

Richland County Board
February 9, 2023

Convene

Chairman Dennis Graves called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on February 9, 2023 at the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited and Prayer was led by Morgan Henton. Attendance: Dennis Graves, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Shawn Rose, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Steve Schonert, Present; Travis Paddock, Present; Cindy Given, Present.

Motion/Vote – Agenda

District 1 Brian VanBlaricum made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. District 5 Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote: Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Steve Schonert (Yes), Travis Paddock (Yes) Shawn Rose (Yes), Cindy Given (Yes).

Motion/Vote - Open

Morgan Henton made a motion to move consent item 5H (Approval of Second Amendment Resolution) to Open. Steve Schonert seconded the motion. Steve Schonert then discussed the Second Amendment Resolution and stated that the resolution affirmed the right to keep and bear arms. Pediatrician Norma Kreilein distributed information to the board members from the American Academy of Pediatrics supporting the state law. Other members of the community spoke in opposition of the state law and supported the resolution. Steve Schonert stated that 82 percent of voters supported a 2018 referendum making Richland County a sanctuary for law-abiding gun owners. Steve Schonert then made a motion to approve the Approval of Second Amendment Resolution. Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote: Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Steve Schonert (Yes), Travis Paddock (Yes) Shawn Rose (Yes), Cindy Given (No).

Tom Umfleet spoke to the board with concerns about a statement made from a county board member that is also on the negotiating committee. He was told that the member stated “I don’t negotiate with terrorists”. Tom discussed the definition of terrorist according to the Homeland Security’s website. Tom stated that he felt that the member should resign from the negotiating committee and be replaced by another member and then asked the board to replace that member if they did not remove themselves. Cindy Given said that she is on that committee and had not heard that comment. Chairman Dennis Graves stated that the board would discuss further in executive session.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda

District 4 Cindy Given made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote: Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Steve Schonert (Yes), Travis Paddock (Yes) Shawn Rose (Yes), Cindy Given (Yes). Items approved were the minutes of January 12, 2023 for County Board and February 2, 2023 for Road and Bridge as well as minutes from December 28, 2022

911 ETSB meeting; the county officer reports; highway claims; proposal from Scott Brown to replace 2-way radio system; recommendation of new member to Board of Commissioners – Housing Authority.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee

Finance Chair Steve Schonert discussed claims. Steve then made the motion to approve all claims, Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote: Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Steve Schonert (Yes), Travis Paddock (Yes) Shawn Rose (Yes), Cindy Given (Yes).

States Attorney's Report

Nothing to report.

Animal Control

Andrea with Animal Control stated that she and Steve Schonert had recently visited Salem, IL and Carlyle, IL animal control facilities to see how they have them set up.

Sherriff's Report

Nothing to report.

Highway Department Business

County Engineer Dan Colwell stated that they have a Rock and Gravel meeting February 23.

Board Committee Reports

Steve Schonert talked about the animal control buildings in Salem and Carlyle, IL.

IT Business

Corey McDonald with Kemper Technology Consulting stated that he had installed a new switch but still trouble shooting and working with the vendor. Kemper recommends keeping switch in place, with a cost of \$2,300.00

Old Business

ARPA - Steve Schonert stated that they are still working with Animal Control and the Mental Health facility.

County Website – Zach Holder stated that the county needs a website and asked for ARPA funds to provide the website. He stated that each office would benefit from having a website as well as the community. Corey McDonald showed the board Lawrence County's website that Kemper Technology Consulting completed. Corey stated that Lawrence County employees confirmed that the new website has reduced foot traffic and phone calls for each office. Steve Schonert asked the IT committee to look into this.

Employee Holiday Schedule – Dennis Graves stated that they will look into this further when there is a contract in place.

New Business

Nothing to report

Motion/Vote - Executive Session

The motion to enter executive session to discuss negotiations and possible purchase of real estate was made by Steve Schonert then seconded by Cindy Given. This passed by vote: Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Steve Schonert (Yes), Travis Paddock (Yes) Shawn Rose (Yes), Cindy Given (Yes). The board entered Executive Session at 7:40 PM.

Motion/Vote - Return to Open Session

Brian VanBlaricum made the motion to return to Open Session. Travis Paddock seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Morgan Henton (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Steve Schonert (Yes), Travis Paddock (Yes) Shawn Rose (Yes), Cindy Given (Yes). The members returned to Open Session at 8:20 PM.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Cindy Given and seconded by Brian VanBlaricum. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Amanda Troyer
County Clerk

Dennis Graves
County Board Chairman