



# MIDDLE RIVER REGIONAL JAIL

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

January 25, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Finance Committee Meeting  
350 Technology Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

## Finance Committee Members:

Jennifer Whetzel, Augusta County Assistant Administrator  
Cameron McCormick, Waynesboro City Finance Director  
Larry Propst, Harrisonburg City Finance Director  
Phillip Trayer, Staunton City Finance Director  
Patricia Davidson, Rockingham County Finance Director (via Webex)

## Facility Staff:

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

Mr. Newton welcomed everyone.

1. **Approval of Minutes November 16, 2021:** Mr. Propst made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2021 meeting. Mr. McCormick seconded the motion. Approval was **unanimous**.
2. **Review of Proposed FY2023 Budget:**  
Ms. Colvin reviewed the FY23 proposed budget with the committee. Legislatures are looking at a proposed salary increase to \$42,000 as starting pay for jail officers. Pay compression is not included in this bill that is under review. This would increase the budget. Page 14 of the proposed budget specifies the changes that would be needed. As well as the legislative bill on salaries the following could be factors in the upcoming budget: Mental Health funding could be partially cut. This may be the FY 24 budget. We will need to anticipate that the Mental Health grant will be funded. Overtime has increased by 5% due to staff vacancies. At this time, we are using vacancy savings to cover. The VRS rate did decrease as well as health insurance. The contract for the physicians increased by 7%. Highland County will not be considered a member and a new bed rental contribution with them will be based on a three-year calculation.



**3. Renovation Project:**

Mr. Newton informed the committee that the renovation project would need to be reconsidered. Due to the project not providing any additional beds and the increase in numbers that are coming in to both Middle River and Rockingham Jails. In three years, we will need additional beds. Mr. Newton is requesting that the project be delayed as it will not fix the existing problem. We will need to plan to work on the hot water and lighting. Will discuss at the Board meeting.

**4. Operational update from Superintendent:**

- Population—Department of Corrections is not consistently intaking out of compliance inmates as well as staffing issues resulting in bed rental increases.
- COVID—We are consistently making operational changes based on CDC guidance. There is an issue with receiving test kits so we are treating symptoms until this issue is corrected.
- Bed rentals—RSW housing 35 males and 5 females and Southside is housing 15 males. New arrests, staff shortage are all issues we are struggling with each day.

**5. FY2022 Finance Committee Meeting Schedule:**

Tuesday, March 15, 2022	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17, 2022	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 19, 2022	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 20, 2022	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 22, 2022	2:00 p.m.

**The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2022 at 2:00 pm**

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Secretary



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