

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY
March 8, 2019
Held at the New River Valley Regional Jail

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the New River Valley Regional Jail Authority was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Chairman Mark Armentrout with eleven (11) members and one (1) alternate present.

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| MEMBERS PRESENT: | Bland County: | Sheriff Roseberry, Mr. Workman |
| | Carroll County: | Ms. Cannon |
| | Giles County: | Sheriff Millirons; Mr. Chidester |
| | Grayson County: | Sheriff Vaughan |
| | Pulaski County: | Sheriff Worrell; Mr. McCready |
| | Radford City: | Sheriff Armentrout; Ms Cumberland |
| | Wythe County: | Mr. Reeves |

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| ALTERNATES PRESENT: | Carroll County: | Ch. Dep. Bourne |
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| STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: | Superintendent Gregory Winston |
| | Steve Durbin - Sands Anderson PC |
| | Joshua Smith- New Radford Alternate |
| | Robert Lyons-Citizen |
| | Bob Sumner-NRVRJ Officer |
| | Brenda Lamb-Retired NRVRJ Officer |

B. ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Akers called the roll and reported a quorum present.

Superintendent Winston recognized retired officer Brenda Lamb with a plaque displaying her badge. Ms. Lamb retired from the NRVRJ on February 1st after 19 years of dedicated service. Officer Jeanne Ray and Sgt. Ernie Alley also spoke very highly of Ms. Lamb's faithful teamwork, her ability to always be firm, fair and constant in her duties and of how much she would be missed. Several current officers/employees attended the plaque presentation: Lt. Melissa Edwards, Sgt. Alley, Cpl. Mollie Richardson, Cpl. Lori Diamond, Lisa Ferguson and Valerie Mills.

C. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2019 MINUTES:

Copies of the Minutes from the January meeting were mailed to each member. Chairman Armentrout asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes as presented.

Motion: Mr. Workman moved that the November Minutes be approved as presented. Sheriff Vaughan seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Armentrout read a letter from Wythe County reappointing Mr. Tim Reeves to serve as an Authority member and Mr. Stephen Bear to serve as his alternate for a one year term.

Chairman Armentrout also introduced Radford City's newly appointed alternate Mr. Joshua Smith. Mr. Smith will serve as an alternate for Ms. Nikki Cumberland for the remainder of her term.

Superintendent Winston also recognized Officer Lisa Lambert and read an accommodation written by her Captain. While supervising a housing unit Officer Lambert saw a female inmate having a medical emergency as a result of her medication. When the inmate became unresponsive, Officer Lambert called for assistance and performed CPR/chest compressions. The inmate began to breathe, regained consciousness and has since recovered completely. Officer Lambert was unable to attend today but was recognized in roll call by her team.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

None

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee:

Copies of the monthly financials July through February 2019 were distributed and Ms. Cannon reviewed them with the group.

Motion: On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Cannon recommended the Financial Report for approval.

Action: Following a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cannon announced that we will have budget work sessions beginning at the end of March or first of April but no exact dates have been set.

Design and Construction Committee:

Design & Construction did not meet today.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Employee Activity:

We had a Supervisors meeting on Tuesday.

There are three supervisors enrolled in the VARJ Leadership Initiative for this session. There are six days of instruction held at three different regional jails over the course of the program. They are instructed on leadership, core competencies and jail administration. We will be hosting the next portion of the training on April 9th and 10th.

We have eleven officers beginning the academy on March 11th.

Operations:

- Headcount today: 897
- Total days served 24,935
- Average Daily Population: 891
- Average Daily Population for male prisoners: 728
- Average Daily Population for females prisoners: 163
- Number of commitments: 423
- Avg Daily commitments: 15.1
- Number of releases: 445
- Avg Daily releases: 16

Prisoner Issues:

We still have the inmate with cancer and fortunately we have been able to enroll him in Medicaid. We will be able to recover some of that cost beginning January 1st of this year.

We have had four inmate overdoses in four months with all of these being due to methamphetamines. The likelihood is its being brought in via weekenders in a variety of undetectable ways. We are currently looking at several different pieces of equipment to better detect these items. All of our staff is being trained on the use of Narcan. Currently all of our transportation vans have Narcan onboard and all of our transportation officers have been trained in the use of it.

Trusty Supervision Training:

We have conducted trusty supervision training at Bland, Carroll, Grayson and Giles have been trained with Floyd being trained next week. Several members said that it was received very well. Many said that their personnel weren't aware of all of the liabilities involved in supervising

inmates. Superintendent Winston said to that as the jurisdictions get new employees that we will be glad to repeat the training for them.

HR-Personnel:

We have had 12 new hires since January, two nurses and a maintenance person. Superintendent Winston announced that we were able to find and hire a qualified female maintenance person for the first time ever. She's doing a terrific job and he's incredible proud of her.

