

Richland County Board

October 13, 2022

Convene

Chairman Dennis Graves called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00 PM on October 13, 2022 at the Commission Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited and Prayer/Moment of Silence was offered. Attendance: Dennis Graves, Absent; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Shawn Rose, Present; Emily Blackford, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Bill Clow, Present; Steven Schonert, Present. Vice Chairman VanBlaricum chaired the meeting.

Open

The members announced their meetings for the month.

Open - Snedeker Risk Management

Kevin Kern and Brent Williams, Snedeker Risk Management, addressed the board. They reviewed the liability and work comp renewal. Our insurance is influenced by inflation, law enforcement, jail liability, construction, etc. Our work comp has a good rating. They want to work with the offices to keep wage rates and equipment inventories up to date.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. District 4 Emily Blackford seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). Items approved were the minutes of September 8, county officer reports, Road and Bridge Minutes of October 6, Claremont Aid Petition, Insurance Renewal for Liability and Work Comp, and the names for election judges.

Finance Committee

Finance Chairman Bill Clow noted claims were reviewed. The budget work will begin this week.

Motion/Vote - Claims

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve all presented claims. District 5 Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). Totals for county general: \$145,388.12; and non county general: \$722,962.23.

State's Attorney Report - Landfill Property

States Attorney Clark reviewed this subject from last month. A former landfill property had been left to the county in a will. Over the last month Mr. Clark has had the opportunity to speak to several individuals and State agencies. The EPA says 57 acres were permitted for a landfill. There are a few additional acres that have been stipulated for use as a hunting preserve or gun range. There are liabilities that go with the property. It has a requirement the property be fenced. This would block access to the additional acreage. This property would not be qualified to be considered as wetlands. The probate case is scheduled for mid-November and the County must decide to accept or not accept the gift. Mr. Schonert asked if the county needed a gun range. Sheriff HIres responded no. The consensus of the board members is to turn down the gift. Mr. Clark will write a disclaimer.

State's Attorney - Solar Ordinance

State's Attorney Clark had presented a draft of a solar ordinance at an earlier meeting. There have now been adjustments and amendments made. There was a concern for setbacks and road repairs. Permits, bonding and letters of credit are required. There was brief discussion by the members.

Motion/Vote - Solar Farm Ordinance

District 7 Steven Schonert made a motion to approve the Ordinance Regulating Commercial Solar Farms. District 4 Emily Blackford seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes).

Animal Control

Animal Control Administrator Andrea Edwards began the conversation about the purchase of a pressure washer. The quote was \$2000. The washer, hose, wand, warranty and cart is included. Mr. Schonert made a motion to approve the \$2000. This instead will be listed on next month's claims. Andrea is waiting on an architect estimate on a new building plan. It was recommended new construction rather than repair the old building. The lighting needs repair. Mr. Schonert had Dallas Colwell, city code enforcement officer, visit the facility for his opinion. The members talked about some electrical repairs. Andrea is asking for kennel repairs, if possible. Mr. Clow will look at the kennels.

Highway Department

county Engineer Dan Colwell has bids for the new salt spreaders. He is recommending Byers Salt Dog spreaders from B & M Equipment. This is just under \$16,000. Mr. Colwell noted the next upcoming hot topic to be discussed will be carbon sequestration. This is a process to pump carbon underground. The Dundas Road is now under construction. Mr. Clow asked if there was enough space at the highway garage for an animal control facility. It was responded there is, and there is also an abandoned, burned out house north of the property.

Motion/Vote - Salt Spreaders

District 4 Emily Blackford made a motion to approve purchase of two salt spreaders from B & M Truck Equipment for \$16,000, using ARPA Funds for payment. District 6 Bill Clow seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes).

Board Committee Reports

Lauren McClain, RCDC Director, described a senior day, visiting four employers. The former Central School property has some proposed plans. There is a proposal for a grant writer, but nothing confirmed.

Old Business - Kemper Technology - Internet Backup

Ms. Blackford described the redundant internet service. This would be used should the primary internet went down. At last month's meeting Corey McDonald explained the service and the fee for equipment and monthly service. The 911 Board has agreed to a three year contract, paying a portion of the fees.

Motion/Vote - Kemper Technology - Backup Internet

District 4 Emily Blackford made a motion to approve the installation of the backup internet. District 6 Bill Clow seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). The county will pay half the cost, splitting with the 911 board.

Old Business - Janitorial

For now, the county is contracting with Emerald Cleaning Service. Sheriff HIres noted he has a bid. The board needs to decide if they want to hire a custodian, custodian/maintenance or continue contracting. He will send out the estimate. This will be on next month's board agenda.

Intergovernmental Agreement with Wayne County

Sheriff HIres has agreed to purchase a used K-9 vehicle from Wayne County. Ours was totaled in an accident earlier this year. Before he can purchase the vehicle he needs the agreement signed. There was no objections.

ARPA Funds

Mr. Schonert had sent out a revised schedule. This shows expenses paid and to be paid yet. He has asked the board to set aside funds for several other projects. This allows the board to begin researching the various projects. He has an estimated amount of \$350,000 for animal control a new building. Another purpose is to improve the mental health services now provided by the Jasper and Lawrence County Health Departments. The board should begin to look into a building and security to determine just what kind of facility they might need; and, begin looking for grants. The 708 Board will be discussing mental health needs. Clerk Mullinax asked to use ARPA funds to digitized minutes and indexes in her and the circuit clerk's office. With all proposed projects we are close to using all our ARPA funds. He asked the board members to review the list, asking for additions or deletions. The sheriff's intercom system needs to be replaced with a quote of \$63,500.

Motion/Vote - Executive Session

District 4 Emily Blackford made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss negotiations. District 6 Bill Clow seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Absent), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). The board entered Executive Session at 8:26 pm. A motion to return to Open Session was made at 9:24 pm by Mr. Rose. This was seconded by Mr. Henton, and passed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mr. Henton, then passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Alice Mullinax
County Clerk

Dennis R. Graves
County Board Chairman