

Richland County Board

July 14, 2022

Convene

Chairman Dennis Graves called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00 PM on July 14, 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, Present. Mr. VanBlaricum attended by phone conferencing.

Motion/Vote - Agenda

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. 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 (Yes).

Information

The members' meetings were announced for the month. Ms. Blackford informed the members of the retirement of Juanita Kramer, 911 Coordinator.

Open

Mr. Smith, as on the agenda was unable to attend. Chairman Graves had been presented with an additional liquor license application from Tosha Hancock/ Fireside. She will be serving drinks during the Farm Bureau sponsored Pig and Swig Event to be held at Rotary Park in August. There were no objections of approval from the board. Mr. Henton had been approached by an individual requesting a liquor license. He has plans for a building, but wants to be assured he could obtain a liquor license when completed. There were no objections from the members.

Consent Agenda

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. District 3 Shawn Rose 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 (Yes). Approved were the Board Minutes of June 9, the county officer reports, the Road and Bridge Minutes of July 7, an Aid Petition from Olney Township, a Resolution to Sell Surplus Equipment On-line, approve the States' Attorney and Public Defender Salaries, accept the Motor Fuel Tax Review, the Township Bridge Fund Review and the Regional Superintendent's Quarterly Report.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chairman Clow reviewed the previous meeting. Judge Vaughn was present at the committee meeting to discuss using a portion of his ARPA funds to purchase computers for Jasper County Health Department. These will be used in our county for the mental health services. This will be discussed later in the meeting. County General claims totaled \$93,540.48. Non County General claims totaled \$260,858.24.

Motion/Vote - Payment of Claims

District 6 Bill Clow made a motion to approve payment of all presented 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 (Yes).

States' Attorney Report

States' Attorney Clark stated he continues to work on the Solar Farm Ordinance. He plans to have this available before the August board meeting.

Animal Control

Recently appointed Animal Control Administrator Andrea Edwards addressed the board. She is trying to clean out and clean up the animal control facility. Shelley Brinkley, Claws and Paws, is offering to house bite cases for the county. If the county is looking to close their facility, she would like to discuss leasing of her facility. Mr. Henton stated according to statute we still need to provide some types of animal control. Sheriff Hires said we can contract this, join another county or keep our own. The City of Olney and the county are working to establish an ordinance agreeable for all involved. Mr. Schonert asked if extra space is needed. Andrea responded unless she is to begin taking in strays, what is there will work. She did note the stray calls and emergency calls are out of control. Mr. Henton noted the new policy will take care of this. She does need a part-time employee. Mr. Henton noted we will accept applications These can be picked up from the county clerk's office. It will be advertised. The current Facebook account will be deleted and a new account will be created. Currently Shelly cleans and feeds on Saturday and Sunday. She is reimbursed by Andrea putting in extra hours with her facility. Mr. Schonert would like to continue discussions with Andrea concerning her duties, scope of work, necessities at the pound and requests. Ms. Blackford asked about continuing only with emergency and bite cases for the time being. The public will be alerted or announced to what she is allowed to handle at this time. Ms. Blackford noted surrendering animals is not accepted. Mr. Schonert said statutes require attention to dangerous animals or bite cases. Strays are not being accepted. Andrea also asked about the message on her phones. The phones may be cancelled. Andrea has had IT at the facility to work on internet and camera systems.

Highway Business

County Engineer Colwell had been contacted by EJ Water. They are looking to supply water to new customers in Olney, Claremont and Bonpas Townships. A grant application would have to be through a government entity. Mr. Colwell will have more information and documents at the August meeting.

Board Committee Reports

Lauren McLain, RCDC, noted a restaurant has begun construction.

Old Business

Clerk Mullinax had contacted Marshall Moving to reconstruct shelving units in the basement of the courthouse. Before this can be done there should be concrete poured where these units will stand. Currently there is dirt covered with rotting boards. Mr. Schonert suggested long term storage be discussed with the building commission. He doesn't know how expensive the concrete work will be. Mr. Clow will speak to the commission members.

New Business

Corey McDonald, Kemper Technology, informed board members the IT services contract is up for renewal on September 13. There will be some changes for next year. He intends to speak with the offices to see what has worked or not worked over the last year. He would like the County to think about what they expect from Kemper. He doesn't expect major changes, and noted we have the lowest pricing of any of the customers. He has provided a quote on the backup, and we are using a very large space. He would like to implement a more robust backup. This will decrease some issues, using a much larger hard drive. This is a very important part.

