

Richland County Board
April 9, 2026

Convene

Chairman Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on April 9, 2026, in the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and prayer was led by Brian VanBlaricum. Attendance: Cindy Given, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Travis Paddock, Present; Steve Schonert, Present; Dennis Graves, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Alexis McFarland, Present.

Changes/Approval of Agenda

Cindy Given made a motion to approve the agenda. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings

911 meets on Wednesday April 22nd at 9am at the Fire Station. 708 Mental Health Board will meet April 15th at 12pm at the jail meeting room.

Open

Trevor May presented a slide show via zoom representing White Squirrel Pickleball, a 501 C3 nonprofit organization. The organization has raised over \$400,000 from 150+ donors and was founded in 2020. They are asking the County Board for \$15,000 to help with additional projects, such as additional lighting, restrooms, shade areas, signage and water hook-up. The City of Olney is contributing \$65,000. Many members of the White Squirrel Pickleball were in attendance to represent the organization. Steve Schonert stated that the board could add to the May meeting's agenda for a vote.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

Cindy Given made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes from March 12, 2026, for County Board, April 2, 2026, for Road and Bridge meeting; the county officer reports; re-appointment of Linda Dickerson and Greg Mullinax to the Board of Review for a two-year term; re-appointment of Jay Dee Waggoner to the Richland County Farmland Assessment Review Committee for a three-year term; St. Joseph Parish Stringtown liquor license for July 19, 2026; St. Joseph Parish Stringtown raffle license for May 1-July 19, 2026; resolution to approve the temporary closure of North Noble Avenue for May Fest, Freedom Festival, and Noble Chowder dates.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee

Steve Schonert discussed the claims totaling \$176,404.86 county and \$371,394.55 non-county. Travis Paddock made a motion to approve the claims. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Cindy Given, yes; Morgan Henton, yes; Steve

Schonert, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Hires discussed the Radio project and stated that he is waiting on FCC to approve license. There are seven total sites, five in the country and two in town.

State's Attorney Report

State's Attorney Chelsey Clark announced her resignation effective April 10, 2026, at 4 o'clock pm. Chelsey then introduced Mary Beth Welch. Chelsey thanked the board and stated that she is looking forward to serving the County in a new role as Judge. Chelsey will be sworn in Friday, April 17, 2026, at 2pm.

Animal Control

Andrea Edwards stated that she has been busy.

Highway Business Motion/Vote

Nothing to report.

Board Committee Reports

IT.

Corey McDonald stated that all phones are switched to CTS from Frontier and faxing has been converted to Faxplus.

Shelly Harmon discussed the mapping project meetings which take place on Tuesday evening at 6pm at the Community Building with the last meeting taking place at the Eagles. Sheriff Hires stated that the new ADA ramp is complete as well as the striping for the handicap parking on the east side of the courthouse. As of April 15, 2026, the back entrance will be locked, and the public will only be able to enter through the front entrance. Sheriff Hires encourages all public to park in the front parking lot of the courthouse.

Old Business

Steve Schonert also stated that he is hoping to update our current Solar Farm ordinance and recommends hiring a consulting firm to help/advise on State laws. Discuss further in May's meeting.

New Business

Steve Schonert stated that the lease with the City has expired for use of communication tower and building and the City would like to renew the lease. Steve believes that Jeds should be involved. Travis Paddock suggested finance committee take a look at the lease.

Cindy Given stated that she would like to meet with public safety and move discussions to May meeting on the topic of Animal Control pay rate.

Cindy Given discussed that the board can appoint two voting members to the TB Board. Cindy made a motion to appoint Brian VanBlaricum to the TB Board and continue looking for another member. Dennis Gravies seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Cindy Given made a motion to enter executive session to discuss possible purchases of real estate and labor union negotiations. 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; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes. Motion carried. The board entered executive session at 7:30 PM. The boarder-entered into regular session at 7:55 PM.

The board re-entered regular session at 8:34pm

Motion/Vote

No action was taken on the purchase of real estate. Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to approve the Circuit Clerk and State's Attorney Office Union Contract. Cindy Given seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Travis Paddock
County Board Chairman