

Richland County Board
August 14, 2025

Convene

Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on August 14, 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

Cindy Given made a motion to approve the agenda. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings

911 will meet Wednesday, August 27th at 9 o'clock am at the Olney Fire Department. 708 board will meet August 20th at 12 o'clock pm second floor conference room in the courthouse. Finance committee will meet September 9th at 6 o'clock pm in the jail meeting room. Jeds finance meeting is on August 20th at 10 o'clock am in the jail meeting room. August 24th at 2 o'clock pm there will be a grand opening for the new dog park.

Open

Nothing to report

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

Cindy Given made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes from July 10, 2025, for County Board, August 7, 2025, for Road and Bridge meeting, July 3, 2025, for Public Safety meeting, and June 25, 2025, for 911 ETSB meeting; the county officer reports; Berryville Community raffle license for August 30, 2025; petition from Olney Township for culvert assistance.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee

Steve Schonert discussed the claims and stated that the Finance Committee will meet the Tuesday before the Thursday board meetings. Claims total \$110,337.68 total county and \$709,076.69 non-county. Steve Schonert made a motion to approve the claims. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve Schonert then discussed the county's electrical supply contract with Hudson Energy that will expire in 2027. Steve suggested that the board start looking into a new contract to lock in a new rate with Illinois' rising electricity rates.

Sheriff's Report

Nothing to report.

State's Attorney Report

Chelsey Clark stated that they would be receiving \$7000 for the Opioid fund. She also stated that there was a meeting on Wednesday evening with citizens regarding the EJ Water project. The citizens had no desire for water in that area; therefore, the grant will need to be modified.

Animal Control

Cindy Given stated that Andrea Edwards first day back from maternity leave was today. Sheriff Hires stated that there are currently 6 dogs at Animal Control; 5 were acquired from a home on August 11, and there is a housebroken husky female that is eligible for adoption.

Highway Business

County Engineer Dan Colwell discussed an agreement with Ameren to store poles at the Highway facility. The agreement would have to be between the Public Building Commission and Ameren. He stated that he also spoke with Snedeker Risk Management, and they said there would be no issue. Dan would like to make some modifications to the agreement before agreeing upon. Dan stated that they will begin bid letting on August 21st for Denver Township and that information is on the website. He also stated that the State will begin working on the bridge on highway 130 at Mt. Gilead Lane next week, so expect delays.

Board Committee Reports

IT.

Corey McDonald discussed the usage of the County website, stating that the Treasurer and Supervisor of Assessments each had over 2000 views. Corey then discussed the project wish list that will span over 5-10 years. Steve Schonert stated that the finance committee can start discussions at the September meeting.

Shelley Harmon with RCDC discussed upcoming meetings.

Motion/Vote - New Business

Sheriff Andrew Hires discussed the Radio Project bids stating that the county received two bids: one from GTSI out of Effingham for approximately \$677,000 and the other from VEI out of Vincennes for approximately \$800,000. Sheriff Hires stated that Global (GTSI) was the county's current vendor. The project would cover 9. The goal of the project was to have 95% coverage in the County for portable radios that will be able to reach dispatch. The project would be county wide, providing coverage for all Fire Departments, Olney PD, and Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Hires stated that the seizure/forfeiture money would be used for the project as well as funding from 911. Sheriff Hires asked the County Board for a vote on the project.

Cindy Given made a motion to accept Global (GTSI) bid. Morgan Henton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Steve Schonert made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and Labor Union Negotiation status. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The Richland County Board entered Executive Session at 7:26 pm.

Cindy Given made a motion to exit Executive Session. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The board entered regular session at 7:53 pm.

Adjournment

Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Travis Paddock
County Board Chairman