

# **Richland County Board**

**June 09, 2022**

## **Convene**

Chairman Dennis Graves called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00 PM on June 9, 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. Board member Schonert attended per phone conference.

## **Motion/Vote - Agenda**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve the agenda, but removing item 6E. 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). Item 6E will be discussed with our IT representative later this month.

## **IL Housing Development Authority**

The Board was made aware of a request from the Laborer's for financing a project at Country View Apartments. This was a notification only, no approval required.

## **Open - TB Board**

Marilyn Holt, TB Care and Treatment Board Member, addressed the members. She described the changes made over the several years she has been on this board. The county nurse, hospital, clinic and doctors have all evolved. Mrs. Holt read a statement to those present. It described the past history of the TB Office. She described the changes in the department/office due to the corona virus. People (customers) were demanding and complaining, kind and hateful, and some were abusive. The office is now reorganized with two nurses, one a family nurse practitioner. They intend to expand the public health services provided. Mrs. Holt reviewed the covid numbers in our county. She is very complimentary to the staff and thanked them for all their hard work, stamina, patience and dedication. She is asking the Board to do the same. The TB Office only received \$5000 in levies last year. The majority of funds they have is from services provided. She is asking the Board to acknowledge remodeling their offices or a move to a different building. She looks forward to working with the 708 Board to expand mental health services. Again she thanked the TB office employees for all their work.

## **Judge Vaughn - Court and Courthouse**

Judge Vaughn addressed the board members, reviewing a letter sent earlier. An upgrade for sound quality in the large courtroom is needed. It is very difficult to hear conversations in the room and especially while holding court by zoom electronics. He is requesting installation from Alvis Music for sound deadening panels in the large courtroom, the jury room and the jail conference room. Another topic is the pre-trial services scheduled to begin July 1. This officer will meet and consult with all defendants prior to speaking with the judge or public defender. This person will make recommendations to the court for immediate release or to be held for appearance. The Probation has made a study of the 12-county district. Our criminal case load is 80 percent of some larger counties. He has asked for an additional probation officer. Richland County will receive one, sharing with Crawford County. The State pays the salary, but the counties will pay the fringes. Additional space will be required that is not allowable in the current probation office. Judge Vaughn is suggesting the ROE on third floor and the Probation on second floor switch offices.

On another note, Judge Vaughn informed the members there are areas on the the second and third floors where the ceiling is damp and the plaster is falling off. This will be reported to the building commission. Chairman Graves asked Judge Vaughn when he would like the vote on the probation officer or the panels. It was encouraged to vote on the fringes for the additional probation officer. Judge Vaughn also has funds in his budget from the stipend for the public guardian. The current person is retiring. States' Attorney Clark mentioned the probation will be split with Crawford and is a 50/50 split. If both counties do not approve, the whole process will begin again. Mr. Clow noted he didn't know of any reason why the offices couldn't be switched. There will be a new ROE elected in the Fall, and it is unknown what that person will require.

## **Motion/Vote - Additional Probation Officer**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve the hiring of a probation officer to be shared with Crawford County. 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). Sheriff Hires and Judge Vaughn will speak to Monte Newlin, Regional Superintendent of Schools, to discuss the office arrangements.

## **Pre-Trial Service, Sound Panels**

Sheriff Hires has been in touch with the Court Administration. Southern Illinois will be the first area for the program. This person's office will be in the jail. There is a chance the County could collect rent from this office, but he isn't sure if that should be discussed at this time. Chairman Graves thanked Judge Vaughn for his time and will discuss the sound panels during the July meeting.

## **Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. 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). Items approved were the minutes of May 12, county officer reports, Road and Bridge Minutes of June 2, and the Pictometry Contract Extension for aerial photography.

## **Finance Committee**

Finance Committee Chairman Clow reviewed the discussions from the previous meeting. The county clerk is requesting to purchase a fireproof file cabinet. One per year has been purchased to hold the county files. CPR training will be held in 2023 for all employees under the guidance of Sue Travous. The current certifications expired in February 2022. Backup for the servers was discussed. The committee would like to speak to Kemper Technology before committing. Circuit Clerk Zach Holder has requested he be allowed to set up a county account with "dotgov" to sell surplus equipment, furniture, etc. online. Clerk Mullinax asked permission to speak with Marshall Moving to reassemble shelving in the basement to hold the old collector books. These books must be held in perpetuity. There was a late claim in the amount of \$900 to trim the trees on the South side of the courthouse. It was the consensus to the members the trees be cut down by our highway department. The presented claims did include ARPA fund payments.

### **Motion/Vote - File Cabinet Purchase**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to purchase the fireproof file cabinet. 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).

### **Motion/Vote - Sale of Surplus Property Online**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve allowing County surplus property be sold online through electronic auction. 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). The Resolution will be finalized for approval during the July meeting. The auction site will be [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com).

### **Motion/Vote - Payment of Claims**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve payment of all presented claims. 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).

## **States' Attorney Report**

States' Attorney Clark noted there would be a jury trial in July.

## **Animal Control**

(no business)

## **Highway Department**

(no business)

## **Board Committee Reports**

RCDC will meet next week. There will be more discussion of a grant writer for the County/City/School. Mr. Clow noted the Building Commission members will be meeting next week. They will have a conversation with the engineer and distributor about the courthouse HVAC system.

## **ARPA Fund Updates**

Mr. Schonert sent out the ARPA distribution information. Mr. Henton stated we should pay what has been promised, but feels we need to be more selective going forward. We may need our funds in the future. Mr. Clow stated the treasurer informed him the second half of the funds should be paid soon. The members discussed remote HR services. The fee and job description will require specifics. It is unknown what other management duties could be included. Also, a website is still in the consideration. There are several website providers. The sound panels for the courtroom will be discussed next month.

## **Old Business**

(none discussed)

## **New Business - Solar Farm Policy**

There have been several requests for the county's solar farm policy resolution or document. At this time we do not have one. Clerk Mullinax stated a few of the neighboring and close counties have adopted such a policy. County Engineer Colwell noted Clay County's had an agreement for a third party to determine the condition of the road for beginning and completion of the project. There is a definite impact on the road system. If we don't approve something prior to something being built, it will be much harder to approve and enforce after a building project has begun. Neighboring policies will be requested. Mr. Schonert suggested the Road and Bridge committee look at this, and also discuss next month.

## **Motion/Vote - Executive Session**

District 1 Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel and negotiations. 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 members entered Executive Session at 7:47 pm.

## **Return to Open Session**

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to return to Open Session. 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). The members returned to Open Session at 8:29 pm. Chairman Graves stated personnel and negotiations had been discussed with no action taken.

## **Adjournment**

With nothing further to discuss, Chairman Graves entertained a motion by Mr. Clow to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Rose. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Alice Mullinax  
County Clerk

Dennis R. Graves  
County Board Chairman