoring changes at IDOT, he will need to take a refresher class to be recertified for bridge inspections. Heaters are installed at the highway building for the winter. Plans for this month are to meet with the road commissioners to work on next year's MFT. He is still working with Cloudpoint and Aveyo on the permitting link issues on the website. He is still waiting for a couple of quotes on the planned survey of highway property.

Finance Report

County Treasurer Paula Leezer gave the finance report. Sheriff's Department salaries were again over budget but were offset by ARPA salaries.

Sheriff's Report

The Sheriff reported that the union contract is complete and will be up for approval later in the meeting. He also presented his final budget for fiscal year 2024/2025.

New Business

- 1) The annual insurance package was up for approval. After a brief presentation by John Leezer from Leezer Insurance Agency, a motion was made by Orwig to approve the package with a second from Howes with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 2) A resolution to approve the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor was up for approval. Motion made by Howes to approve the resolution with a second from McMillen with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 3) A resolution to correct the levy rate in the county federal aid matching fund requested by the Illinois Department of Transportation was presented for approval. This correction will require a transfer of funds from the general fund to the federal aid matching fund to bring the rate up to the required minimum of .045%. Motion made by Howes to approve the resolution with a second from Loane with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 4) The recently negotiated Sheriff's Union contract was up for approval. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by McMillen to approve the contract with a second from Nowlan with all voting aye, motion carried.
- 5) A resolution to tentatively adopt the FY24/25 budget was presented for approval. After discussion, a motion was made by Nowlan to approve the budget with a second from Loane with all present voting aye. The board will be holding a special meeting on November 27th at 7:30 am to formally adopt the budget. Also, during the discussion, insurance for all employees was discussed and a request was made for all department heads to include insurance costs in next year's budget presentations.
- 6) The final allocation for ARPA funds was up for discussion. All funds must be allocated by 2024. The discussion was to use the remaining funds to put toward a new County Highway building that will also house some of the county administrative offices. Motion made by Howes to approve this allocation with a second from McMillen with all present voting aye, motion carried.

Old Business

- 1) No action taken at this time on the old business item.

At 8:05 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