

Stark County Board Meeting Minutes
May 14th, 2024

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

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

No public comment.

A motion was made by Howes to approve the minutes of the March 12th board meeting with a second by Loane with six voting aye and 2 abstaining, motion carried.

A motion was made by Howes to approve the minutes of the April 23rd meeting with a second by Loane with 3 voting aye and 5 abstaining, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Police-Mr. Loane reported that he was given a tour of the new E911 Communications Center. He did not have an opening date.

Legislative-None

Economic Development-Mr. Wilson handed out flyers that were put together by the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, which included information on Stark County. He also reported on the recent grant of \$600,000 that the Village of Lafayette received to restore homes in the village.

Health Board-Ms. Bush reported the death of long-time Henry/Stark Health Department employee Gail Ripka.

Road & Bridge-None

Finance-The monthly bills were presented for approval. After discussion, a motion was made by Nowlan and seconded by Orwig to approve payment of the bills with 7 ayes and 1 nay, motion carried.

Highway Report

The County Engineer gave the monthly report. IDOT has been holding up all the bid packages for the county. Mr. Loane reported that he was contacted by a township official to complain about this delay. Spray patching will be starting soon. Brush cutting was done last month.

Finance Report

County Treasurer Paula Leezer reported that tax bills have been mailed and to date, over \$964,000 has already been received. Utilities are slightly higher than anticipated for the year.

Sheriff's Report

Chief Deputy Demetreon gave the Sheriff's Report. There are bids out for a needed tree removal next to the new E911 communications center. Current K-9 officer Henson has taken another job elsewhere. Chief Deputy Demetreon will be taking over the K-9 duties for the time being. A new officer who is a current K-9 officer for Galva has been hired and his dog will be coming with him, so the county will now have two K-9 units.

U of I Extension

Jenny Garner from the U of I Extension office presented her annual report to the board. She highlighted programs available, gave attendance figures, and thanked the board for their continued support.

Probation Presentation

Megan Spradling, Marshall County Probation Officer presented a proposal to the board for the Marshall, Putnam, and Stark County offices. Due to state legislative changes over the years a Chief Probation Officer to oversee administrative and supervisory duties is needed. The plan is to also apply for a grant to establish a drug court. She presented an intergovernmental agreement between the 3 counties requesting financial assistance based on each county's EAV. The portion requested from Stark County is \$7,855.00. Mr. Orwig suggested increasing the amount to \$10,000. It was decided to approve the amount requested with the stipulation that the additional amount suggested was needed it would be available. A motion was made by Orwig to approve the agreement with a second from Howes with all present voting aye, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

There were four Fire Trustee reappointments on the consent agenda:

- a. Timothy Ringger-Bradford Fire District
- b. Pam Wulf-Lafayette Fire District
- c. Stan Foglesong-Toulon Fire District
- d. Kevin Scholl-Wyoming Fire District

Motion made by Nowlan to approve all the appointments and seconded by Loane with all present voting aye, motion carried.

New Business

The discussion regarding the purchase of real property for county highway facilities was the first item to be discussed in new business. At 7:25 pm Nowlan made a motion to close the open session and go into a closed session to discuss this agenda item. Orwig seconded the motion.

At 7:54 pm the meeting was reopened. No action was taken at this time on the purchase of the proposed land acquisition.

- I. A resolution to set the salary for the next term of the Stark County Circuit Clerk was presented. After discussion, it was agreed to give a 3% increase to the current salary amount of \$56,896 with an annual 3% increase for the remaining years of the term. Motion made by Orwig to approve the resolution and seconded by Loane with all present voting aye, motion carried.

- II. A resolution to set the salary for the State's Attorney was presented. The salary for the State's Attorney is determined by the State of Illinois and the resolution is just a formality. Motion made by Wilson to approve the resolution and seconded by Orwig with all present voting aye, motion carried.

- III. The annual University of Illinois Extension agreement was presented for approval. Motion made by Orwig to approve the yearly agreement for \$26,750.00 and seconded by Nowlan with all present voting aye motion approved.

At 8:10 pm Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Nowlan with all present voting aye, meeting **adjourned**.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather L. Hollis
County Clerk