

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY
May 13, 2022
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 10:10 a.m. by Chairman Mark Armentrout.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bland County:	Mr. Workman
Carroll County:	Sheriff Kemp; Mr. Lyons
Floyd County:	Sheriff Craig; Mr. Turman
Giles County:	Sheriff Millirons; Mr. Chidester
Pulaski County:	Sheriff Worrell
Radford City:	Sheriff Armentrout; Mr. Fleisher
Wythe County:	Sheriff Foster

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Bland County:	Ch. Dep. Mustard
Pulaski County:	Mr. Sweet
Wythe County:	Major Cline; Mr. Hankins

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Superintendent Gregory Winston
Mr. Steve Durbin-Sands, Anderson, Marks & Miller
Robert Lyons-Citizen
Bob Sumner-Citizen
NRVRJ Staff: Tonya Akers, Tim Clark; Maj. Daniel O'Dell

B. ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Akers called roll and reported a quorum with eleven (11) members and four (4) alternates present.

Mr. Sweet asked that we strike Mr. John Travis from the roll. Mr. Travis has vacated his position on the Board of Supervisors which subsequently vacates all board authority positions and no longer serves Pulaski County at this time.

Chairman Armentrout announced that Ms. Shairan Araiza, a dispatcher for 31 years at the Radford University Police, had unexpectedly passed away this week. He wanted to let the members know so they could extend their sympathies to Chief Plummer and his staff of the RUPD.

C. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2022 MINUTES:

Copies of the Minutes from the March 11, 2022 meeting were mailed to each member. Chairman Armentrout asked if there were any additions or additional corrections to the Minutes as presented.

Motion: Mr. Workman moved that the March 11, 2022 Minutes be approved as presented. Mr. Chidester seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee:

Copies of the monthly financials were distributed and Mr. Workman reviewed them with the group.

Motion: Mr. Workman made a motion from the Finance Committee to approve the Financial Reports as presented.

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

Personnel Committee:

Sheriff Craig gave the Personnel Committee Report. On May 4, 2022, he, Tonya Akers, Sheriff Armentrout, Sheriff Kemp, Mr. Eric Workman, Mr. Richard Chidester and Superintendent Winston conducted interviews. Of the three scheduled interviews, the panel interviewed two candidates. The third candidate wasn't able to make it due to unforeseen circumstances. After the interviews, the decision was made to move forward with Ms. Kimberly Haug. The Personnel Committee feels that she's a great candidate and he would be introducing to her to the group during executive closed session.

Chairman Armentrout said we would be moving into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Also, if it's ok with the group he would like for Tonya Akers to stay since she was part of the interview process and Search Committee.

Chairman Armentrout said he would entertain a motion need to enter into executive session.

Motion: Mr. Sweet made the motion to enter into executive session pursuant to §2.2-3711A.1 of the Code of Virginia regarding personnel and discuss the Superintendent position with the candidate. Mr. Workman seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

After a lengthy discussion, the motion was made that the Authority come out of closed session.

Motion: Mr. Sweet made the motion that the board come out of closed session. Mr. Chidester seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Armentrout asked for a motion to certify that only matters permitted under §2.23711. A.1 of the Code of Virginia were discussed directed specifically at the hiring of Superintendent.

Motion: Mr. Sweet moved to certify the closed session discussion. Mr. Turman seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously

Chairman Armentrout said Ms. Kimberly Haug is the candidate recommended by the Personnel Committee. He asked if there was a motion to authorize Chairman Armentrout and the Personnel Committee to negotiate with and offer the position to Ms. Haug. Sheriff Foster asked if we could possibly meet again at a later date for a vote. Sheriff Craig said that he and the committee are very confident in the choice but we would do whatever the Authority feels most comfortable with. The decision was made that at the end of today's meeting we would just recess then reconvene on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 10:00 am.