There were eight resignations with seven of them being officers and 1 librarian. Our former librarian wasn't a certified correctional officer but will be replaced by one. This will allow them to work independently or help in other areas in the jail if needed.

Budget:

We received our Anthem contract renewal from Local Choice with a 22.7% increase. It's very difficult finding that money to pay for the increase while providing quality health insurance for the staff. This year, public safety and comp board employees are receiving a 3% raise from the comp board. In looking for ways to try to preserve some of that so staff can realize that in the face of rising health costs as an employer is extremely stressful. Our staff works very hard and deserves that increase only to see it taken away by health care increases.

Superintendent Winston reached out to a competent and qualified insurance broker. We had a conference call with him this past week to look at some potential options for us beyond The Local Choice. The broker is putting our information out to get quotes from some other insurance agencies that offer insurance in our area. We expect to have another conference call with him next week to discuss those other options.

We do understand the possible consequences of leaving The Local Choice. There is the potential of us having to pay an exit fee depending on how The Local Choice does for the year. If we do leave we won't know until December. They go back and look at their insurance claims burden for the year. If they lost money then they make the people that left The Local Choice divide it up and pay it.

We are looking at every option available to us to provide quality health insurance for the staff, changing some plans that we currently have with The Local Choice, changing some contributions to try to preserve the raise for the staff. All of these tasks are very challenging but we are looking at every option.

Mr. McCready asked if there were other regional jails experiencing a large increase. Supt. Winston said some have and some haven't that it's unpredictable. Ms. Cannon gave some examples of different jurisdictions that had gone up and some that had gone down. She added that it's been kind of all over the board. Mr. McCready asked if combining 3-4 regional jails to provide self insurance would be an option. Supt. Winston said that he would be attending a Superintendent's meeting next week and he was sure that would be addressed.

Another thing that will affect our budget this year is the decline in inmate population. Superintendent Winston said we're not the only regional jail trending in a negative way and gave some examples of other jails. So we're looking setting our per diem on a little less of a population than we have in a couple of years. We've only met our per diem requirements in

terms of revenue forecast two times this fiscal year. He does have each jurisdiction's inmate population plotted out and will share that with everyone at the budget workshops.

IT:

We're finalizing the contract with the new finance software vendor.

Video Arraignment:

We're doing a lot of video arraignments however we're still using the old system in Giles Circuit, Wythe Circuit and Pulaski General District courts. We pay \$600 a year to support that old software so he asked if the members could encourage those courts to move over to the new poly-com system. If there is a reason that they aren't using the system please let him know.

Carilion:

We have completed the settlement agreement and have begun paying them back.

Capital Improvement Planning:

The security system was installed in 2010 and really didn't provide any preventative maintenance. Our vendor has given us a quote of approximately \$183,000 for items that couldn't be repaired or was now obsolete.

Medical:

We instituted a chronic care clinic in medical to do things in accordance with ACA. Many people have been enrolled in Medicaid. Surprisingly we've had a few inmates that receive chronic medical care refuse to enroll to Medicaid which they have a right to do.

Radios:

Base station radios and mobile radios were included in the comp board budget. Also we haven't had any emergency equipment/lights in our transportation vans. We will be doing that in case we would ever have a van broke down on the side of the road they would be able to turn some red and white emergency lights on.

Kitchen:

Our kitchen floor was completed and the health inspector was very please with it. Our refurbished dishwasher is awaiting some additional parts and will be up and running soon.

Other Maintenance Issues:

There have been some issues with the failing of numatic doors, \$80,000 for the roof and \$38,000 for plumbing on the new side of the jail. We are putting together a capital improvement plan and looking at doing some performance contracting in the future.

Programs:

We're working with the New River Health Department. They provide life skills training for the inmates and also training for the use of Narcan. Once trained, the Health Department will write the Narcan prescription and place it in their property for them upon their release.

PCPC-Our maintenance department is building a bookshelf for out in our visitation department. Children's books are being donated by PCPC for the kids to read while they wait to visit and also

take with them. Superintendent Winston thanked Sheriff Worrell's team for helping the jail become involved with the PCPC group.

Battle of the Badges:

The jail will have a team participating in the Battle of the Badges later in the month.

National Correctional Officers Week:

We won't meet again prior to National Correctional Officers week which is the first full week of May. Superintendent asked that the members recognize our staff before their respective boards. Our officers provide a public service that is often unrecognized and unrewarded. Superintendent Winston added that when reviewing exit interviews that he often sees that they feel that they lack public support.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

H. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

I. OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Chairman Armentrout announced that the Election of Officers would be held at the May 10th Authority meeting. Please submit any FY 2019-2020 officer nominations to Tonya Akers at takers@nrvrj.org prior to the May meeting.

J. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Mr. McCready made the motion to adjourn the meeting.
Ms. Cannon seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Authority, Chairman Armentrout adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Chairman Mark A. Armentrout