Richland County Board
September 10, 2026

Convene
Chairman Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on September 10, 2026, in the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and Steve Wingert led prayer. Attendance: Travis Paddock, Present; Dennis Graves, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Alexis McFarland, Present; Steve Schonert, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Cindy Given, Absent.

Changes/Approval of Agenda
Steve Schonert would like to postpone 13A to a later date. Travis Paddock then made a motion to add Ray Vaughn and Lauren McClain with the 708 Board to "Open". Dennis Graves made a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Morgan Henton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings
708 will meet Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at twelve o'clock pm in the conference room. Snedeker Risk Management conference is in Peoria September 23-24, 2026. UCCI will have a meeting in Springfield September 28, 2026.

Open
Allen Rinhart and Justin Stetler with Arrow Ambulance were in attendance via Zoom giving updated number of calls for the year and giving updated pricing for contract. Steve Schonert stated that in the past, the county has levied $425,000 for Ambulance services. Allen stated that he would like to see that increase.

Judge Chelsey Clark, Judge Lindsey Waldrop and Circuit Clerk Zach Holder were in attendance to discuss the Drug Court Program and a grant that they have been awarded. They have been awarded $150,000. The Drug Court Program has 10-15 participants at a time, and the goal is to help with long term recovery.

Ray Vaughn and Lauren McClain were in attendance to discuss the Mental Health 708 Committee and what they do for the community. They asked the board for an increase in their funding, which comes from the County Levy, stating there is a far greater need for assistance than the funding allows for.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda
Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Morgan Henton seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes from August 13, 2026, for County Board, September 3, 2026, for Road and Bridge meeting and June 24 and July 22, 2026 for ETSB; the county officer reports; County Trustee Tax Deed Resolutions; Resolution

of support and commitment of funds with Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission; appointment of Tom Totten to replace Jennifer Cummins-Zuber to the Claremont Bonpas Fire District; certified list of election judges; resolution amending Circuit Clerk civil filing and appearance fees; culvert aid petition for Noble Road District.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee
Steve Schonert discussed the claims totaling $119,509.79 county and $533,505.43 non-county. Steve Schonert made a motion to approve the claims. Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Steve Schonert, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Morgan Henton, yes. Motion carried.
Steve Schonert stated that it is budget season and the finance committee is waiting on office holders to finish up and will discuss next month.

Sheriff's Report
Sheriff Hires discussed how the transition is going since housing Lawrence County inmates.

State's Attorney Report
Mary Beth Welch stated that a total of 518 court cases were heard, 194 felony cases, and 98 new filings for the month of August. Mary Beth also stated Richland County is #1 in filing juvenile cases and #3 for felony cases in the 2nd circuit.

Animal Control
Steve Schonert stated that the Judge has released some dogs that are involved in a court case, so they are able to be adopted now.

Highway Business Motion/Vote
Dan Colwell asked the board to accept and file the Illinois Department of Transportation Compliance Review of County MFT, Road District MFT, and Township Bridge Fund accounts for 2025. Steve Schonert made a motion to approve. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Committee Reports
IT.
Corey McDonald stated that there was an incident with the file servers that required a full recovery that took around 10 hours. Everything is back to normal now.

Old Business
Steve Schonert discussed two different Jail agreement options that would be offered to Lawrence County regarding housing inmates. Steve made a motion to continue negotiations with Lawrence County. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

Morgan Henton discussed the need to appoint a new member to the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission Board. No action was taken.

Executive Session
Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; 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 8:39PM. The board re-entered regular session at 9:29 PM.

Adjournment
Morgan Henton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Travis Paddock
County Board Chairman