September 8th, 2026 Stark County Board Meeting Minutes

The Stark County Board met in the Stark County Courthouse for the September 8th board meeting at 6:30 pm. Vice Chair Nowlan called the meeting to order. Roll call showed Schaffer, Loane, Orwig, Wilson, and Nowlan physically present, and Bush remotely present. Absent were Howes and Shipp. A quorum was established.

Motion made by Orwig to permit Chair Bush to attend remotely, with a second from Loane, with all present voting aye; motion carried.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion made by Loane with a second from Nowlan to approve the agenda, with all present voting aye; motion carried.

No public comment.

Motion made by Nowlan with a second from Orwig to approve the minutes from the August 11th board meeting, with all present voting aye; motion carried.

Committee Reports

Police-None.

Legislative-None.

Economic Development-None.

Health Board-None.

Road & Bridge-None.

Wind Farm Road Preservation Subcommittee-None.

County Highway/Administrative Offices Building-None.

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

Budget Discussion

Ron Hilton addressed the board with a draft of the upcoming FY 26-27 budget. The current budget has a deficit of $245,000.00. The levy is currently under the truth-in-taxation requirements. Salaries and insurance are the biggest contributing factors to the budget deficit. Chair Bush asked the department heads in attendance for any suggestions to close the gap on the deficit. All department heads will take another look at their budgets and try to come up with some cost-saving measures. The goal is to tentatively adopt the budget at the October board meeting.

Highway Report

Sealcoat work is done for the year. Progress continues on the transition to the new building. Both the OSHA and Ameren issues have been resolved. We will be taking possession of the new truck sometime next month.

Finance Report

No major overages to report this month. Sheriff's budget for salaries is down significantly.

Sheriff's Report

Preventative maintenance for both buildings was the focus last month. Roofs for both buildings will need repair from the hailstorm in April. There are a few windows that will need to be replaced as well. A new water fountain is going to be installed in the courthouse.

New Business

1) A Circuit Clerk fee increase resolution was presented for approval. Motion made by Orwig to approve the resolution, with a second from Nowlan, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
2) A tax sale resolution was presented for approval. Motion made by Orwig to approve the resolution, with a second from Nowlan, with all present voting aye, motion carried.
3) A Board of Appeals resolution for appointment of James Smith to fill a vacancy was presented for approval. Motion made by Orwig to approve the resolution, with a second from Loane, with five voting aye and one abstention, motion carried.
4) The annual intergovernmental agreement for probation services with Marshall and Putnam counties was presented for approval. Motion made by Orwig to approve the agreement, with a second from Loane, with all present voting aye; motion carried.

At 7:17 pm, Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Nowlan, with all present voting aye; the meeting **adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,
Heather L. Hollis
County Clerk