

Richland County Board
July 9, 2026

Convene

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

Changes/Approval of Agenda

Travis Paddock moved item 10A after item 15. Cindy Given then made a motion to approve the agenda. Steve Schonert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings

911 meets on Wednesday July 22nd at 9am at the Fire Station. 708 meets Wednesday July 15th at 12pm in the jail meeting room. Steve Schonert will be in New Orleans next week representing Richland County at National Association of Counties Conference.

Open

Nothing to discuss.

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 June 11, 2026, for County Board, July 2, 2026, for Road and Bridge meeting, and 911 ETSB minutes from May 27, 2026; the county officer reports; salary adjustments for State's Attorney, Public Defender and Sheriff; raffle license for Noble Wakefield Fire District.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee

Steve Schonert discussed the claims totaling \$142,743.23 county and \$742,957.01 non-county. Steve Schonert made a motion to approve the claims. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Cindy Given, yes; Steve Schonert, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes. Motion carried.

Steve Schonert also stated that the finance committee will be reviewing Blue Cross Blue Shield premium proposal for County Health Insurance and will discuss it next month.

Sheriff's Report

Nothing to Report.

State's Attorney Report

Mary Beth Welch stated that she has hired Rob Roth as part-time Assistant State's Attorney and he is doing well. She then discussed her case load for June; 571 cases through court, 234 felony cases, 118 new cases, and 83 cases resolved. Mary Beth then discussed her budget, stating that she only has \$1000 in budget for murder trial.

Animal Control

Andrea Edwards stated that Royse's had the new air conditioning installed but it is not finished yet, but it is cool in the building now. Dale and Justin were also in attendance. Justin has been working on landscaping/yard work at the facility.

Highway Business Motion/Vote

Steve Schonert stated that there was discussion in the finance meeting about vehicle needs for Highway. Dan Colwell stated that he thinks he is good for right now.

Board Committee Reports

IT.

Corey McDonald provided the board with quarter two reports in previous email. He also believes ChatGPT would be very beneficial. Online website had 9,000 active users.

Old Business

Steve Schonert stated that the Solar/Wind Ordinance changes were not ready to bring to full board and that the finance committee needed to sort through proposals. Steve then asked the full board about their thoughts on moving forward looking into outsourcing this. Travis Paddock stated that he thought it would be a good idea. Steve Schonert stated that outsourcing this would take a large amount of work off Dan Colwell's workload.

Ted Whitehead, with Snedeker Risk Management, was in attendance to invite the board to the 2026 Fall Client Conference in Peoria September 23-24.

New Business

Nothing to discuss

Executive Session

Cindy Given made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Cindy Given, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Steve Schonert, yes. Motion carried. The board entered executive session at 7:28PM. The board re-entered regular session at 8:32 PM.

Motion/Vote 10A

Steve Schonert made a motion to increase Animal Control Administrator Andrea Edwards pay to \$21 per hour and will reevaluate in 90 days with primary goal of getting the number of animals that are being held down. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The roll call was as

follows; Cindy Given, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Steve Schonert, yes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Cindy Given made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Travis Paddock
County Board Chairman