

February 10th, 2026 Stark County Board Meeting Minutes

The Stark County Board met in the Stark County Courthouse for the February 10th board meeting at 6:30 pm. Chair Bush called the meeting to order. Roll call shows Howes, Schaffer, Loane, Wilson, Orwig, Shipp, Nowlan, and Bush present. A quorum was established, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion made by Nowlan with a second from Howes to approve the agenda, 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 January 13th board meeting, with all present voting aye, motion carried.

Motion made by Nowlan with a second from Orwig to approve the minutes from the January 27th special meeting, with six ayes and two abstentions, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Police-Chair Schaffer reported on the police committee meeting that was held before tonight's board meeting. Items discussed were a revised budget plan, squad cars, body cameras, and CAD training.

Legislative-None.

Economic Development-Chair Schaffer shared articles of interest from both Farm Week and the Farm Bureau Partners magazines.

Health Board-Chair Bush reported that the Health Department has an opening for a nurse practitioner. Dr. Miller has retired from the health board, and they will need to find a replacement for him. There will also be two reappointments discussed at the next board meeting. April 6th-12th is Public Health Week.

Road & Bridge-None.

Wind Farm Road Preservation Subcommittee-The newly formed subcommittee to oversee the wind farm project will include the current road and bridge committee members and board member Orwig, who was appointed by the board chair at tonight's meeting.

County Highway/Administrative Offices Building-Chair Wilson reported that the final architectural plans for the highway building are complete.

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

Highway Report

Engineer Giffin reported that he is working on MFT funding for the year. There is an issue with the license plate that was issued for the new truck that he is trying to resolve. They are still in the process of moving equipment to the new building. He presented two bids for the construction of a trench drain.

Finance Report

Treasurer Leezer gave her monthly report. Due to holidays and unused vacation time for the newly appointed sheriff, the Sheriff's Office payroll was over budget. The monthly report going forward will include the highway department. Currently, the highway department pays for outside services to Giffin Engineering for clerical work. This was not included in the budget presented by the county engineer and will need to be addressed.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Demetreon gave the sheriff's report. The main item of concern was the expiration of the current body camera contract with Axon. The prior contract was for five years, but he is looking into a ten-year contract that comes with more perks than the five-year contract. This expenditure was not included in this year's budget that was submitted by the prior sheriff. This contract will also include flock cameras. The hope is that fees collected using the cameras will help offset the costs of the contract. New doors were put in at the impound lot.

New Business

- 1) A resolution to appoint Joseph Rediger to the ETSB board was presented for approval. Motion made by Loane with a second from Orwig to approve the appointment. During the discussion, board member Schaffer questioned this appointment as it was on the agenda last month with a different name to be appointed and then tabled. He felt that since there was a motion and a second that was then tabled after discussion, it should be addressed. After discussion, it was decided that both appointments would be under old business for next month's meeting to be addressed. Both motions for the appointment of Joseph Rediger were rescinded, and a motion was made by Wilson with a second from Nowlan to table this item, 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 Orwig to approve the resolution, with a second from Shipp, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 3) An agreement with Hutchison Engineering for wind farm road preservation services was presented for approval. Motion made by Nowlan with a second from Shipp to approve the agreement with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 4) A resolution to approve a loan not to exceed \$400,000 from the State Bank of Toulon for renovations at the newly purchased highway building was presented for approval. Motion made by Orwig, with a second from Nowlan, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 5) The Stark County for Continuous Improvement organization had requested a financial contribution from the county at last month's board meeting. Board Chair Bush met with Treasurer Leezer, and they came to the consensus that we could increase our yearly allotment by \$7,500 for a total of \$10,000. Motion made by Shipp to approve the increase, with a second from Loane, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
- 6) To increase our ability to qualify for grants and receive assistance applying for grants, a membership to North Central Illinois Council of Governments would be beneficial to the county. Motion made by Howes with a second from Shipp to approve a membership with all present voting aye, motion carried.

Old Business

There were no updates on the old business items.

At 7:41 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