

# Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee

February 6, 2026

The Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee convened on Friday, February 6, 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 8:34 AM.

**Roll Call:** Deputy County Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Committee member(s) present: Tiffany Thompson, Chad Cosgrove, Melvin “Bob” Frank, and Kerry Severson via Webex. Committee member(s) absent: Gary Manning, David Turk, and Julie Fleming. Supervisor Fleming arrive after roll at 8:43 AM.

**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 Cosgrove, second by Thompson. Motion carried and the agenda was approved.

**Approval Of Minutes From January 2, 2026 Meeting:** Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2026 meeting. Motion by Thompson, second by Severson to approve the minutes. Motion carried and the minutes from the January 2, 2026, meeting were approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

## Reports:

- A. Sheriff – Departmental Activities & Monthly Bills:** Sheriff Porter briefly presented the Richland County Sheriff’s Monthly Report, the Squad Mileage Report, and the Monthly Bills report to the committee and reported that a new vehicle had been purchased for the investigator, and that one squad was out for repair due to a deer strike. Brief discussion ensued.
- B. Annual Sheriff’s Office Report:** Sheriff Porter presented the Sheriff’s Office 2025 Year End Summary presentation to the committee and Devon Rupnow, Jail Administrator, presented the Jail portion of the 2025 Year End Summary presentation. Committee members had various questions for the Sheriff and Jail Administrator on various items throughout the presentation.
- C. 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.
- D. Circuit Court Judge - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Jenifer Laue, reported that Judge McDougal was out of the office and gave a brief recap of the discussions had at the recent County Facilities Planning Committee meeting. Brief discussion on court security and planning ensued.
- E. Courthouse Security Report:** Ms. Laue reported on various projects either in progress or complete that were implemented to increase security for the courts and the courthouse.

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- F. Clerk Of Court - Departmental Activities:** Committee Chair Frank pointed out the reports that the Clerk of Court had submitted and stated that Ms. Kleist had made him aware that she was unable to attend the meeting. No discussion.
- G. Register In Probate - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Ms. Jenifer Laue reported that the Register in Probate office was working currently on track with their budget and her office had been recently painted. No discussion.
- H. District Attorney - Departmental Activities:** No one was present.
- I. Ambulance Service – Departmental Activities:** Barb Scott, Interim Emergency Services Director presented her EMS Director Report and highlighted some of the changes in staffing and the January 2026 collections numbers. Brief discussion ensued.
- J. Emergency Management - Departmental Activities:** County Administrator, Tricia Clements, briefly reported on the resignation of John Heinen, the appointment of Josh Elder to the roll of Emergency Management Director, and the progress with the 2025 grant reimbursements. Brief discussion ensued.
- K. PSAP & NG-911 Grants:** Jail Administrator Rupnow reported that the NG-911 grant work was in progress and due later in February and the approval for the initial grant requests for the PSAP grant funding had come through. Brief discussion ensued.
- L. Radio Tower Update:** Sheriff Porter briefly reported that the Sheriff's department had gone live on the new system on February 4, 2026, and were taking part in a 30 day testing period before other services and departments were being brought online. Brief discussion ensued.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Recognition To John Heinen For His Years Of Service To Richland County:** County Administrator Clements spoke to the years of service that Mr. Heinen had given to Richland County as a contracted employee. Brief discussion ensued. Motion by Fleming, second by Cosgrove to recognize Mr. Heinen's years of service to Richland County. Motion carried and Mr. Heinen's years of service were recognized by the members of the Public Safety Standing Committee.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Future Agenda Items:** None.

Committee Chair Frank read the Notice of Annual Jail Inspection to those assembled in the room.

**Adjourn:** Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Fleming, second by Thompson to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Richland County  
Public Safety Standing Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myranda H. Hege". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'H'.

Myranda H. Hege  
Deputy County Clerk