

**Richland County Board
December 11, 2025**

Convene

Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on November 11, 2025, in the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and prayer was led by Steve Schonert. Attendance: Cindy Given, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Travis Paddock, Present; Steve Schonert, Present; Alexis McFarland, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Absent; Dennis Graves, Absent.

Changes/Approval of Agenda

Steve Schonert made a motion to table 13A until a later date. Cindy Given seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings

708 Board will not meet until January.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

Cindy Given made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Steve Schonert seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes from November 13 and 25, 2025, for County Board, December 4, 2025, for Road and Bridge meeting, October 15, 2025, for 911 ETSB meeting; the county officer reports; 2026 Holiday Schedule; 2026 County Board Meeting dates; Ironsides Bar, LLC liquor license renewal; Richland Country Club liquor license renewal; Resolution and Agreement for participation in the IDOT County Engineer Salary Program for calendar year 2026.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee

Steve Schonert discussed the claims totaling \$502,474.24 county and \$166,086.19 non-county. Mr. Schonert then made a motion to approve the claims. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Alexis McFarland, yes; Cindy Given, yes; Morgan Henton, yes; Steve Schonert, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Hires stated that they had 61 children participate in Shop with a Hometown Hero this year. Sheriff Hires then gave an update on the radio project, stating that they are still looking for a repeater location in the northwest part of the county. Mr. Schonert asked if we had to have all the locations for the repeaters before the project could begin. Sheriff Hires stated yes, due to the licensing, they cannot apply until they have all locations.

State's Attorney Report

State's Attorney Chelsey Clark stated that she is having two ongoing issues. With the elevator still under renovation, she is unable to have a speedy trial. She has several trials set for January. The other issue is with Juvenile housing. Mrs. Clark explained that the

county used to use a facility in Franklin County, but it has since closed. Kane County has a facility that is \$225 per day plus transportation cost to house juveniles. Mrs. Clark has reviewed the agreement with Kane County and would like it added to the January agenda.

Animal Control

Andrea Edwards discussed placing a tarp over the outside kennels for the winter.

Board Committee Reports

IT.

Corey McDonald discussed how many projects he finished and projects he is continuing to work on, such as security displays for the judges. Security Awareness training in January. Corey also stated that he has requested quotes for a security system update for the entire courthouse, as the current system is twenty years old.

Morgan Henton discussed RCDC losing their IT support and asked Corey if he thought that would be something that he could support. Corey stated that he did not have a problem with that, but they would have to follow County guidelines. RCDC would be billed for their cost. Mr. Henton and Mr. McDonald agreed to discuss it more in the next month.

Shelly, from RCDC discussed a mapping program and a steering committee, which plans to start meeting in March. They will be inviting people to participate to figure out what people think we need in the community.

New Business

Mr. Schonert discussed the need to possibly review and modify the County's current Solar/Wind Ordinance.

Mr. Schonert then discussed the electricity rates for the County. He stated that Ameren is dropping rates for 2026. Mr. Schonert would like to possibly join a larger group to negotiate better rates.

Executive Session

Cindy Give made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss purchase of real estate, Labor Union Negotiation status and personnel. Steve Schonert seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Alexis McFarland, yes; Cindy Given, yes; Morgan Henton, yes; Steve Schonert, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Motion carried. The Richland County Board entered Executive Session at 7:41 pm.

Morgan Henton made a motion to exit Executive Session. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The board re-entered regular session at 8:06 pm.

Motion/Vote

Mr. Henton made a motion to accept the resolution as presented regarding Highway employees' rate of pay. Ms. Given seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Alexis McFarland, yes; Cindy Given, yes; Morgan Henton, yes; Steve Schonert, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Cindy Given a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Travis Paddock
County Board Chairman