

Richland County Board

September 08, 2022

Convene

District 1 Brian VanBlaricum called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00 PM on September 8, 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, Absent; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Shawn Rose, Present; Emily Blackford, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Bill Clow, Absent; Steven Schonert, Present.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Agenda

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. District 4 Emily Blackford seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Absent), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes).

Upcoming Meetings, Information, Correspondence

The members announced their meetings for the month. Mr. Schonert and Mr. Clow will be attending the Snedeker Risk Management meeting later this month. The members received notice from Sparklight of increasing cable rates. The final tax computation for the County was received.

Open - Lions Club Bench Donation

Linda Middlecalf, representing the Olney Lions Club, addressed the Board. The club has been collecting plastic caps for recycling and now have a bench. They would like to donate this to the county for use on the South side of the courthouse. This will require a concrete base. County Engineer Colwell thought this could be handled by the highway department. The board members were in concurrence.

Open - Arrow Ambulance

Larry Sapp and Jason Hayes were in attendance to update the Board on their activities. Mr. Sapp is over the whole ambulance service. Mr. Hayes is the manager locally. They reviewed the tax monies received by the service and the monies paid to the county for dispatch. They told the members the number of calls and requests they have received. There is a decline for service to higher medical facilities. Calls average 10 per day. There is less than 1% of time that an ambulance is not available. If a call does come in, Mr. Hayes can go out, as he is fully qualified. Staffing at the ambulance service was reviewed, They are also working on recruitment and training.

Consent Agenda

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. District 3 Shawn Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Absent), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). Approved were the minutes of August 11; county officer reports; Road and Bridge minutes of September 1; a resolution for road improvement on Dundas Lane; aid petitions for Bonpas, Madison and German Townships; and an amendment to the Personnel Policy for health insurance coverage. Accepted was the jail inspection report. This will be available for public inspection.

Finance Committee

County Board Member Henton reviewed the previous committee meeting. The committee will be working on the FY 23 budget. The ROE's office move was discussed. Judge Vaughn has an estimate for sound deadening panels in the courtroom. This is a lower estimate than originally presented.

Motion/Vote - Payment of Claims

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to approve payment of all presented claims. District 7 Steven Schonert seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Absent), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). County General claims totaled \$188,875.23. Non County General claims totaled \$688,302.71. Late claims in the total amount of \$3084.51 were presented.

States Attorney

States Attorney John Clark had recently learned the Andy Ochs Estate had left the former landfill property to the County. The County would be required to accept it or decline the bequest. Mr. Clark has talked to the attorney general's office concerning the obligations that come with it. He is waiting for the Illinois EPA to respond back to questions. The January 1 date of no cash bonds is getting closer. He is concerned about criminals on the street as well as dwindling bail money. He is working on the Solar Farm Ordinance. There is consideration for setbacks, bonding, permit fees and road damages. It is hoped to not make this too difficult for solar farms to locate here, but want to protect Richland County citizens and the County.

Animal Control

Animal Control Administrator Andrea Edwards asked when the Board might hire a part time employee. The power washer is extremely difficult to start. Parts are no longer available for repair. There will be a training session in Salem she plans to attend. She will be taking training for euthanasia. This is renewed in even years. Classes are \$300 plus food and hotel. When questioned, she did feel that she could handle the process. We are currently housing a vicious dog and two others have been surrendered. All concurred Andrea should be license for euthanasia and also take other training classes. There is a humane investor class she would like to take. A letter from the county board and a veterinarian's recommendation will be required. The State suggested she job shadow with another county. Andrea will be attending the Olney City Council meeting and would like a county board member to go along with her. There will be discussion of possibilities of major improvements to the current facility or building a new facility. The members complimented Andrea for the great job she has been doing and keeping the facility clean.

Discussion turned to the power washer. Andrea might look into purchase of a commercial washer. Not sure if gas or electric start would be better. The washer is used every day. This might have to be included in next year's budget. There may be a kit available to modify a gas washer to an electric start.

There are two applications for part-time employment at the facility. Andrea is hopeful the Board will hire someone soon.

