

Richland County Board

January 13, 2022

Convene

Chairman Dennis Graves called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00 PM on January 13, 2022 at the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited and Prayer/Moment of Silence was offered. Attendance: Dennis Graves, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Shawn Rose, Present; Emily Blackford, Absent; Morgan Henton, Present; Bill Clow, Present; Steven Schonert, Present.

Motion/Vote - Agenda

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. District 1 Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Absent), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes).

Open - Smith, Dog Issues

Sue Ginder read a statement from her parents, James and Lavada Smith. This is in regards to neighbors owning dogs that continually escape their pen. When the dogs are out, and if the Smiths are outside their home they are threatened by the dogs attacking. This has happened numerous times. A deputy has been called. Shelley Brinkley, Claws and Paws, also reviewed the situation. There was much conversation with Mrs. Ginder and her parents. The board members discussed possible actions with State's Attorney Clark. Options will be explored to find an answer to this problem. The Smiths are elderly, and not as agile. They feel threatened on their own property when the dogs are out of their pen.

Information, Correspondence

Mr. Henton announced the property located at 408 South Linn Street will be auctioned on January 28, 2022, at 10 am. The decision to sell this property had been made at a prior county board meeting.

Mr. Schonert stated the State has funds being dropped into broadband. The State is providing communities with a master plan. RCDC is putting together nine stakeholders to be processed for Access Illinois. They will be applying for funding.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. District 1 Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Absent), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). Items approved are the County Board minutes of December 9 and 17, 2021; the county officer reports; the Road and Bridge minutes of January 6, 2022; the FY22 Motor Fuel Tax Resolution; reappointment of Fred Prosser to the Public Building Commission; approval of the Appellate Prosecutor Program; and, a sale of delinquent tax property.

Finance Committee

Finance Chairman Clow stated the committee had reviewed county claims. County general claims totaled \$176,072.04. Non county general claims totaled \$192,725.18. There were also late claims presented for payment from the ARPA Fund, Animal Control, the assessor, and squad maintenance in a combined amount of \$85,000. The committee discussed with Judge Vaughn court claims from the approved ARPA funds. These claims may be paid as requested.

Motion/Vote - Payment of Claims

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve payment of all presented claims. District 1 Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Absent), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes).

Animal Control

Discussion returned to Mrs. Ginder and the Smiths. Board Member VanBlaricum asked if the neighboring dogs come in to their yard when they are not outside. He was responded with a yes; and, they do not go out when they see this. The members, Claws and Paws representatives and county officials discussed what could be done or what should not be done to handle the problem. Mr. Henton stated when Claws and Paws was contracted they were to take care of bites, vicious dogs and police assists. Not for non-emergency calls or animals. The situation sounds like a vicious dog issue. The members stated if Shelley were to be called again for this situation to have her take the dogs. A state statute was read regarding animal control. Discussion continued for a short while.

Highway Business

(none presented)

Board Committee Reports

(no discussion)

Old Business - Employee Policy Manual

The Policy Committee had distributed electronic and paper copies of the County Employee Policy Book to be approved in February. State's Attorney Clark did have one comment. The new policy refers to non-employment of family members. He currently employs a family member in his office. The still current policy does not address this subject. Clerk Mullinax noted until the new policy is approved the County still follows the current policies. Any situations such as this are presumably grandfathered in.

Old Business - ARPA Funds

Board Member Schonert stated the U. S. Treasury has offered final rules to allow us to allocate our funds that would have calculated into shortfall, that can now be used for any general fund expense. This will ease documentation. We still must follow the general rules and guidelines. This will allow the board to reconsider some of the earlier fund requests.

ARPA Fund Use

District 7 Steven Schonert made a motion to use the "standard allowance" of our total ARPA allotment to fund government services without having to document/calculate the actual revenue shortfall. The US Treasury Final Rule related to ARPA Funding defines government services to include "any service traditionally provided by a government" This election will be made on our filing due on or before April 30, 2022, or as outlined in additional guidance to be issued by the US Treasury. District 3 Shawn Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Absent), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). Now the Board will need to take a second look at proposed projects and expenses. We will look at them as general funds. Perhaps not adding new requests at this time, but review the uncommitted funds.

Old Business - Vendor Insurance

Mr. Henton stated the county got burned with a vendor. The Board has discussed requiring vendor proof of insurance in the past, without a decision. He presented an application/agreement for a vendor or hired contractor to prove insurance coverage and liability. He is asking the Board to adopt this, but has no idea about coverage limits. He will forward information to our insurance carrier. This will be added to the February meeting agenda.

Executive Session Minutes

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to continue holding the Executive Session minutes closed. District 1 Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Absent), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). Government bodies are required to review minutes or keep them as closed minutes.

Animal Control

Just prior to going into Executive Session, the board members addressed Kevin Linder, the legal advisor for Claws and Paws. They asked for a business plan for animal control and Claws and Paws. He agreed. This will be reviewed and discussed at a later date.

Motion/Vote - Executive Session

District 7 Steven Schonert made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel, real estate and contracts. District 6 Bill Clow seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Absent), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). The Board entered Executive Session at 7:50 pm.

Motion/Vote - Open Session

District 1 Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to return to Open Session. District 5 Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Absent), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). The Board returned to Open Session at 8:47 pm. Chairman Graves stated personnel, real estate and contracts were discussed with no action taken.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Henton. This was seconded by Mr. VanBlaricum. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Alice Mullinax
County Clerk

Dennis R. Graves
County Board Chairman