

Richland County Board
July 10, 2025

Convene

Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:10pm on July 10, 2025, in the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and Prayer was led. Attendance: Dennis Graves, Present; Cindy Given, Present; Morgan Henton, Absent; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Travis Paddock, Present; Steve Schonert, Present; 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, July 23rd at 9 o'clock am at the Olney Fire Department. The Public Safety Committee will meet on the first Thursday of the month at 8:30 am in the jail meeting room. The Tourism Board will meet Wednesday, July 23 at 12 o'clock pm in Fairview Heights.

Open

Cindy Given and Travis Paddock addressed the public in attendance to give clarification on the County's animal services being separate from the local rescues. Public comment was then open. Shelley Brinkley, Alaina Hatfield, Karen Winkles, Gary Brainard, Rhonda Hastin and Pam Carter all made public comments. Travis Paddock and Cindy Given stated that the Public Safety committee would continue to oversee Animal Control issues as well as look over the contract that Shelley Brinkley proposed to the board.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

Cindy Given made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes from June 12, 2025 for County Board, July 3, 2025, for Road and Bridge meeting, and June 5, 2025, for Public Safety meeting; the county officer reports; Appointment of Kevin Parker to the Claremont – Bonpas Fire District; EJ Water Phase 82 #4 pay estimate Job #22700 (CDBG); EJ Water Phase 82 change order #2 Job #22700 (CDBG); Salary adjustment for Public Defender and Sheriff; Claremont petition for culvert assistance; Bonpas petition for culvert assistance; sale of non-running 1993 International cab and chassis as scrap.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee

Steve Schonert discussed the claims and stated that the Finance Committee is looking into changing the day/time of their committee meeting, but nothing is decided yet. Claims totaling \$252,301.39 total county and \$350,834.84 non-county. Steve Schonert made a motion to approve the claims. Cindy Given seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Andrew Hires stated that the department has a new deputy that is still currently in the academy and should complete training in late August. Another deputy is back after sustaining an injury. Sheriff Hires stated that one new squad car is waiting to be striped, and one is waiting on parts. Radio project is ongoing. The decision was made to go with the P25 Digital radios, therefore a revised request for bids was created and due at the end of July. Sheriff Hires discussed a joint meeting with the City of Olney about the radio project.

County Clerk's Report

County Clerk Amanda Troyer discussed a grant that she was awarded for an ADA ramp for the courthouse as well as ADA parking and a new sliding front door. Bergstrom Concrete and Construction received the bid for the project. Will update when she has a start date for the project.

Animal Control

Nothing to Report.

Highway Business

County Engineer Dan Colwell announced that the OSHA inspector approved all prior citations. Dan also stated that they received the grant for OSHA training through the college as well as a grant for one highway employee to attend CDL training.

Board Committee Reports**IT.**

Corey McDonald stated that he was able to attend an ISAC meeting in June in Arizona. Corey discussed the County website usage. Corey then stated that the courthouse and health office power had been tampered with, and the problem is now fixed and is locked in the "on" position.

Motion/Vote - New Business

Travis Paddock asked County Engineer Dan Colwell if, in his opinion, they had enough information to vote on the solar farm special use permit. Dan Colwell stated that he felt the county could vote. Steve Schonert then made the motion to approve the solar farm special use permit for New Energy Equity solar farm project on Seals' property on Van Road in Olney Township. Cindy Given seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Cindy Given made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Travis Paddock
County Board Chairman