

## April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Stark County Board Meeting Minutes

The Stark County Board met in the Courthouse for the April 9<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. Chair Bush led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

No public comment.

Motion made by Loane with a second from Howes to approve the minutes from the March 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting with all present voting aye, motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

Police-The planned police committee meeting for this evening was canceled due to illness. They had arranged for a representative from the North Central Illinois Council of Governments to come to the meeting to discuss grant opportunities which will be rescheduled.

Legislative-Mr. Orwig attended a meeting regarding the proposed legislation to eliminate townships. Mr. Loane encouraged board members to fill out witness slips supporting SB1527 and SB2372.

Economic Development-None.

Health Board-None

Road & Bridge- None

County Highway/Administrative Offices Building-Mr. Wilson reported that negotiations fell through, and other options are being explored.

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

### **U of I Extension**

Jenny Garner from the U of I Extension office presented her annual report to the board. She highlighted the programs available, gave attendance figures, and thanked the board for their continued support. In addition, Russell Medley reported on a regional housing assessment study for Henry, Mercer, and Stark Counties that was done by the U of I Extension.

### **Solar on Earth Presentation**

Nathan McCarthy representing Solar On Earth addressed the board on how the county could be receiving credits on the utility bills. The board asked the Treasurer and State's Attorney to look over their materials to determine if this would be a worthwhile endeavor.

### **Highway Report**

Engineer Giffin gave his monthly report. MFT reports and bridge inspection reports were submitted to IDOT. Plans for the new buildings are being finalized. Toulon Mayor and Toulon Civic Association

representative Larry Hollis addressed the board to ask permission to install a digital sign on county highway property and permission to hook into the electricity at the highway office building. Howes made the motion to approve the request with a second from Orwig with all present voting aye, motion carried.

### **Finance Report**

Treasurer Leezer reported on the ongoing issue of overages for overtime pay in the Sheriff's Office. This was partly due to the rules regarding emergency closures in the union contract. There are concerns from the board that the county will not be able to fund these expenses in the long term. The Police Committee will be meeting with the Treasurer to address this issue.

### **Sheriff's Report**

Chief Deputy Demetreon gave the sheriff's report. The only item he had was an estimate of future boiler repairs that will be needed for approximately \$2,300.00.

### **Consent Agenda**

There were three Fire Trustee reappointments on the consent agenda:

- a. Jason Cresto-Bradford Fire District
- b. Joe Winans-Lafayette Fire District
- c. Ross Elsasser-Wyoming Fire District

Motion made by Orwig to approve all the appointments and seconded by Howes with all present voting aye, motion carried.

### **New Business**

- 1) A resolution to accept the resignation of board member Tim McMillen and declare a vacancy in District 2 was presented for approval. Motion was made by Nowlan with a second from Loane to approve the resolution with all present voting aye, motion carried. A notice will be published in the paper seeking applications to fill this vacancy.
- 2) The annual University of Illinois Extension agreement was presented for approval. Motion made by Orwig to approve the yearly agreement for \$26,750.00 with a second from Howes with all present voting aye motion, motion carried.
- 3) A mutual aid agreement with the Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association was presented for approval. Motion made by Howes with a second from Nowlan to approve the agreement with all present voting aye, motion carried.

Chair Bush read a request from the Spoon River Days Committee requesting a monetary donation from the board. Due to financial constraints and a history of not donating to these types of events in other municipalities, no action was taken.

### **Old Business**

- 1) The purchase of real property was tabled.

At 7:50 pm Wilson 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