



MIDDLE RIVER REGIONAL JAIL

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

April 6, 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 April 6, 2021 Middle River Regional Jail Authority Board meeting to order at 2:10 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
Jennifer Whetzel, Augusta Assistant County Administrator
Bryan Hutcheson, Rockingham County Sheriff
Donald Smith, Augusta County Sheriff
Matt Robertson, Staunton City Sheriff (Virtual)

Members Absent:

Gabriel Camacho, Harrisonburg Interim Chief of Police
Joe Harris, Waynesboro City Sheriff

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:

Roger Wiley, Legal Counsel, Middle River Regional Jail Authority
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
Wyatt Brown, Lieutenant of Support Services, Middle River Regional Jail
Captain Jimmy L. Wimer, Rockingham County
Misty Cook, Augusta County Finance Director
Tyler Moses, IT, Middle River Regional Jail
John Hood, WHSV
Jessica Wetzler, DNR
Tracy Stover, Citizen
Nitch Narduzzi, Citizen
Calvin Pynn, Citizen
Randi Hagy, Citizen
Hannah Wittmer, Citizen
Manuel Vasquez, Citizen
Danny Link, Citizen
Anna Cabbage, Citizen
Boris Ozuna, 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 February 2, 2021 meeting. 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, as well as several citizens virtually spoke voicing concerns regarding the potential expansion of the jail.

5. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS OR LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. Hamp stated he may need to leave early for a budget meeting.

6. FINANCE REPORT

- a. **FY 2021 Update** – Ms. Colvin noted that overtime is up due to lack of staffing; Maintenance and Repairs is up, 90% of budget used. HVAC bid was sent out today.
- b. **Finance Report** -Ms. Colvin asked if there were questions regarding the Finance Report in the meeting packet. There were no questions.
- c. **FY 2022 Proposed Budget** – Ms. Colvin reviewed. Ten vacant officer positions have been placed on hold. A 5% COLA increase will be partially offset by the position upgrades funded

by the Compensation Board. Also includes bed rental for 50 inmates at \$55.00 per day/per inmate resulting in a \$1.7 million increase for the locality contributions. There was discussion regarding positions and bed rentals. The Compensation Board has approved a 5% pay increase effective July 1, 2021. \$95,000.00 would be the locality contribution share for the FY 22 pay increase. Ms. Whetzel made a motion to accept the FY 22 budget of \$25,375,820.00 with the caveat that staffing would be reviewed before January 1, 2022. Mr. Hamp seconded the motion. **There were twelve affirmative votes and one dissenting vote.** Mr. King thanked the Finance Committee for the hard work to get a budget prepared.

7. REPORTS AND BRIEFING

Major Young reviewed the following reports:

- a. **Population Report** – As of April 6, 2021, there are a total of 801 offenders being housed by MRRJ. 44 inmates have been moved to the Department of Corrections.
- b. **Community Corrections Report** – Report reviewed and discussed. As of April 6, 2021 there are 87 offenders on HEI and 54 offenders on HEM. Home Electronic Incarceration offenders maintain jobs in the community. Home Electronic Monitoring are bonds through the courts.
- c. **Staff Vacancy Report** – Reviewed. At this time there are 24 Officer vacancies. 10 of the vacant positions are placed on hold. There are also 3 Nursing vacancies. Mr. Newton informed the Board that a job fair is planned for Saturday, April 10, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- d. **Superintendent's Report** –
 - COVID-19 update – Approximately 40% of staff have been vaccinated. 48% of inmates have been vaccinated.
 - Changes have been made to the intake process to keep the virus out if possible.
 - Operationally court transports, visitation and programs have restarted.
 - Staff are rapid tested weekly.
- e. **Programs Report** – Major Nicholson reviewed the Programs Report. Programs are resuming and numbers will begin to go back up.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to go into closed session; seconded by Mr. Hamp. The vote of the Authority members to go into closed session was **unanimous**.

Middle River Regional Jail Authority Board entered closed session pursuant to:

- **The legal exemption under Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(7)**
Advise of legal counsel regarding potential litigation

CLOSED SESSION (cont.)

Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to go out of closed session; seconded by Ms. Whetzel. All ayes to certify only discussion of legal advice regarding potential litigation was discussed.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Stephen King (Chairman)	Aye
Timothy Fitzgerald	Aye
Steve Rosenberg	Aye
Mike Hamp	Aye
Eric Campbell	Aye
Jennifer Whetzel	Aye
Patricia Davidson	Aye
Larry Propst	Aye
Cameron McCormick	Aye
Phillip Trayer	Aye
Bryan Hutcheson	Aye
Donald Smith	Aye

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business before the Authority Board, Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Rosenberg. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The next Authority Board meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Augusta County Government Center Smith Board Room West.



Stephen King, Chairman