Motion: Mr. Sweet made the motion for Chairman Armentrout and the Personnel Committee to negotiate with Ms. Haug and make a conditional offer then present it for a vote at the May 26, 2022 meeting. Sheriff Craig seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Winston gave today's headcount as 777. Our prisoner forecast for the year is 834 and our ADP for last month was 842. DOC is taking all the state responsible inmates possible out of the regional jails all across the Commonwealth. He asked the members that as they speak with their senators & delegates to remind them that not every business model supports getting all of the inmates out to prisons and there is a reason for them to stay in regional jails. He's looking for some sheriffs outside our jurisdictions for prisoners to house. Unfortunately, the ones that need housing, are on the eastern part of the state so it isn't convenient to bring them. All of the Henry County inmates have gone to the new jail they've built and we expect to lose the remaining Martinsville inmates soon.

Proclamation:

We would like to thank Bland County for recognizing our staff with a Proclamation for National Correctional Officers week. Also, we purchased our staff t-shirts to commemorate the occasion.

HR:

Superintendent Winston updated the Authority on an excessive use of force incident involving two employees. This was an independent investigation by the VSP. One officer has been terminated and the second officer is currently on administrative suspension without pay. Charges have now been filed and warrants were served on both individuals. He will keep the board posted as this matter progresses.

Our nurse practitioner and our doctor resigned a few months back but we were able to contract those positions with the private healthcare provider that is handling our psychiatric services.

Commissary Contract:

We awarded our commissary contract to the incumbent which is Oasis. We negotiated the commissary rates and a copy will be given to Mr. Durbin to review and sign. No board action is necessary as we discussed it at the last meeting.

Water Issues:

We did a \$5.4 million performance contracting project and put in a lot of domestic cold water improvements. Currently we are Dublin's largest customer for cold water and have been working with the Dublin town manager on some issues with water pressure. About a week or so ago, while some pipe work in town was being done a large water main leak was found. When this was repaired, it pushed our pressure up to 80psi which caused a lot of our valves to fail. At this time, the town is reluctant to provide us with a pressure reducing valve but we're going to have to do this or it will destroy all of the plumbing we've just completed. Superintendent Winston will keep the Authority posted on the progress.

Food Service Contract:

Our food service contract will be expiring soon. The original contract gave us the ability for a 3-year contract plus (2) 1-year renewals but did not prohibit us from extending that contract by mutual agreement of both parties. This just isn't the time for us to go out to RFP for a commodity like food because of the market and inflation. It's Superintendent Winston's recommendation that we extend the food service contract as written for one additional year with the caveat that it will then go out to the marketplace. There will be some CPI increase in accordance with the contract but we have budgeted for it.

Motion: Sheriff Foster made the motion to allow Superintendent Winston to extend the food service contract for one year as written with the caveat that it will go out to the marketplace for bid next year. Sheriff Craig seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously

Employee Health Insurance:

We have been diligently working with USI regarding employee health insurance. The original quote from our current provider Aetna proposed a 40% increase so the decision was made to go out to the marketplace. We negotiated with three vendors: Aetna, Anthem and Cigna. At the end of negotiations, we felt the best choice was to go back with our current health insurance vendor Aetna. They proposed a 21% increase for this year and a 16% rate cap for next year. We've budgeted for this increase for this year and this will also give the board stability for next year as

well. We will be getting the documents over to our attorney for his review. Superintendent Winston asked for board approval to move forward with Aetna once the contract is approved by council.

Motion: Mr. Workman made the motion to allow Superintendent Winston to move forward with Aetna once reviewed/approved by Mr. Durbin. Sheriff Worrell seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously

Inmate Information:

Superintendent Winston updated the group on two inmate deaths. The first was an intoxicated inmate who we picked from a jurisdiction. As the transportation officer was nearing the jail the inmate fell quiet. The driver then alerted the jail to have medical care on standby. When he was brought into sallyport having a medical emergency. He was treated by our medical staff and given CPR. He was then sent by EMS to the hospital where he later died. Any death that occurs in custody is reviewed by the Board of Local and Regional Jail's—Jail Review Committee. This went before the review committee two months ago and their findings were that we were not in compliance with the standard that covers 24-hour medical--which in fact we do. Superintendent Winston wrote a lengthy response to their allegation to the Board of Local and Regional Jail. The Board met again this past Thursday and Superintendent Winston argued our compliance before them. After speaking with the board and also the death investigator, the board has reset their view and found that we are not out of compliance with any of the standard. They meet again next Wednesday to finalize the matter.

