

**Richland County Board**  
**June 12, 2025**

**Convene**

Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on June 12, 2025, in the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and Prayer was led by Willard Anderson. Attendance: Dennis Graves, Present; Cindy Given, Present; Morgan Henton, Absent; Brian VanBlaricum, Absent; Travis Paddock, Present; Steve Schonert, Absent; Alexis McFarland, Present.

**Changes/Approval of Agenda**

Cindy Given made a motion to approve the agenda. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings**

911 will meet Wednesday, June 25th at 9 o'clock am at the Olney Fire Department. 708 will meet Wednesday, June 18th at 12 o'clock pm 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room in the Courthouse. Public Safety Committee will meet the first Thursday of the month at 8:30 am in the jail meeting room.

**Open**

Kevin McCormick with Noble Fire District was in attendance, asking for funding to help update equipment/trucks. Mr. McCormick passed out a proposal to each board member. Cindy Given stated that they would look over the proposal and discuss next month when more board members are in attendance.

Cheryl Welker was in attendance and questioned why two part-time animal control employees were being suspended without pay. The board informed her that there would be discussion in executive session.

**Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda**

Dennis Graves made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes from May 8, 2025 for County Board, June 5, 2025, for Road and Bridge meeting, and April 23, 2025, for 911 ETSB meeting; the county officer reports; Re-appointment of Wayne Schuetz and Ed Jones to the Olney-Noble Airport Authority (5 year term); EJ Water Phase 82 #3 pay estimate Job #22700 (CDBG).

**Motion/Vote - Finance Committee**

Travis Paddock discussed the claims. Claims totaling \$267,101.93 total county and \$332,095.25 non-county. Travis Paddock made a motion to approve the claims. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Sheriff's Report**

Sheriff Andrew Hires discussed the Radio Bid project. He received two different bids. VEI had a bid of \$328,982.19 and GTSi had a bid of \$711,324.00. Sherriff Hires stated that the bids are different because of the two companies bidding different equipment. The new radios will give 95% County coverage with four channels; County Sheriff's office, Olney Police, All Fire Departments and the fourth channel would be available in the event of a natural disaster. The deadline to decide on a bid is June 30, 2025. David Holt with VEI was in attendance and spoke about their bid.

### **State's Attorney's Report**

Nothing to Report.

### **Animal Control**

Nothing to Report.

### **Highway Business**

County Engineer Dan Colwell announced that Shell Road is now open after being resurfaced. He also wanted to remind the community that it is oiling season so please be patient and look for crews that are out working on the roads.

### **Board Committee Reports**

#### **IT.**

Corey McDonald discussed the County website usage. He also discussed that the stitch-over to Windows 11 is about 77% done and he hopes to be finished in July. Corey also discussed CrowdStrike, which is a cybersecurity company specializing in endpoint protection, threat intelligence, and response services. The state of Illinois offers this service free of charge for the County. There was discussion about updating all security features in the courthouse and jail, but it would be costly. Sheriff Hires then discussed the possibility of key fobs outside of each cell block and new technology that can read the inmates heartrate and movement from outside of the cell.

### **Old Business**

Nothing to Report.

### **Motion/Vote - New Business**

County Engineer Dan Colwell discussed the IDOT Salary program that the county participates in, which pays 50% of the County Engineer yearly salary. Each year, the salary must be renewed. Cindy Given made a motion to approve the Resolution Appropriating Funds for the payment of the County Engineer's salary. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dennis then made a motion to approve the County Engineer's salary increase. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Executive Session**

Cindy Given made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. The board went into Executive Session at 7:31 PM. The board re-entered into regular session at 8:05 PM.

**Motion/Vote**

Cindy Given made a motion to lift the pay suspension for Shelley Brinkley for the last pay period ending June 1, 2025. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cindy Given made a motion to lift the pay suspension for Earnest Sweet for the last pay period ending June 1, 2025. Travis Paddock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cindy Given made the motion that duties will continue to be suspended for both part time animal control employees pending further discussion. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Cindy Given made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Travis Paddock seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Amanda Troyer  
County Clerk

Travis Paddock  
County Board Chairman