ARPA Fund Discussion

Mr. Schonert provided an updated list of ARPA requests, paid amounts, and those yet undetermined. The Pickleball Court request does have 80% of their funding and would like to obtain the County's donation to order materials and begin construction. The City of Olney will release their funds.

Sheriff Hires informed the members of how difficult it is to find Tahoe Police Package vehicles. GM visited with Sheriff Hires. Two vehicles have been located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They are being held for our county. The cost is \$42530 per unit which is \$5000 up from the last bid. He has \$50,000 in his current budget and is requesting \$50,000 from ARPA funds. He would like to purchase these in October, as he is applying for a grant to help with expenses for the vehicles. Mr. Schonert thought they should look at the requests they have had. Spending has been \$600,000 and much of the funds have been earmarked or requested with only \$200,000 remaining. The squad amount has been accounted for. There was discussion of using public safety money. Mr. Rose stated he would prefer to use ARPA funds to benefit us. Sheriff Hires reminded the members of the intercom system that needs replaced at the jail. This is integrated into the system and replacement parts are no longer available. This is how communications are used in the building and with officers. Mr. Henton asked about the deputy staff. There are 10 deputies, including him and ten cars.

The Village of Parkersburg has requested \$2000 of their remaining \$5000 for cooler construction at their community building/chowder area. It was the consensus this would not be a problem, but not to go above the total of \$30,000.

There is a request and continued discussion for providing mental health services. Mr. Clow stated Judge Vaughn requested to use a portion of his allotted ARPA funds to purchase four computers for Jasper County Health Department to use in this county. The members discussed if the computers would actually aid in providing service. Mr. Henton noted these funds were to be used for counseling. He is not certain computers qualify as expansion of services.

Clerk Mullinax described a project combined with the circuit clerk's office to digitize older court records and meeting minutes. This was discussed with no decision made.

The members discussed the grant writer position in conjunction with RCDC. The board needs to make the decision if they are going to participate and use \$100,000 of ARPA funds. The contribution will be subject to an advisory committee to oversee and assist the grant writer. The contribution will be for the county, city, municipalities, school, townships, not for profits, small businesses, etc. The salary is unknown but hopeful the grants will begin in the salary as time goes on. Our relationship with RCDC would still continue. Mr. Schonert would like to release the funds to RCDC once a person is hired. Mr. Henton asked if the board would have a seat on the advisory committee, with Ms. Blackford asking if this is a subcommittee of the RCDC Board. A concern is the city having control, wanting to verify this would not be the case as the county would be a financial contributor. After some discussion Mr. Schonert asked the board to commit the funds to RCDC so they can begin advertising and interviewing. Mr. Henton asked if there was a draft of the agreement. There is not going to be too much work begun until the funds are committed. Ms. Blackford does not like to gamble with our ARPA funds and prefers to use it on sure things. Mr. Schonert remarked this money has been allocated and would like to provide seed money for this position. The RCDC needs direction. Ms. Blackford is not against the fund, but would like to wait until other entities have committed and see data supporting the grant writer.

Motion/Vote - ARPA Funds, Pickleball Courts

District 7 Steven Schonert made a motion to release the ARPA fund donation toward the pickleball courts. 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 (Yes). A check will be issued for \$66,200.

Motion/Vote - ARPA Funds Squad Vehicle

District 7 Steven Schonert made a motion to allow \$50,000 from ARPA funds to purchase a squad vehicle. 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 (Yes).

Motion/Vote - ARPA Funds Grant Writer

District 7 Steven Schonert made a motion to allocate \$100,000 to contribute to RCDC for the position of grant Writer. District 1 Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Bill Clow (Yes), Brian VanBlaricum (Yes), Dennis Graves (Yes), Emily Blackford (No), Morgan Henton (No), Shawn Rose (Yes), Steven Schonert (Yes). As a voice vote was indeterminable, this became roll call vote #1: 5 ayes, 2 nays. The motion carried.

Motion/Vote - Executive Session

District 7 Steven Schonert made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, negotiations, contracts and litigation. 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 (Yes). The Board entered Executive Session at 8:30 pm. The motion to return to Open Session was made at 9:55 pm by Mr. Clow. This was seconded by Mr. Henton, then passed. Chairman Graves stated personnel, negotiations, and contracts had been discussed with no action taken.

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss Chairman Graves entertained a motion to adjourn from Mr. Henton. This was seconded by Mr. Clow, then passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Alice Mullinax
County Clerk

Dennis R. Graves
County Board Chairman