Since the last board meeting, we had a very sad inmate death. This was the state responsible inmate with end stage liver cancer that we have tried diligently to get him sent to DOC. He had been hospitalized for some time but had recently been sent back to the jail under hospice care.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Budget:

Superintendent Winston said we were able to put together a budget that did not raise the per diems which will remain at \$28.65 with a forecasted ADP of 834. Budget highlights were some decreases in revenues for localities because of the forecast reduction. There is also a new line item for inmate telephone income. We negotiated a contract with the inmate telephone vendor that provides \$1 million a year up front in telephone commissions. It also provides us with an "out" in case something in the market drastically changes and they can't pay us the \$1 million dollars due to us. This year there are several laws proposed in the legislature to eliminate or reduce fees and commission for inmates such as capping commissary revenue. All commissary money goes directly to benefit the inmates. Some jails collect fees such as \$1-\$2 a day per inmate however we don't do that. There were several iterations of this law that was put forth before the House of Delegates and the Senate. The Board of Local and Regional Jails has established a work group that will make recommendations for the reduction, cap or eliminations of fees and commissions. This work group is made up of The Virginia Assoc. of Regional Jails, the Virginia Sheriff's Association, the Virginia Assoc. Chiefs of Police and the rest of the members are established by the legislature.

Superintendent Winston updated the group of the impact that a possible reduction or elimination of fees would have on the jail and the jail's budget. He encouraged each of the members to contact their delegates and senators to take note and oppose this bill in every way possible.

There is an increase of revenue from the state. This is made up slightly by health insurance and an increase in cost for personnel. Even though the legislature hasn't come together to pass the budget, we're expecting the starting salary to go to \$42,000. This will create some compression issues that will need to be addressed.

He pointed out a few increases/reductions: Down to \$65,000 in payment for pre-existing conditions for inmates, a reduction in domestic cold water and electricity, gas due to energy savings performance contracting. We added some money into vehicles into an Enterprise contract to deal with and replace our vehicles.

Last year's Fiscal Year's budget was \$23,373,188 and this year's budget will be \$23,903,300 with a net increase of \$530,112.

Motion: Mr. Workman made the motion to adopt FY23 proposed budget as presented. Sheriff Kemp seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously

H. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

I. OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Chairman Armentrout said the last item on the agenda is the nomination for election of officers. Mr. Workman said he was currently on so many boards and really needs to back away from the Treasurer position if possible. Mr. Chidester said he would be willing to stay on as Vice-Chairman and Chairman Armentrout said he would be stepping down as Chairman at the end of this term. Chairman Armentrout asked if there were any nominations for any of these positions.

Hearing none, Chairman Armentrout said we would begin with Treasurer and asked if there were any nominations for that position. Attorney Durbin reminded the group that the Bylaws were updated a few years back so that members and alternates can serve in the position of Treasurer.

Motion: Mr. Workman nominated Mr. Jonathan Sweet to serve as Treasurer. Mr. Hankins seconded the nomination.

Chairman Armentrout asked if there were any nominations to serve as Chairman. Hearing none, Chairman Armentrout said that Mr. Chidester had said that he would be willing to serve for 1 year if nominated and elected.

Motion: Sheriff Foster nominated Mr. Richard Chidester to serve as Chairman. Sheriff Millirons seconded the nomination.

Chairman Armentrout said with Mr. Chidester nominated for Chairman that we would now need to elect a Vice Chair.

Motion: Sheriff Millirons nominated Sheriff Michael Worrell to serve as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Turman seconded the nomination.

Attorney Durbin clarified that this was a roll call vote on the following slate of nominations.

- Chairman: Richard Chidester
- Vice-Chairman: Sheriff Michael Worrell
- Treasurer: Jonathan Sweet

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Armentrout asked for motion to adjourn.

Motion: Sheriff Millirons made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Workman seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Armentrout recessed the meeting at 12:25 pm and the Authority will reconvene on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 10:00 am.

Chairman Mark A. Armentrout

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