

Richland County Board
February 13, 2025

Convene

Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on February 13, 2025, in the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and a Silent Prayer was offered. Attendance: Dennis Graves, Present; Cindy Given, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Travis Paddock, Present; Steve Schonert, Present; Alexis McFarland, Present.

Changes/Approval of Agenda

Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Morgan Henton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings

708 will meet Wednesday February 19 at 12 o'clock pm 2nd floor conference room of the courthouse. 911 will meet Wednesday February 26 at 9 o'clock am at the Olney Fire Department.

Open

Shelly Herman discussed Broadband coming to Southern Illinois at no cost to the county or city. Greater Wabash is looking into a grant. Shelly mentioned that they are having a meeting once a week and would like someone from the county to attend. Morgan Henton suggested Corey McDonald. Corey agreed. Shelly also announced that RCDC would be having an investor luncheon March 11.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

Morgan Henton made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda making special note that he felt item 6J was a positive thing. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes of January 9, 2025 for County Board, February 6, 2025, for Road and Bridge meeting, and December 11th, 2024 for 911 ETSB meeting; the county officer reports; Discover Downstate Illinois Tourism as our stat certified tourism board; approval of payment 8 of 10 for \$15,000 to Noble Fire Protection; St. Joseph – Stringtown liquor license for March 8, 2025; resolution to execute agreement with IDOT for improvements to Mt. Gilead Lane intersection; appointment of Andrew Shajari, M.D. as a member of the Richland County TB Board; Memorandum of understanding Cottage Food registration with Wabash County Health Department.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee

Steve Schonert discussed the claims. Claims totaling \$214,510.61 total county and \$198,174.70 non-county. Sheriff Hires had two late claims, Highway had a correction on a claim for Road Salt and the Coroner had a claim for body bags. Steve Schonert made the motion to approve all claims, Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve Schonert then discussed that the finance committee has been looking to make some possible changes to some budgets to come up with an extra \$50,000 for the State's Attorney's budget. After discussion, the finance committee has decided to postpone until a later date. Steve also stated that they would continue discussion on present and new tax/payroll software.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Hires stated that the department has had a busy January with approximately 29 arrests, 3 search warrants, discovery of a meth lab which is the first in several years. Sheriff Hires is urging everyone that if you see something that looks suspicious, please call the sheriff's office. Sheriff Hires also gave kudos to the State's Attorney office for moving more offenders to DOC.

State's Attorney's Report

Chelsey Clark stated that she would be receiving \$5,800 more in opioid settlement money.

Circuit Clerk Report

Zach Holder discussed a new technology grant that was awarded. The money will help pay for court software and for the CTS phone upgrades. Zach also discussed having an ATM installed inside of the courthouse. Zach then discussed a new scam where citizens are receiving phone calls stating that they owe the court money. Zach stated that his office does not take payment over the phone and anything from his office will have his signature and seal.

Animal Control

Andrea Edwards stated that the dogs had all been moved to the new building. Cameras will be moved soon to new location and they will soon have items to sell from the old location. Steve Schonert would like all the board members to tour the new building.

Highway Business

Dan Colwell discussed the Mt. Gilead improvements, stating that 80% will be federally funded with the county responsible for 20%, approximately \$13,600. Dan stated that they will be utilizing the website more with updated road conditions and bidding documents. Dan then thanked the board for providing the county with CPR training.

Board Committee Reports

IT.

Corey McDonald stated that the website is being used a lot more.

Facility Management Committee

Travis Paddock discussed the HVAC system at the courthouse and stated that the Public Building Commission would be taking a deeper look into the situation. They will also be discussing the courthouse elevator update on March 19, 2025, at 4 o'clock pm in the Jail Meeting Room. Morgan Henton then discussed the recent RCDC meeting, they were able to tour the Wal-Mart Distribution Center that employes approximately 1000 people.

Motion/Vote Old Business

Zach Holder discussed having an ATM installed inside of the courthouse though J & J Amusements. He stated that the contract should read that the fee will be \$3.50 per transaction. The county will receive \$1 from each transaction. Zach stated that he feels the ATM will be beneficial to the courthouse. Chelsey Clark stated that the ATM would be beneficial for traffic court in order for people to pay the day of court. Cindy Given asked Zach where the ATM would be located. She also stated that she just does not know anything about the company that will be maintaining the ATM. Zach stated that it would be on the first floor of the courthouse. Morgan Henton discussed concerns with bolting the ATM to the floor. Zach stated that it would not be bolted to the floor. Brian VanBlaricum stated that he did not receive a copy of the contract to review. Morgan Henton discussed that it is the same contract that the board has looked at in the past. A roll call vote was held; Dennis Graves, yay; Brian VanBlaricum, nay; Cindy Given, nay; Morgan Henton, yay; Travis Paddock, yay; Steve Schonert, yay; Alexis McFarland, abstain. Motion passed with four yays, 2 nays, 1 abstain.

Motion/Vote New Business

Nothing to report.

Executive Session

Steve Schonert made the motion to enter Executive Session. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The board went into Executive Session at 7:54 PM. The board re-entered into regular session at 8:07 PM.

Motion/Vote

Steve Schonert made a motion to approve 7A to add an additional \$50,000 to the State's Attorney budget for Assistant State's Attorney salary. A roll call vote was held; Dennis Graves, yay; Brian VanBlaricum, yay; Cindy Given, yay; Morgan Henton, yay; Travis Paddock, yay; Steve Schonert, yay; Alexis McFarland, yay. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Morgan Henton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Travis Paddock
County Board Chairman