

# Richland County Board

February 10, 2022

## Convene

Chairman Dennis Graves called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00 PM on February 10, 2022 at the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited and Prayer/Moment of Silence was offered. Attendance: Dennis Graves, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Shawn Rose, Present; Emily Blackford, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Bill Clow, Present; Steven Schonert, Absent.

## Motion/Vote - Agenda Approval

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. District 5 Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Absent).

## Information, Correspondence

The Board received notice from Sparklight, the local cable TV carrier. They are increasing the monthly fees.

## Open

There was nothing presented.

## Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to approve all items in the Consent Agenda. District 6 Bill Clow seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Absent). Items approved were the minutes of January, the county officer reports, the Road and Bridge Minutes of February, the IllinoisSouth Tourism certification, an Aid Petition from Noble Township, and the diesel fuel bid. Chairman Graves will continue as a member of the Southeastern IL Economic Development Authority and Marion Yonaka will continue as a member of the Bonpas River Conservancy District.

## Finance Committee

Finance Chairman Clow reviewed the committee meeting. Claims were reviewed. A claim for reimbursement to the judges from the Christmas party was discussed. It was the concurrence of the board members that each year a \$500 amount be included in each year's county board budget for the employee Christmas party.

## Motion/Vote - Payment of Claims

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve payment of all claims. District 5 Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Absent).

## **State's Attorney**

State's Attorney Clark noted his office is focusing attention on drug and drug-related cases.

## **Animal Control**

There is a need for more bite case forms. There will be more printed, leaving off the county name. Sheriff Hires noted we do have an Animal Control Ordinance, but was not given an ordinance number, which is required for any violations. State's Attorney Clark will review for updating.

## **Highway Department**

(nothing presented)

## **Board Committee Reports**

(none presented)

## **Old Business - ARPA Funds**

Circuit Clerk Holder described the scanning/digitization project for which he requests funding. His original estimate included all records but has held back on that. Some indexed cases will be included. The criminal cases will be scanned, some of the much older records may not. He would like to spend at least \$100,000. This will scan most of the records. There was more discussion and questions/answers. This will have the documents online and indexed. Mr. Holder also noted there is one public computer terminal for use. He is applying for a grant for additional ones.

## **ARPA Funds - Circuit Clerk**

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to approve using an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for scanning and digitizing records in the circuit clerk's office. District 6 Bill Clow seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Absent).

## **ARPA Funds (cont.)**

County Engineer Dan Colwell asked the Board to consider a few pieces of highway equipment to be purchased with the ARPA funds. Mr. Henton suggested more information for discussion next month. Board Member Blackford reviewed the list. One item, the sand/salt spreader could be used as soon as received.

## **Motion/Vote - ARPA Funds Highway Department**

District 1 Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to purchase a new salt//sand spreader using the ARPA Funds. District 4 Emily Blackford seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Absent).

## **ARPA Funds (cont.)**

County Clerk Mullinax described the condition of the awning over the south door of the courthouse. It is dirty, torn and shows much bird droppings. She suggests a new awning be purchased with ARPA Funds in the amount of \$1500. This would be purchased from Brumleve Industries, who made the original and one replacement to this date.

### **Motion/Vote - ARPA Funds Courthouse Awning**

District 1 Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to purchase a replacement awning for the courthouse in the amount of \$1500 to be paid from ARPA Funds. District 4 Emily Blackford seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Absent).

### **Old Business - Employee Policy**

County Board Member Blackford noted every member had received a revised copy of the proposed County Employee Policy Book. Ray Diel, representing Snedeker Risk Management, stated the committee of Emily Blackford, Bill Clow and Steve Schonert had worked on the revisions, additions and deletions from the previous policy.

### **Motion/Vote - Employee Policy Book**

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve the revised Employee Policy Book. District 4 Emily Blackford seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Absent). Copies will be provided to the offices and employees in paper or electronic format.

### **Old Business - Vendor Insurance**

Board Member Henton has discussed vendor insurance with our liability carrier. They suggest obtaining far more information than he anticipated. He will wait until a later meeting to discuss this.

### **New Business - T.B. Department, Water Leak, Counseling Services**

The TB Board will address the county board at a future meeting.

Sheriff Hires informed the members of a leak from the second floor men's room. The water ran down into the Treasurer's office on the first floor. Color Your World was called to clean the mess and handle the repairs. Their bill was just over \$4200. The county's deductible is \$5000, so the bill was paid from the courthouse repair fund. Chairman Graves suggested the urinals be changed to a self-flush. This will be discussed with the building commission.

Judge Vaughn reminded the board members of the crisis in the County with behavioral health. Jasper and Lawrence County Health Departments are providing counseling services, but is nowhere near what we should have.

### **Executive Session**

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to Enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. District 1 Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Absent). The Board entered Executive Session at 7:47 PM

### **Motion/Vote - Return to Open Session**

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to return to Open Session. District 6 Bill Clow seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Absent). The members returned to Open Session at 8:20 pm.

### **Motion/Vote - Laborer's Memorandum of Understanding**

District 5 Morgan Henton made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Laborer's Union. District 6 Bill Clow seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Absent). This clarified the beginning wage and minimum wage for the Laborer's members.

### **Adjournment**

With nothing further to discuss, Chairman Graves entertained a motion to adjourn from Mr. Clow. This was seconded by Mr. Henton. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Alice Mullinax  
County Clerk

Dennis R. Graves  
County Board Chairman