

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY
September 8, 2023
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 10:03 a.m. by Chairman Richard Chidester.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carroll County:	Mr. Martin
Floyd County:	Sheriff Craig
Giles County:	Mr. Chidester
Grayson County:	Mr. Smith
Pulaski County:	Sheriff Worrell
Radford City:	Mr. Fleisher
Wythe County:	Mr. Vaught

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Bland County:	Ch. Dep. Mustard
Grayson County:	Ch. Dep. Hash
Wythe County:	Major Cline

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:

Superintendent Kimberly D. Haug
Dep. Superintendent Chris Loan
Mr. Steve Durbin-Sands, Anderson, Marks & Miller
Tonya Akers, Tim Clark—NRVRJ
Citizens: Archie Morgan, Phil Vickers, Phil DeFrancisco,
Stuart Saegart

Chairman Chidester welcomed everyone and asked the secretary to call the roll.

B. ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Akers called roll and reported a quorum with seven (7) members and three (3) alternates present.

C. APPROVAL OF JULY 2023 MINUTES:

Copies of the July Minutes were mailed to each member. Chairman Chidester asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes as presented.

Motion: Mr. Vaught made the motion to approve the July minutes as presented. Sheriff Worrell seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Superintendent Haug updated the group on the door project. The contractors are moving right along at around 40% complete which is tracking right on schedule.

E. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Copies of the monthly financials were passed out to the members present. In Mr. Sweet's absence, Director of Finance Tim Clark presented the Finance Committee report. Mr. Chidester asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the report. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the report as presented.

Motion: Mr. Fleisher made the motion to approved the Financial Report as presented. Sheriff Craig seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Project Update:

As discussed earlier, the door project is tracking 40% complete and the camera project is 75% complete. The two vendors are working together since the camera software helps open/shut the doors and keeps them operating as they should. The Guard1 electronic round project has yet to start but we hope to begin that mid to late October.

Personnel:

This is the first time in a year that we've had more employees leave then we hired. This was primarily due to some employees leaving for medical reasons and we had two retirements.

Mr. Vaught asked if the state budget getting passed affected the regional jail. He assumed that the jail was included. Superintendent Haug said yes that we were included and this had been discussed in today's Finance meeting. Mr. Chidester said there was \$7.6 million in the budget to address compression for deputies and regional jail officers. Mr. Vaught added that there were no details. Mr. Chidester said there's probably some details in there but he's only seen a blurb that was given out. He said there was a per diem increase from \$4 to \$5 but that's all he's seen so far. The budget was just passed this week and we hope to have more details soon.

Mr. Chidester added that we lost our Medical Director to another place of employment. A concerted effort to try to retain her but we were grossly outbid. We're currently advertising for her replacement but Ms. Ferguson is willing to provide some assistance to us from time to time as needed.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

H. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Chidester said we have four citizens present who in the past served as chaplains here at the jail and would like to address the board. Mr. Archie Morgan, Mr. Phil Vickers, Mr. Phil DeFrancisco and Mr.

Stuart Saegart each gave summaries of their backgrounds, brief histories of religious classes/bible studies they've provided in the past and their desire to be permitted to come back to continue serving at the jail. Mr. Vickers added that they would like to work with Chaplain Johnson and be part of his chaplain crew.

Mr. Smith asked if this service was stopped due to Covid. Superintendent Haug said yes and the previous administration had hired a paid chaplain- Pastor Ritchie Johnson. The Superintendent told the group a little about her background with her degree being in Christian Ministry. She said that no one has ever questioned their hearts for the ministry, what they've done in the past or what they want to do in the future. We invite them to come back to provide ministry in the jail but it will look a little bit different. Due to staffing, we're slowly bringing programs back a little at a time. We've currently brought back GED, substance abuse, Va Cares and Reentry. Ministry is still happening onsite for our inmates. The Gideons are still coming since they were here before we started the Chaplain Corp program plus Pastor Johnson is here.

Superintendent Haug loves the idea of the bible study program but it would have to be done a little differently and would be run through the Chaplaincy Program. That program will consist of four chaplains including Pastor Johnson. They are currently going through extensive training and will oversee all of the volunteers. Due to a change in laws and codes, this has to be organized and coordinated. We hope to get this program kicked off in January 2024

Mr. Smith gave a success story of someone in their community who had been in and out of the jail system due to a drug addiction. In one of his many jail stays, the man had made a change in his life and found Christ. He said that this gentleman was proof that these programs do work.

Superintendent Haug said she just wants this program to be successful but it will take some preparation. She believes in everything that they do and we definitely want them back in but need for them to work out the logistics with Pastor Johnson.

On behalf of the jail, Mr. Chidester thanked the citizens for everything they've done and want to continue to do. It is a valuable service for the inmates, correctional officers and everyone at the jail. Their service is appreciated and he believes it would be a good idea to have an informal meeting with the Pastor to discuss how this is all going to work.

(Following the meeting, Mrs. Akers collected each of the citizens' contact information and forwarded it to Pastor Johnson to coordinate a meeting. The group met on Friday, September 29, 2023.

I. OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

The next Authority meeting date of November 10, 2023 falls on the Veterans Day holiday so an alternate meeting needs to be selected. Mr. Chidester asked for a motion from the floor to choose a date.

Motion: Mr. Fleisher made the motion to move the November meeting to November 17, 2023. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

J. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Motion: Sheriff Worrell made the motion to adjourn the meeting.
 Mr. Vaught seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Chairman Richard Chidester