

October 14th, 2025 Stark County Board Meeting Minutes

The Stark County Board met in the Stark County Courthouse for the October 14th board meeting at 6:30 pm. Chair Bush called the meeting to order. Roll call shows Howes, Loane, Wilson, Orwig, Shipp, and Bush present. Absent were Schaffer and Nowlan. A quorum was established, and Chair Bush led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Shipp 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 Shipp with a second from Loane to approve the minutes from the September 9th board meeting, with five ayes and 1 abstention, motion carried.

Motion made by Shipp with a second from Loane to approve the minutes from the September 22nd board meeting, with five ayes and 1 abstention, motion carried.

At 6:35 pm, board member Schaffer entered the meeting.

Committee Reports

Police-None

Legislative-None

Economic Development-The next meeting of the SCCI organization will be on November 18th.

Health Board-Chair Bush reminded everyone of the flu shot clinics available through the Health Department.

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 Orwig to approve payment of the bills, with all present voting aye; motion carried.

Highway Report

Engineer Giffin gave his monthly report. Bridge repairs to Township Road 1300E will begin this month, and a grant from IDOT will help cover the costs. A new snowplow truck was purchased.

Finance Report

Treasurer Leezer gave her monthly report. The line items over budget for the month were Sheriff's Department salaries, Animal Control salaries, and computer support.

Sheriff's Report

Chief Deputy Demetreon was present in place of the Sheriff, and he had no report. He did supply the board with dispatcher call log stats that were requested at a prior meeting. The flock cameras are still coming, just waiting for the permits from IDOT.

New Business

- 1) John Leezer presented the yearly insurance package to the board for approval. After discussion, there may need to be some changes in coverage for vehicles not in use, the new highway building, and the removal of the former highway building. The current package, as presented, is up 8% from last year. The board tabled this item until next month, pending an updated package.
- 2) An agreement with Hutchison Engineering was presented for approval. Motion made by Orwig to approve the agreement, with a second from Shipp, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 3) A resolution approving the tax sale of property was up for approval. Motion made by Orwig to approve the resolution, with a second from Loane, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 4) A resolution to set the salary of the Treasurer for a 4-year term beginning December 1, 2026, was presented for approval. After discussion, a motion was made by Orwig to increase the salary by 5% for the first year, with a yearly increase of 3% for the next 3 years. This was seconded by Shipp, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 5) A resolution to set the salary of the County Clerk & Recorder for a 4-year term beginning December 1, 2026, was presented for approval. After discussion, a motion was made by Orwig to increase the salary by 5% for the first year, with a yearly increase of 3% for the next 3 years. This was seconded by Loane, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 6) A resolution to adjust the salary of the Circuit Clerk for the remaining 3 years of said term, beginning December 1, 2025, was presented for approval. After discussion, a motion was made by Shipp to increase the salary by 5% for the first year, with a yearly increase of 3% for the next 2 years. This was seconded by Orwig with six ayes, and 1 abstention motion carried.
- 7) A resolution to approve the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor services was presented for approval. Motion made by Howes to approve the resolution, with a second from Orwig, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 8) At the request of the title closing company, a resolution to approve the purchase of property in Bradford for the use of the Highway Department was presented for approval. Motion made by Shipp to approve the resolution, with a second from Wilson, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 9) Board Member Wilson presented preliminary plans for a new County Administrative building. There have been some suggested changes to the plans, and Mr. Wilson will relay those back to the architect. There are differing opinions on this project, and discussions will continue.

Chair Bush handed out the FY 25/26 tentative budget and suggested that a Finance Committee meeting be held. It was decided to schedule the meeting for Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 5 pm.

At 8:10 pm, Shipp 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