

Richland County Board
March 12, 2026

Convene

Chairman Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on March 12, 2026, in the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and prayer was led by Tim Lummis. Attendance: Cindy Given, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Travis Paddock, Present (phone); Steve Schonert, Present; Dennis Graves, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Alexis McFarland, Absent.

Changes/Approval of Agenda

Travis Paddock would like to strike 14A from tonight's meeting. Cindy Given made a motion to approve the agenda with said changes. Morgan Henton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings

911 meets on Wednesday March 25th at 9am at the Fire Station.

Open

Karen Winkels was present to discuss the Olney Mapping Project. It will be a total of five meetings, which are open to the public. They are asking for input on how the community would like to move forward in the next five to ten years. The meetings will be at the Community Building on Tuesdays. Please RSVP to Shelly Harmon by the end of the month. Ted Whitehead with Snedeker Risk Management was in attendance to invite the board to an informational meeting April 8, 2026, in Effingham.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

Cindy Given made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Morgan Henton seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes from February 10, 2026, for County Board, March 5, 2026, for Road and Bridge meeting, January 28 and February 9, 2026, for 911 ETSB meeting; the county officer reports; contribution of \$5000 to RCDC.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee

Steve Schonert discussed the claims totaling \$268,946.68 county and \$170,175.40 non-county. Mr. Schonert then made a motion to approve the claims. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Cindy Given, yes; Morgan Henton, yes; Steve Schonert, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Hires stated that he has approval from all sites needed to install antennas for the radio project. Will need to purchase antennas using seizure money, estimated \$10,000 - \$15,000.

State's Attorney Report

State's Attorney Chelsey Clark announced Drug Court Mental Health fund was awarded a \$7,500 grant from SIU School of Medicine.

Animal Control

Andrea Edwards stated that the influx of dogs should be going down. She would like help with adoptions.

Highway Business Motion/Vote

County Engineer Dan Colwell discussed bids for rock and oil letting. Dennis made a motion to approve the low bid. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan then discussed the Funding Agreement for Federal Participation for the St. Marie asphalt shoulder construction. The project will be bid out, Dan will supervise. Brian made a motion to approve the Funding Agreement; Dennis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan asked for the addition of 100,000 gallons of oil for summer road projects, stating that it will greatly benefit the projects. Brian made a motion to approve the addition of 100,000 gallons of road oil on County Highways this Summer. Dennis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan then discussed the design and engineering contracts with Charleston Engineering. Some of these are future projects for years down the road. The late Mike Bridges son Brandon will continue to do bridge design work. These projects are 100% reimbursed through the State of Illinois. Brian made a motion to approve the contracts. Dennis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Committee Reports

IT.

Morgan Henton discussed the Archive Social invoice, stating that this year, it will just be paid out of IT general.

Olney City Council approved no fee to add an antenna for high-speed internet.

Morgan stated that the IT committee will review DOJ compliance regarding the website.

Executive Session

Cindy Given made a motion to enter executive session to discuss possible purchases of real estate, labor union negotiations and personnel. Steve Schonert seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Cindy Given, yes; Morgan Henton, yes; Steve Schonert, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes. Motion carried. The board entered executive session at 7:30 PM. The boarder-entered into regular session at 7:49 PM.

Adjournment

Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Travis Paddock
County Board Chairman