

# **Richland County Board**

**November 10, 2022**

## **Convene**

Chairman Dennis Graves called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00 PM on November 10, 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, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Bill Clow, Present; Steven Schonert, Present. Mr. Schonert attended the meeting per phone conference.

## **Motion/Vote - Agenda**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. District 3 Shawn Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes).

## **Open**

(nothing)

## **Consent Agenda**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. District 4 Emily Blackford seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). Items approved were the minutes of October 13 and September 27; and the county officer reports; the liquor license for Mis Tres Potrillos; tax deed resolutions; appointment of Karen Bell and Belinda Henton to the IllinoisSouth Tourism Board; and aid petitions from Preston and Decker Townships.

## **Finance Committee**

Finance Chairman Clow noted claims were discussed during the finance committee meeting. They committee has been working on the budget. The revenues and expenses are not good numbers and he does not recommend tentative approval at this time. The board may need to pass emergency appropriations each month to pay expenses. Mr. Schonert had sent the board members information regarding the 708 levy. The levy for the county and hopefully the budget will be approved at the next meeting.

## **Motion/Vote - Claims**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to pay all claims presented. District 5 Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). In addition to the listed claims there were late claims totaling \$777.46 (county general) and \$4379.90 (non county general).

## **State's Attorney**

(nothing presented at this time)

## **Animal Control**

Mr. Clow has purchased light bulbs for the animal control facility, which helped somewhat. The gates on the pens need to be replaced. Animal Control Administrator Andrea Edwards asked the members about replacing the plug-in on the cord of the new power washer. This was needing attention due to the electrical supply amperage. Sheriff Hires stated he would contact Jim Merritt for this and a few other minor but necessary repairs. Andrea had contacted ADG to obtain an estimate for the plans that were drawn up several years ago. It is now estimated to be over \$750,000. The information will be sent to all board members.

## **Highway Department Business**

County Engineer Dan Colwell had advertised for bids to install a dump bed on a truck. He is requesting the county board approve the bid from B&M Truck Equipment in the amount of \$27,423. For at least 12 years the County has participated in the IDOT salary reimbursement program. The funds go into a motor fuel account. He is asking the board to continue this action.

## **Motion/Vote - Highway Dump Bed Install**

District 4 Emily Blackford made a motion to approve the bid from B & M Truck Equipment for dump bed installation. District 5 Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes).

## **Motion/Vote - County Engineer Salary Reimbursement**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve continuation with IDOT's county engineer's salary reimbursement program. District 3 Shawn Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes).

## **Board Reports**

Lauren McClain, RCDC Director, stated a contract has been signed for a grant writer. Drew Lane Consultants, Fairfield, Illinois, will apply for two grants per month for 6 months. There is flexibility in the contract and it may be extended. She thanked members Bill Clow, Emily Blackford and Clerk Mullinax for their time working with the board.

Corey McDonald, Kemper Technology, stated the Tech Committee had met. Kemper will be installing a different cyber protection. CrowdStrike is being provided and monitored by the State. Intruder.IO, if approved, will offer insight about our cyber vulnerabilities for our computers. There will be a fee of \$5 per computer per month. Corey feels the fee for this will be used from the fees no longer charged by the former cyber protection. The general consensus of the Board is to approve this, but will be voted on next month. Kemper would like to apply for some IT grants. Ms. Blackford asked Corey to bring the chromebooks up to date.

## **Old Business**

Mr. Schonert had sent out an email in regard to the ARPA Funds balance. There are no new requests this month. There is nothing new with the mental health, animal control or health building.

The board's consensus is to continue using the janitorial service. There will be a special meeting on November 22, 7 pm in the large courtroom. Tuesday, November 29 will be the swearing in ceremony for the newly elected officials.

## **Executive Session**

The motion to enter Executive Session to discuss negotiations was made by Mr. VanBlaricum, then seconded by Ms. Blackford. This passed unanimously with the board entering ES at 7:00 pm. At 8:05 pm Mr. Clow made the motion to return to Open Session. This was seconded by Mr. Henton and passed. Chairman Graves stated negotiations had been discussed with no action taken.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Clow, and seconded by Mr. VanBlaricum. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Alice Mullinax  
County Clerk

Dennis R. Graves  
County Board Chairman