

**Richland County Board**  
**October 12, 2023**

**Convene**

Chairman Dennis Graves called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on October 12, 2023, at the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and a Silent Prayer was offered. Attendance: Dennis Graves, Present; Shawn Rose, Present; Travis Paddock, Present; Cindy Given, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Steve Schonert, Present. Brian Vanblaricum, Absent.

**Changes to Agenda**

Travis Paddock made a motion to approve the agenda. Morgan Henton seconded the motion.

**Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings**

IT Committee will meet Tuesday, October 17 at 4:30 in the IT office.

**Open**

Nothing to report.

**Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda**

Cindy Given made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Travis Paddock seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote: Dennis Graves (Yes), Travis Paddock (Yes) Shawn Rose (Yes), Cindy Given (Yes), Steve Schonert (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes). Items approved were the minutes of September 14, 2023, for County Board, October 5, 2023, for Road and Bridge meeting; the county officer reports; Resolution concerning Election Judge Compensation; Tax Deed Resolutions; Culvert Aid Petition for Preston Road District; Resolution to authorize the Award of Contract for construction of the Claremont Road District section 21-02135-00 to Mt. Carmel Stabilization Group.

**Motion/Vote - Finance Committee**

- A. Steve Schonert discussed the claims then made the motion to approve all claims, Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote: Dennis Graves (Yes), Travis Paddock (Yes) Shawn Rose (Yes), Cindy Given (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Steve Schonert (Yes).
- B. Steve Schonert discussed a few changes that need to be made to the proposed 2024 Budget. Steve also discussed a deficit of \$293,000 due to inflation, salary increases, animal control costs, and no cash bail law. Property Tax may have a possible 9% increase for next year. Steve recommends reducing employees in offices in the future, but not this year. Steve is proposing that the County cover the deficit with general fund reserves. Steve Schonert then made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget. Shawn Rose seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote: Dennis Graves (Yes), Travis Paddock (Yes) Shawn Rose (Yes), Cindy Given

(Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Steve Schonert (Yes).

- C. Steve Schonert recommends a hiring freeze be put in place. If changes are needed, the office holder can discuss with the County Board. Steve Schonert then made a motion to approve a hiring freeze. Travis Paddock seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote: Dennis Graves (Yes), Travis Paddock (Yes) Shawn Rose (Yes), Cindy Given (Yes), Steve Schonert (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes).

### **Sheriff's Report**

Sheriff Andrew Hires was absent. Nothing to report.

### **States Attorney's Report**

John Clark would like to remind gun owners to be responsible and keep weapons locked away so that children cannot have access to them.

### **Animal Control**

Andrea Edwards stated that the cat population is up in the County. She is also excited about internet being connected for new building for security camera.

### **Highway Business**

County Engineer Dan Colwell was present, but all items were on the consent agenda. Nothing further to discuss.

### **Board Committee Reports**

Steve Schonert stated that the 708 board met last month. Continuing to look for office space for the Jasper County Health office as well as Richland County. No major decisions have been made.

### **IT Business**

Corey McDonald was in attendance and stated that he is excited to be back with the county. He explained that the county will still have a relationship with Kemper Technologies.

### **Old Business**

Steve Schonert discussed ARPA funds. No new activity and no new request for ARPA funds. He did explain that funds must be spent by the end of 2024.

### **New Business**

Nothing to discuss.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Morgan Henton and seconded by Cindy Given. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Amanda Troyer  
County Clerk

Dennis Graves  
County Board Chairman

