

# Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee

January 2, 2026

The Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee convened on Friday, January 2, 2026, in person and virtually at 8:41 AM in the County Boardroom of the Richland County Courthouse.

**Call To Order:** Committee Chair Frank called the meeting to order at 8:41 AM.

**Roll Call:** Deputy County Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Committee member(s) present: Tiffany Thompson, Melvin “Bob” Frank, Kerry Severson via WebEx, and Julie Fleming via WebEx. Committee member(s) absent: Gary Manning, David Turk, and Chad Cosgrove.

**Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance:** Deputy County Clerk Hege confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

**Approval Of Agenda:** Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Thompson, second by Severson. Motion carried and the agenda was approved.

**Approval Of Minutes From December 5, 2025 Meeting:** Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2025 meeting. Motion by Thompson, second by Severson to approve the minutes. Motion carried and the minutes from the December 5, 2025 meeting were approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

## Reports:

- A. **Sheriff – Departmental Activities & Monthly Bills:** Sheriff Porter briefly presented the Richland County Sheriff’s Monthly Report, a Staffing Memo from Chief Deputy Wallace, the Squad Mileage Report, and the Monthly Bills report to the committee. No discussion ensued.
- B. **Coroner - Departmental Activities:** Committee Chair Frank pointed out the report submitted by Richland County Coroner, James Rossing, was available in the packet for the committee to review. No discussion.
- C. **Circuit Court Judge - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Jenifer Laue, reported that Judge McDougal was in Treatment Court and on other topics including that the Judge was looking to update the juror chairs in the courtroom, the most recent Courthouse Security meeting had happened on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Judge wanted to remind the committee to be cognizant of not exposing any vulnerabilities of the courthouse security while discussing ways to improve security.
- D. **Courthouse Security Report:** Ms. Laue reported that the next Courthouse Security meeting was set to happen in March from 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm, the exact date was unknown. Ms. Kleist reminded the committee of the upcoming annual court security conference, exact date unknown.
- E. **Clerk Of Court - Departmental Activities:** Richland County Clerk of Court, Stacy Kleist, presented the Clerk of Court budget report/account summary to the committee and reported on various items, including the continued purging of expired documents, process involved with

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Lone Rock municipal tickets being processed through the Richland County Circuit Court, and outlined the changes happening in 2026 to small claims cases. Ms. Kleist expressed her desire to have the name of the Public Safety Standing Committee changed to include representation of the judiciary element of the committee. Brief discussion ensued.

- F. **Register In Probate - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Ms. Jenifer Laue reported that the Register in Probate office was working on year-end guardianship and financial reports, gave a brief breakdown of the probate process and deadlines, and reported that her budget was on track to be within or just under budget.
- G. **District Attorney - Departmental Activities:** No one was present.
- H. **Ambulance Service – Departmental Activities:** Barb Scott, Interim Emergency Services Director introduced herself to the committee and gave a brief verbal report on the state of the Ambulance Service and why they were reporting to the Public Safety Standing Committee. Ms. Scott asked the committee if there were any other data they would like her to provide each month. Discussion ensued. Committee Chair Frank stated he would like to see the budget reports from the Ambulance Service. Ms. Scott expressed her concerns regarding the stress on her staff due to the uncertainty of the future of the Ambulance Service.
- I. **Emergency Management - Departmental Activities:** Committee Chair Frank pointed out a memo included in the committee packet regarding the updates to the Emergency Management Department. Brief discussion ensued.
- J. **PSAP & NG-911 Grants:** Committee Chair Frank stated that round 2 for the PSAP Grant (2026) was released. Devon Rupnow, Jail Administrator, reported that the 2025 PSAP Grant was completed and the 2026 PSAP Grant had just been approved and they were making plans for a new furniture layout in dispatch and for training and education for dispatch. Brief discussion ensued.
- K. **Radio Tower Update:** Sheriff Porter briefly reported that dish and antenna work, as well as pathing for microwaves was currently in progress at the tower sites. Sheriff Porter also reported that a few of the portable radios had been programmed and were ready for testing. Brief discussion ensued.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Resolution Commemorating The Service Of Christian Cejpek To The Richland County Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff Porter gave a brief explanation of the proposed resolution. Motion by Severson to approve the resolution commemorating the service of Christian Cejpek to the Richland County Sheriff's Office, second by Thompson. Brief discussion on Deputy Cejpek's many years of service ensued. Motion carried and the resolution commemorating the service of Christian Cejpek to the Richland County Sheriff's Office was approved and moved onto county board for final approval.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Amendment To Minutes From November 7, 2025 Meeting:** Deputy County Clerk Hege stated that the minutes from the November 7, 2025 erroneously stated in the first paragraph that the meeting was held on September 5, 2025. Motion by Thompson, second by Severson

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to amend the minutes of the November 7, 2025 meeting to replace September 5, 2025 with November 7, 2025. Motion carried and the minutes of the November 7, 2025 meeting were amended.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Future Agenda Items:**

Annual Jail Report  
Jail Inspection

**Adjourn:** Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Thompson, second by Severson to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,



Myranda H. Hege  
Deputy County Clerk

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