



MIDDLE RIVER REGIONAL JAIL

Serving Staunton, Waynesboro, Harrisonburg and
the Counties of Augusta and Rockingham

March 4, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Augusta County Government Center
18 Government Center Lane
Verona Virginia 24482

1. CALL TO ORDER

Upon determination of a quorum, Mr. Banks, Chairman, called the March 4, 2025, Middle River Regional Jail Authority Board meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Members Present:

Alexander Banks, VI, Harrisonburg City Manager (Chairman)
Casey Anthony, Rockingham County Administrator
Timothy Fitzgerald, Augusta County Administrator
Michael G. Hamp, Waynesboro City Manager
Leslie Beauregard, Staunton City Manager (Vice Chairperson)
Jennifer Whetzel, Augusta County Assistant Administrator
Patricia Davidson, Rockingham County Administrator for Finance and Operations
Larry Propst, Harrisonburg City Finance Director
Cameron McCormick, Waynesboro Assistant City Manager/Finance
Chris Hartless, Staunton City Sheriff
Bryan Hutchenson, Rockingham County Sheriff
Gina Chandler, Proxy for Jessie Moyers, Staunton City Chief Financial Officer

Members Absent:

Donald Smith, Augusta County Sheriff
Christopher Johnson, Waynesboro City Sheriff
Jessie Moyers, Staunton City Chief Financial Officer

Facility Staff:

Eric Young, Superintendent, Middle River Regional Jail
Tony Heflin, Deputy Superintendent, Middle River Regional Jail
Phillip Braverman, Finance Director, Middle River Regional Jail
Amanda Lamb, Clerk, Middle River Regional Jail

Others Present:

Duane Barron, Public Defender

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2024, meeting. Mr. Hartless seconded the motion. **Approval was unanimous. Gina Chandler declined to vote.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Barron introduced himself. He informed everyone how MRRJ is very good by making sure attorney visits continue during lockdown but that he has spoken to the Colonel about how to make phone calls to and from inmates an option during lockdown.

4. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

No comments were made.

5. FINANCE REPORT

A. FY 2025 Finance Report

- Mr. Braverman reviewed the year-to-date budget. The budget is tracking solidly through to the 8th month of 2025. Personnel expenditure has been under budget due to the number of vacancies.

B. FY 2026 Budget-

- Mr. Braverman reviewed the 2026 Operating Budget. Vacant positions have been budgeted for at full-year cost. No new positions have been requested. There are 25 Emergency Officer positions that remain on hold. The State budget includes a 3% pay increase in addition to a 1.5% bonus, we budgeted for a 4% pay increase for full-time employees with at least one year of service as of July 1, 2025, and a 3% pay increase for all other employees in addition to the 1.5% bonus for staff. The FY 2026 budget is a 3.3 % increase from 2025.

A motion was made by Jennifer Whetzel to approve the FY 2026 Budget, Patricia Davidson seconded the motion. **Approval was unanimous.**

C. FY 2026 Capital Improvement Plan

- MRRJ is seeking approval for the FY2026 CIP projects in the form of a budget amendment to the FY 2025 Operating Budget. We are requesting to utilize vacancy saving monies that have translated into unrestricted net position to fund one-time expenditures in the CIP. MRRJ is asking for a \$1.95 MM budget amendment to the FY 25 budget to allow for the additional time needed to work on the current projects. The CIP projects include the replacement of the Generator - \$600,000, three (3) Air Handler Units - \$550,000, and the Building Automation System - \$800,000.

A motion was made by Patricia Davidson to approve the FY 2026 CIPPI in the form of a FY25 budget amendment, Jennifer Whetzel seconded the motion. **Approval was unanimous.**

D. CY 2025-27 Jail Based Substance Use Grant

MRRJ was awarded \$30,800 to use from 1/1/25-12/31/2027. It will allow us to purchase 843 workbooks/journals and other supplies for inmate programs. The grant will also enable the jail to give Narcan to eligible inmates upon release.

Timothy Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Jail Based Substance Use Grant, Leslie Beauregard seconded the motion. **Approval was unanimous.**

6. REPORTS AND BRIEFING

- **Population Report** – (Executive Summary #2025-03) Lt. Colonel Heflin reviewed the Executive Summary. The Department of Corrections continues to take inmates, although at a slightly slower rate than in 2024. During January, 32 inmates were transferred to DOC, and in February

22 were taken. Today's population is 582.

- **Community Corrections Report** – (Executive Summary #2025-04) Lt. Colonel Heflin reviewed the Executive Summary. There are 7 offenders on HEI.
- **Staff Vacancy Report** –(Attachment) At this time there are 15 officer and 2 nurse vacancies.
- **Programs Report** – (Executive Summary Report #2025-05) Lt. Colonel Heflin reviewed. An Art class is now being offered to inmates. Classes will be in groups of 10, with the group attending 2 sessions. Inmates will be allowed to go through the program more than once.
- **Mental Health Report**- (Executive Summary Report #2025-06) Lt. Colonel reviewed. They continue to look for ways to grow to help inmates receive mental health services. Future services include mental health resources on tablets, jail-based substance abuse counseling, and more training for staff.
- **Superintendent's Report** – The Colonel spoke about the FCC legality and that a lot of legislation was presented on pregnant females, most of which were tabled. One that was argued against and not won was that you cannot use restraints on a pregnant female. The Governor put out an executive order for jails and law enforcement to assist ICE with illegal immigrants. We have always worked with ICE and followed the federal and local laws and will continue to do that. We would like to thank the board for their support with the 2026 budget and for giving staff a bonus. It is appreciated.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

- No old business to discuss.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- No new business to discuss.

With nothing further to discuss, a motion was made by Timothy Fitzgerald to conclude the meeting, Leslie Beauregard seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**The next Authority Board meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.
Location: Augusta County Government Center South Board Room.**



Alexander Banks, VI, Chairman