



MIDDLE RIVER REGIONAL JAIL

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

February 2, 2021 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. King, Chairman, called the February 2, 2021 Middle River Regional Jail Authority Board meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Members Present:

Stephen King, Rockingham County Administrator (Chairman)
Steven Rosenberg, Staunton City Manager (Vice Chairman)
Timothy Fitzgerald, Augusta County Administrator
Michael G. Hamp, Waynesboro City Manager
Eric Campbell, Harrisonburg City Manager
Cameron McCormick, Waynesboro City Finance Director
Phillip Trayer, Staunton City Finance Director
Larry Propst, Harrisonburg City Finance Director
Patricia Davidson, Rockingham County Finance Director
Misty Cook, Finance Director, Augusta County Finance Director
Gabriel Camacho (Harrisonburg Interim Chief of Police)
Bryan Hutcheson, Rockingham County Sheriff
Donald Smith, Augusta County Sheriff
Joe Harris, Waynesboro City Sheriff
Matt Robertson, Staunton City Sheriff

Members Absent:

Jennifer Whetzel, Augusta Assistant County Administrator

Facility Staff:

Jeffery Newton, CJM, Superintendent, Middle River Regional Jail
Eric Young, Director of Operations, Middle River Regional Jail
Lori Nicholson, Director of Support Services, Middle River Regional Jail
Jeannie Colvin, Finance Director, Middle River Regional Jail
Tina Reed, Recorder, Middle River Regional Jail

Others Present:

Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel, Middle River Regional Jail Authority (via Webex)
Leslie Powell, Chief of Security, Middle River Regional Jail
Todd Lloyd, Chief of Operations, Middle River Regional Jail
George "Tony" Heflin, Chief of Support Services, Middle River Regional Jail
Regina Chestnut, Chief of Medical, Middle River Regional Jail
Captain Jimmy L. Wimer, Rockingham County
Tyler Moses, IT, Middle River Regional Jail
Ted Cole, Davenport (via Webex)
Steve Morris, Citizen
Danny Link, Citizen
Gabriel Curry, Citizen
Randi Hagy, Citizen
Logan Roddy, Citizen
Tracy Stover, Citizen
Anna Cabbage, Citizen
Approximately 15 citizens attended via Webex

2. RECOGNITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AWARDS, AND RETIREMENTS

None at this time.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2020 meeting. Mr. Fitzgerald seconded the motion. Approval was **unanimous**.

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2021 Work Session. Mr. Fitzgerald seconded the motion. Approval was **unanimous**.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. King wants everyone to be aware that no decisions will be made today regarding expansion. Mr. Newton is meeting with locality Boards and Councils. Any decision on expansion must pass through several steps before a decision is made.

Several members of the public spoke voicing concerns regarding the potential expansion of the jail.

5. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS OR LEGAL COUNSEL

None at this time.

6. FINANCE REPORT

- a. **Finance Report** – Ms. Colvin asked the Board for questions regarding the Finance Report in the meeting packet. There were no questions.
- b. **FY 2021 Budget** – Ms. Colvin reviewed. \$589,000.00 of CARES funding has been spent to date.
- c. **FY 2022 Budget** – Ms. Colvin reviewed. A 5% COLA increase will be partially offset by the position upgrades funded by the Compensation Board. Also includes bed rental for 100

inmates at \$55.00 per day/per inmate creating a \$1.7 million increase. There was discussion regarding positions and bed rentals. Mr. Newton informed the Board that Covid 19 has changed the operation of the jail. Beds must be available for isolation purposes in order to reduce the likelihood of Covid 19 being re-introduced to the jail. Mr. Newton explained that the offenders being sent out for bed rental are fully sentenced. This cuts down on transportation costs for courts, etc. At this time MRRJ is operating at 200% capacity. Mr. King encourages the Finance Committee as well as fellow Board members to tour the facility. The Finance Committee will be meeting on March 2, 2021 to discuss the proposed FY '22 budget.

7. REPORTS AND BRIEFING

Major Young reviewed the following reports:

- a. **Population Report** – As of February 2, 2021, there are a total of 838 offenders being housed by MRRJ.
- b. **Community Corrections Report** – Report reviewed and discussed. As of February 2,
- c. 2021 there are 62 offenders on HEI and 24 offenders on HEM. Home Electronic Incarceration offenders maintain jobs in the community. Home Electronic Monitoring are bonds through the courts.
- d. **Staff Vacancy Report** – Reviewed. At this time there are 31 Officer vacancies. 18 of the vacant positions are from the November 1, 2020 Emergency Jail Officer positions from the Compensation Board. A job fair was planned for December 2020; however, due to Covid 19 it was cancelled. There are also 3 Nursing vacancies.
- e. **Superintendent's Report** –
 - COVID-19 update - At this time we working in collaboration with the VHD on several issues. Most recently we have not tested staff and inmates for two weeks due to only one offender testing positive at the last testing. As soon as the vaccine is available it will be offered to staff. At this time there is not a known date to vaccinate offenders who may wish to get the vaccine.
 - Operationally court transports, visitation and programs will be restarting. We are working to slowly return to normal operations.
- f. **Programs Report** – Major Nicholson reviewed the Programs Report. Program numbers are down due to the closing of programs due to Covid 19. Numbers will begin to increase as we re-start programs.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Jail Expansion** - Mr. Newton introduced Ted Cole with Davenport Financial. Mr. Cole and his team have been working on funding for housing, renovations and Mental Health Services.

Mr. Cole presented the Board several different options for funding of the expansion. He reviewed long and short debt options. The project will depend on whether it receives General Assembly approval for 25%. A discussion was held on overcrowding, options if no money is allotted for the project, what type of funding is best for the Board. The Board would like further guidance before proceeding.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

10. CLOSED SESSION


There was not a closed session held.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business before the Authority Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The next Authority Board meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Augusta County Government Center Smith Board Room West.



Stephen King, Chairman