

August 12th, 2025 Stark County Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

During public comment, Chair Bush read a thank-you note from the Marilyn Seckman family.

Motion made by Shipp with a second from Loane to approve the minutes from the July 8th finance committee meeting, with all present voting aye, motion carried.

Motion made by Nowlan with a second from Shipp to approve the minutes from the July 8th board meeting, with all present voting aye, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Police-Mr. Schaffer reported on the police committee meeting held earlier this month. Items discussed were the purchase of flock cameras and possibly obtaining a grant for the purchase of squad cars.

Legislative-Mr. Howes reported on the UCCI meeting he attended. He reported that the state has allocated grant money for small business startups. He suggested that we invite the speaker from that meeting and possibly representatives from NCICG and DECO. After some discussion, it was suggested to hold a community meeting and invite the municipalities and other interested parties.

Economic Development-The Heritage Tractor location in Bradford will be closing. There is a new thrift shop in Toulon that will be opening soon.

Health Board-Ms. Bush presented the health department budget for the coming year. Sports physicals are being offered at the Toulon clinic.

Road & Bridge- None

County Highway/Administrative Offices Building-None

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

Goldrush Apple Energy

Representatives from the Goldrush Apple Energy wind farm operation gave the board an update on the progress of the wind farm. A slideshow was presented on the different phases planned and a tentative timeline of those phases.

Illinois Farm Bureau

Mr. Tate gave a presentation on the Illinois Farm Bureau grant program. He presented a slide show highlighting past winners and how the grant program has grown from year to year.

Highway Report

Engineer Giffin gave his monthly report and presented his budget for the coming year. Bids for sealcoating have been received and are pending approval. The Castleton Road project is moving along.

Finance Report

Treasurer Leezer gave her monthly report. The line items highlighted were the court-appointed counsel due to the public defender grant, sheriff's department salaries, and the county clerk's election maintenance, but the year-to-date is within budget.

Sheriff's Report

None

New Business

- 1) A resolution to fill a trustee vacancy for the Toulon Fire Protection District was presented for approval. Motion made by Nowlan to approve the appointment, with a second from Howes, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 2) The bi-annual resolution for the retention of closed session meeting minutes was presented for approval. Motion made by Howes to approve the resolution, with a second from Nowlan, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 3) A letter of engagement with Tressler LLP for legal services was presented for approval. Motion made by Nowlan to approve the agreement, with a second from Shipp, with all present voting aye, motion carried.

Old Business

- 1) The letter of intent to purchase property was tabled.

At 8:03 pm, Howes made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Shipp, with all present voting aye, meeting **adjourned**.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather L. Hollis, County Clerk