

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

The Stark County Board met in the Stark County Courthouse for the December 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting at 6:30 pm. Chair Bush called the meeting to order. Roll call shows Howes, Schaffer, Loane, Wilson, Nowlan, and Bush present. Absent were Orwig and Shipp. A quorum was established, and Chair Bush led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Bush requested to move the new business agenda items before the committee reports to accommodate her needing to leave for a prior commitment. Howes made a motion to approve the amended agenda with a second from Nowlan, with all present voting aye, motion carried.

No public comment.

Motion made by Nowlan with a second from Loane to approve the minutes from the November 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting, with five ayes and 1 abstention, motion carried.

Motion made by Loane with a second from Howes to approve the minutes from the November 26<sup>th</sup> special meeting, with four ayes and 2 abstentions, motion carried.

At 6:33 pm, board member Shipp entered the meeting.

At 6:34 pm, Chair Bush exited the meeting. Vice-Chair Nowlan took over chair duties for the remainder of the meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Police-Member Howes suggested that it might be a good time for an outside review of the Sheriff's Office with the appointment of a new interim Sheriff.

Legislative-None.

Economic Development-None.

Health Board-None.

Road & Bridge-The new snowplow has arrived.

County Highway/Administrative Offices Building-Committee Chair Wilson stated he hopes to have final plans for the administrative building at the January meeting, with a potential starting construction date in April.

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

### **Soil & Water Presentation**

Katie McCauley from Stark County Soil & Water addressed the board, asking for assistance in filling out a survey regarding natural resources on properties located in Stark County.

### **Highway Report**

Engineer Giffin gave the highway report. The recently purchased snowplow has arrived. The new building has been pressure-washed, and he handed out before-and-after photos for the board to review.

The quote to install trench drains is too high, and he will be looking at other options. A MFT resolution did not get submitted in time for this meeting; a special meeting to pass this resolution will be needed. Work continues moving items from the old building to the new building. The paint striping being done by Bureau County can only be done on roads where the old lines are still somewhat visible.

### **Finance Report**

Treasurer Leezer gave the end of fiscal year 24/25 report. The general fund expenses ended the year under budget. There were several departments that ended the year under budget as well, with only the Sheriff's Office and Animal Control departments over budget. The final tax disbursement of just over 17.8 million for the 2024 tax cycle was sent out to the various taxing bodies.

### **Sheriff's Report**

Chief Deputy Demetreon gave the sheriff's report. There will be a new deputy starting in January to replace Gary Bent, who is retiring in April. Two new squad cars have been purchased and will arrive soon. He plans to use impound fees to cover the cost of getting the vehicles equipped. He plans to hire a new dispatcher to cover various shifts to alleviate the overtime issue.

### **New Business**

- 1) The 2026 calendar for meeting dates of the county board was presented for approval. Motion made by Nowlan to approve the dates, with a second from Howes, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 2) A resolution to appoint Charles Demetreon as interim sheriff was presented for approval. Motion made by Nowlan to approve the appointment, with a second from Loane, with all present voting aye, motion carried.

### **Old Business**

- 1) There were no updates on the proposed administrative building in Toulon.

At 7:19 pm, Shipp 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