

Richland County Board
October 9, 2025

Convene

Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on October 9, 2025, in the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and prayer was led by Steve Wingert. Attendance: Dennis Graves, Present; Cindy Given, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Travis Paddock, Present; Steve Schonert, Present; Alexis McFarland, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Absent.

Changes/Approval of Agenda

Cindy Given made a motion to approve the agenda. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings

911 will meet Wednesday, October 22nd at 9 o'clock am at the Olney Fire Department. 708 Wednesday, October 15 at 12 o'clock pm jail meeting room.

Open

Liesl Wingert, Lanae Mitchell, Heather Ackman and Jaime Baltzell were in attendance to discuss a new program (ROSC) dedicated to addiction and recovery systems also focusing on mental health. They are asking for \$74,000 from the 708 board to help get the program started. ROSC has a board made up of people who have either been affected firsthand or health providers and/or police officers. The ROSC is to create a solid infrastructure in the community to provide resources for those battling substance abuse, mental health issues before, during, and after addiction. The ROSC is needing \$150,000 total for this year to get this program started. Next year, they will be able to apply for funding through the State of Illinois. They are asking for funding from several other entities as well.

State's Attorney Chelsey Clark presented ROSC with a check for \$44,000 from the Opioid fund.

Steve Schonert stated that the 708 Board was presented with the request and will continue to discuss. The TB office receives \$5000 a year from our tax levy.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

Cindy Given made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes from September 11, 2025, for County Board, October 2, 2025, for Road and Bridge meeting, August 27, 2025, for 911 ETSB meeting; the county officer reports; Culvert aid petition from Decker and Noble Townships; Change order #4 for EJ Water Phase #82 Job #22700; Special Prosecutor Resolution; Tax Deed Resolutions for 09-MH-902-07, 06-34-404-049, 11-04-250-038, 09-MH-902-43, 11-03-409-010, 02-27-306-010, 11-03-121-009, 11-03-125-008.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee

Steve Schonert discussed the claims totaling \$119,838.79 county and \$465,534.93 non-county. Mr. Schonert then made a motion to approve the claims. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kevin Kern and Ted Whitehead with Snedeker Risk Management were present to discuss and answer questions about the ICRMT Insurance Renewal. Kevin stated that insurance is tough right now, showing large increases. Workman's Comp is stable now. Auto liability keeps increasing due to deer and the cost of vehicles. There are no deductible changes this year. Overall, cost is up 8.9% from last year, which Kevin noted is a little better than average. Steve Schonert made a motion to approve the 2026 renewal with ICRMT. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Schonert discussed the tentative budget for FY26. He stated that the approved budget must lay open to the public for 15 days for review, then the board can make any necessary changes at the November meeting if needed.

Mr. Schonert stated that we are still looking at a \$124,000 deficit that would have to be funded with previous year's reserves.

Morgan Henton discussed the 708 budget, stating that in 2021, they had a \$150,000 budget and \$362,000 for 2026. He is concerned about the significant increase over 2 years.

Mr. Schonert stated that Jasper County Health Department is asking for \$120,000 for 2026, versus \$100,000 for 2025. Community supports systems that helps disabled adults, increased from \$60,000 to \$65,000. Family Matters at St. Joe School reduced to \$19,000 from \$23,000 in 2025. One Hope United \$8,000. Swan \$15,000.

Mr. Schonert stated that Corey would like to make a few changes to the IT budget, move \$1500 back to the IT budget. Mr. Schonert then discussed a Capitol Expenditures fund, which would involve setting aside funds in a Capitol Projects Fund for large equipment changes and projects. A squad car every year, moved from the Sheriff budget to 01-24 fund. Also move \$5000 from Animal Control to this line for a power washer. \$400,000 for future Road and Bridge projects. Public Building Commission rent is \$200,000.

Cindy Given asked about a tourism fund. Mr. Schonert stated we have not set anything up for that. Morgan Henton stated that the City has a tourism tax and then asked what we would spend the funds on. Ms. Given stated that she has ideas but can talk about them at a later date. Steve Schonert then made a motion to approve the FY2026 Budget for public inspection but move \$1500 back to the IT budget. Cindy Given seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Schonert then discussed having a Capital Budget fund and moving \$450,000 out of general fund. State Statute allows a fund to be created to fund future projects. The board will hold off until November to move funds. Steve Schonert made a motion to approve Budget for 2026 Capital projects. Cindy Given seconded the motion.

Steve Schonert discussed the 2026 Tax Levy. IMRF took a huge jump. In years past, we had a surplus so it was reduced to a lower amount but will need to start increasing funding again at some point in time. Mr. Schonert recommended discussing a special hearing for Truth in taxation. Morgan Henton stated that he would like to wait until the Budget is

approved. Travis Paddock agreed that it made sense to wait and postpone until November meeting. Morgan Henton made a motion to postpone the 2026 Tax Levy until the November meeting. Cindy Given seconded the motion.

Steve Schonert then made a motion to set a Truth in Taxation Hearing, only if needed, for December 11 at 5:30 pm. Location is to be announced. Cindy Given seconded the motion.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Hires stated that they do more than just arrest people, we deal with mental health issues. He thanks everyone who helps with providing services to help after they get out of jail. Sheriff Hires gave a quick update on the radio project, stating they have 4 verbal commitments for locations for the repeaters, with 3 of the 4 saying they will not charge the county. He said they are still working on the 5th location in German Township. Kevin Kern stated that once they are installed, please provide the information to Snedeker to get them added to the insurance policy.

State's Attorney Report

Nothing to report

Animal Control

Cindy Given stated that Animal Control currently has 5 dogs related to a court case and 1 non-court case rescue.

Highway Business

Dan Colwell discussed the proposal from Hendrixson Concrete and Construction to crush and screen asphalt millings. Dan would like to accept the bid and fund out of the Highway budget not to exceed \$30,000. Dennis Graves made the motion to approve the proposal but not to exceed the \$30,000. Cindy Given seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve Schonert asked if the funds would be out of 2025 budget. Dan Colwell stated that it would be this year's budget (2025) but the spending would be next year.

Dan Colwell discussed a Wetlands project that the state is going to help fund. Dan Colwell received a grant to help fund this project not to exceed \$400,000.

Board Committee Reports

IT.

Corey McDonald stated that the county website is used heavily with County Clerk's, Treasurer, and Assessor pages being the most visited. Corey discussed server operating systems upgrades and new workstations are going in that are already bought and paid for.

Shelly Harmon discussed Senior Tour Day, where high school seniors are able to tour local businesses. The date for this is Thursday, October 16.

Motion/Vote - New Business

Eagle View Contract for flights in 2026 and 2029 (GIS). Slight increase in cost from \$27,837 a year to \$30,000 a year. Steve Schonert made a motion to approve the contract. Cindy Given seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Steve Schonert made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and Labor Union Negotiation status. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. The Richland County Board entered Executive Session at 9:06 pm.

Morgan Henton made a motion to exit Executive Session. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. The board entered regular session at 9:14 pm.

Adjournment

Morgan Henton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Travis Paddock
County Board Chairman