

Richland County Board
August 13, 2026

Convene

Chairman Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on August 13, 2026, in the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and Sam Padgett led prayer. Attendance: Cindy Given, Present; Travis Paddock, Present; Dennis Graves, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Alexis McFarland, Present; Steve Schonert, Present; Morgan Henton, Present.

Changes/Approval of Agenda

Steve Schonert would like to postpone 7B to a later date. Cindy Given then made a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings

Steve Schonert discussed his NACO trip to New Orleans. He encourages the board to send someone next year to Savannah, Georgia. 911 meets on Wednesday August 26th at 9am at the Fire Station. 708 meets Wednesday August 19th at 12pm in the jail meeting room.

Open

Parker and Robert with Solar on Earth discussed the benefits of their program. A savings of around 20% on Ameren bills for the County. This is for Ameren only, no cooperatives.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

Cindy Given made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes from July 9, 2026, for County Board, August 7, 2026, for Road and Bridge meeting; the county officer reports; Berryville Community Center Annual Basket Raffle License; Ironsides Bar, LLC Video Gaming License renewal.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee

7A. Mr. Schonert stated that the County received around \$8,000 from gaming last year. Steve Schonert discussed the claims totaling \$162,163.20 county and \$567,463.79 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; Morgan Henton, yes. Motion carried.

7C. Mr. Schonert stated that the Facility Committee met and discussed using Hampton Lenzini & Renwicks for Solar/Wind installation. They would help take a large workload from Dan Colwell. They would be paid for by the solar companies, who would bill directly to them. Steve Schonert made a motion to accept the service agreement with Hampton, Lenzini & Renwicks to handle all future solar/wind applications. Cindy Given seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7D. Steve Schonert then discussed Heyl Royster Law Firm to update the County Solar/Wind Ordinances. The price is \$2,500 each to update the ordinances. Steve Schonert made a motion to accept their service agreement, subject to Mary Beth Welch reviewing. Cindy Given seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7E. Steve Schonert discussed the Blue Cross Blue Shield rate increase of 12% for the upcoming year. Currently, the union contracts say “blue cross blue shield”, so the county would need permission from the union members to change. Hope Trust would like to provide some pricing for future. Steve Schonert then made a motion to accept Blue Cross Blue Shield plan for 2027. Cindy Given seconded. Motion carried.

Sheriff’s Report

Sheriff Hires stated that on July 2, 2026, Lawrence County inmates as well as two employees, were moved to Richland County jail due to lack of manpower and possible issues with their facility. They are averaging sixteen inmates per day at \$25 per day per inmate plus medical costs. Sheriff Hires stated that he would like to have a short- and long-term plan and a written agreement.

State’s Attorney Report

Mary Beth Welch stated that a total of 462 court cases were heard, 230 felony cases, and 135 sentencing events for the month of July. Mary Beth also stated that her new assistant is doing great.

Animal Control

10A. Steve Schonert would like the effective date of Andrea Edward’s pay increase to be June 1, 2026. Steve then made the motion to backpay Andrea Edwards from June 1 to reflect her pay increase. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Cindy Given, yes; Steve Schonert, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, no; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Morgan Henton, yes. Motion carried.

10C. Steve Schonert stated that he would like to give a lump sum amount in credit to MVS - Mackenzie’s Veterinary Services for future services to help get a jump start with her new business. Steve stated that he would like to create an agreement with MVS, but he is still working on a draft. No Action tonight.

10D. Steve Schonert stated that he is still working on drafting ordinances and will update in the future.

Cindy Given stated that the new ventilation is working well at the new facility. Andrea Edwards stated that MVS has been great to work with. Still working on adoption days due to the influx of court case dogs that are currently at the facility.

Highway Business Motion/Vote

Dan Colwell discussed the revisions to the Floodplain Ordinance. He recommends the board approve the revisions so residents can have access to flood insurance when living in floodplains. Cindy Given made a motion to approve the revisions to the Floodplains Ordinance. Morgan Henton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Committee Reports

IT.

Corey McDonald stated that the public defender has requested a county cell phone at the cost of \$36 per month.

Corey stated that there was a security incident that was caught within an hour. No evidence of any information was accessed.

Old Business

Steve Schonert discussed the presentation that was presented to the Finance Committee before the regular meeting about electric supply pricing for both County and residents. Current contract runs through May 2027. No action at this time.

New Business

Richland County Treasurer Mike Hahn presented a Tax Sale Resolution to the board. The State of Illinois passed new laws effective July 1, 2026 regarding how tax sales are handled. Joseph E Meyer & Associates has been the Counties trustee for nearly thirty years. Now, with new law, they are able to be our only trustee for all properties. Steve Schonert made the motion accept the Tax Sale Resolution. Cindy Given seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Cindy Given made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel. Steve Schonert 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; Morgan Henton, yes. Motion carried. The board entered executive session at 8:43PM. The board re-entered regular session at 9:14 PM.

Adjournment

Cindy Given made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Travis Paddock
County Board Chairman