Andrea asked about bite cases. Unsure if the deputies or police (or both) will call her. she should have a copy of such reports. There was a situation where a message was left on a cell phone that does not have voice mail. She heard about the report three days later. Sheriff HIres prefers all animal calls come through the dispatch center, in turn, they will call Andrea. The cell phones and internet service will be reviewed.

The members then discussed the dogs in the Village of Noble and their agreement with the county. States Attorney Clark noted the agreement is to allow the county to prosecute. Ms. Blackford asked if he planned to continue. A more particular situation was described of a person owing quite an amount of fees, then just surrendering the dog. There was no ticket written, but there was concern about issuing a citation or a violation of ordinance. The sheriff's department may be required to write the tickets. The ordinances and policies should be reviewed.

Highway Business

County Engineer Dan Colwell opened the bids for salt spreaders. Two bids received. The cost has increased over the last year. He will ask for formal action at next month's meeting.

Board Committee Reports

It was suggested the Risk Management Committee meet quarterly. This would allow updates and conversations with our insurance carriers.

Old Business - Kemper Technology Contract

The county's Kemper Technology contract is up for renewal. Corey McDonald was present to answer any questions. He described the internet security. We presently use two different security programs. The State offers one of these at a much lesser fee. He further described the equipment, costs, times, labor, mark-up, etc. for the contract.

Kemper Technology Contract

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to approve renewal of the contract. District 4 Emily Blackford seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Absent), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Abstain). Mr. Schonert is receiving a pension through Kemper, feels it best to abstain. Mr. Henton asked Corrie to work with the highway department for three new computers. This will be paid from this year's budget.

New Business - Kemper Technology

Corey described the need for a backup internet for the ICN Network, especially the sheriff's office. He would like the County to pay half. This would require replacing the firewall, the equipment will have additional security features, and we can monitor information going through it. The estimated cost is \$4500 to \$5000. This could be installed they a recurring fee of \$51 per month. The members discussed this. Ms. Blackford asked to not vote on this until after the ETSB holds their meeting. She would like to verify their opinion. This will be continued in the October County Board meeting. Corey also asked the Technology Committee to meet quarterly for updates and new information.

New Business - Janitorial Employee

Sheriff Hires stated a description of requested janitorial/custodial services had been provided to two janitorial companies. He does have an estimate from one. At this time the cleaning at the courthouse is limited, as Emerald Cleaning is performing duties until a decision is made to hire a person or contract the service. This will be discussed next month.

ARPA Funds

Circuit Clerk Zach Holder stated he and County Clerk Alice Mullinax had been looking at digitizing records. The initial quote was higher than hoped. The project has been paired down, making it affordable. The county clerk will have the various board and committee minutes digitized and the circuit clerk will have indexes and a smaller number of documents digitized. Instead of two contracts, they will combine this into one project, for a more affordable amount. Mr. Schonert will review the contract and discuss next month. The members reviewed the request from Judge Vaughn for sound deadening panels in the courtroom. Mr. Schonert reminded the members the ARPA funds have to be used by 2024. If the decision to use funds for new construction, it should be sooner than later. He is still looking at mental health services.

Motion/Vote - ARPA Funds - Courtroom

District 7 Steven Schonert made a motion to allow Judge Vaughn to purchase and install the panels in the courtroom, using ARPA funds to pay the invoice. District 3 Shawn Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Absent), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes).

Motion/Vote - Executive Session - In and Return to Open Session

District 4 Emily Blackford made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel, negotiations and contracts. District 7 Steven Schonert seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Absent), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). The Board entered Executive Session before 8:00 pm. The motion to return to Open Session was made at 11:05 pm by Mr. Henton, then seconded by Ms. Blackford. The vote was unanimous. Vice chairman VanBlaricum stated personnel, negotiations and contracts had been discussed with no action taken.

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rose then seconded by Mr. Schonert. This passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:07 pm.

Alice Mullinax
County Clerk

Brian VanBlaricum
County Board Chairman Pro-Tem