

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD**  
**SEPTEMBER 11, 2025**  
**JAIL MEETING ROOM**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Richland County Board Meeting was called to order by Travis Paddock at 7:00 p.m. on September 11, 2025 in the Jail Meeting Room. Sheriff Hires proclaimed the meeting open, and the Pledge of Allegiance recited. Rev. Burckhardt from Elm Street Christian Church offered a prayer. Present: Brian Van Blaricum, Dennis Graves, Cynthia Given, Morgan Henton, Travis Paddock and Steve Schonert. Alexis McFarland was absent.

**Welcome**

Travis welcomed all present.

**Changes to and Approval of the Agenda**

Cynthia made a motion to approve minutes from the August 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Brian second. Motion passed.

**Information, Correspondence and Upcoming Meetings**

Information presented by various board members of upcoming committee meetings.

**Open**

Kat Leaf was present to discuss jail taxes and why the public is being charged this tax if the jail is finished. Steve Schonert commented that this tax is used for construction, maintenance and operation of the jail. This tax is now used for operation of the jail and overhead due to inflation, etc.

Cynthia suggested that Kat attend the finance meeting to get her questions answered. Kat also had questions on policy for search warrants of a residence if someone is arrested in a vehicle. Andy Hires tried to explain to Kat that a residence may not be searched, because an individual was arrested while in a vehicle unless there is a probable link that would give them reason to obtain a search warrant for a residence.

**Consent Agenda**

Cynthia made a motion to pass items under the consent agenda. Dennis second. Motion passed.

**Finance**

Steve commented on the Finance Meeting held earlier in the week. Alexis was unable to attend; Cynthia attended in her place. Steve gave a report on claims turned in. Steve made a motion to approve payment of claims. Cynthia second. Motion passed.

**Sheriff**

Andy commented that radio equipment is being processed. A deputy has graduated from the Academy.

#### States Attorney

Chelsey was present and introduced Mary Beth Welch Collins, Assistant States Attorney.

#### Animal Control

Andrea was present and thanked Andy for covering for her while she was on maternity leave.

Andy commented that the cages placed on the web have been purchased and getting process started to get rid of them.

#### Highway

Dan Colwell was not present; Steve made a motion to approve the bridge project presented by the Highway Department by the full board. Cynthia second. Motion passed.

#### IT

Corey was not present. Nothing discussed.

#### Old Business

#### New Business

Steve spoke on the Cannabis Retail Tax Ordinance. This tax does not mean the county approves of a dispensary coming to the county as it cannot “trump” city ordinance. The county can assess additional sales tax on cannabis. Steve expressed concern that additional law enforcement would be needed. This tax needs to be passed before October 1 to go into effect by December.

Motion made by Steve to approve an ordinance to assess additional sales tax on cannabis. Cynthia second. A roll call vote to approve the ordinance: Dennis yes; Brian no; Alexis absent; Given yes; Morgan yes; Travis yes and Steve yes. 5 yes, 1 no, 1 absent, Motion passed.

#### Executive Session

Cynthia made a motion to enter executive session at 7:25 p.m. Brian second.

Re-entered regular meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Cindy Given made a motion to adjourn. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Mary Beth Coan  
Chief Deputy Clerk

Travis Paddock  
County Board Chair

