



# MIDDLE RIVER REGIONAL JAIL

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

April 5, 2022 2:02 p.m.

Augusta County Government Center  
18 Government Center Lane  
Verona Virginia 24482

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Upon determination of a quorum, Mr. Hamp, Chairman, called the February 1, 2022 Middle River Regional Jail Authority Board meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### Members Present:

Michael G. Hamp, Waynesboro City Manager (Chairman)  
Stephen King, Rockingham County Administrator (Vice Chairman)  
Timothy Fitzgerald, Augusta County Administrator  
Leslie Beauregard, Staunton City Manager  
Ande Banks, Acting Harrisonburg City Manager  
Jennifer Whetzel, Augusta County Assistant Administrator  
Cameron McCormick, Waynesboro City Finance Director  
Phillip Trayer, Staunton City Finance Director  
Larry Propst, Harrisonburg City Finance Director  
Patricia Davidson, Rockingham County Finance Director  
Bryan Hutcheson, Rockingham County Sheriff  
Christopher Johnson, Waynesboro City Sheriff  
Chris Hartless, Staunton City Sheriff  
Kelly Warner, Harrisonburg City Police Chief

### Members Absent:

Donald Smith, Augusta County Sheriff

### Facility Staff:

Jeffery Newton, CJM, 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  
Jeff Gore, MRRJA Legal Counsel (via video)  
Suzette Anthony, Assistant Recorder, Middle River Regional Jail

**Others Present:**

Tyler Moses, IT, MRRJ  
Pete DeLea, IT, MRRJ  
Wyatt Brown, Captain of Support Services, MRRJ  
John Lilly, Director of Programs, MRRJ  
Misty Cook, Augusta County Finance Director  
Faye McCauley, Legal Liaison, MRRJ  
Hannah Whitmore, Reporter, The Breeze  
Jimmy Wimer, Captain, Rockingham County Sheriff's Department  
Peter Boatner, Attorney Staunton

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. King made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2022 meeting. Mr. Trayer seconded the motion. Approval was **unanimous**.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments were made.

**4. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS OR LEGAL COUNSEL**

- Mr. Hamp thanked Mr. King for the smooth transition between them as Chairman.
- Mr. Newton introduced Wyatt Brown, CJM for his promotion to Captain of Support Services.

**5. FINANCE REPORT**

- FY 2022 Budget Review** – Ms. Colvin stated that the FY 22 is in line. Overtime at this time is \$51,000. She also stated the professional services contracts for bond counsel and financial advisor have been paid causing the professional services budget line to be over budget.
- FY 2023 Proposed Operating Budget** – Ms. Colvin reviewed the proposed FY 2023 budget with the Board. The FY2023 Budget includes the Jail Operations Fund \$27,480,370, the Grants Fund \$288,392, and the Capital Improvements Fund \$1,500,000. The total budget proposed is \$29,268,762.
  - Minimum Officer salary increase to \$42,000 July 1, 2022 as required by the Compensation Board.
  - Proposed a 7% pay increase for all staff. This will help with recruitment and will also alleviate compression.
  - \$100 per year service credit for officers (MRRJ service only) as required by the compensation board.
  - The FY 2023 Budget proposes 2 nurses, 1 part-time teacher (funded by inmate accounts).
  - Mr. Trayer asked questions about the need for 2 new nursing positions since there is no longer a plan for expansion. Are the 2 additional positions needed? Mr. Newton does not recommend reducing nursing staff. The staff is not adequate to handle the population that we currently have 24 hours/ 7days a week. Recruiting nurses is a problem. Nurses are vital to the health and safety of the care of inmates.
  - Mr. Newton reviewed housing. DOC has not returned to a regular transfer of inmates out of MRRJ. Political pressure has seen them remove more inmates than normal. At this

time, we do not plan to bring inmates back that are being held at other jails. If the DOC does not come up with an intake process, we will be back in the same situation within 90 days.

- Mr. Hamp asked about the CIP Fund. Ms. Colvin explained the \$1.5 million is approved from the jails fund balance to establish the CIP Fund per the net position policy approved last year.
- Ms. Davidson moved to adopt the FY2023 Budget, Mr. Fitzgerald Seconded. Ms. Beauregard and Mr. Trayer voted no. FY '23 budget passed by majority vote.

## 6. REPORTS AND BRIEFING

- **Population Report** – (Executive Summary #2022-012) Lt. Colonel Young reviewed the Executive Summary. As of March 28, 2022, there are a total of 644 offenders being housed by MRRJ in-house. We are housing 38 at RSW Regional Jail, 18 at Southside Regional Jail, and 8 at Western Virginia Regional Jail. Lt. Colonel Young recognized Sheriff Hartless and Sheriff Smith for their help with the Transportation of the inmates to the other facilities.
- **Community Corrections Report** – (Executive Summary #2022-011) Lt. Colonel Young reviewed the Executive Summary. As of March 28, 2022 there are 43 offenders on HEI/HEM.
- **Male Residential Work Release is set to restart on April 11, 2022.**
  - 80 Inmates were selected to be reviewed based on the Jail's criteria. After each Inmate's criminal history was reviewed 42 were sent to Jail Administration for approval. A total of 31 Inmates were sent to their respective Commonwealth Attorneys for approval. Following Commonwealth Attorney's approval, each inmate is sent to their respect Courts for approval and then VADOC if needed. As of now MRRJ has had 13 of 42 approved for Male Residential Work Release. Of the 13, 3 inmates refused, two inmates have release dates before the program begins, and two were disapproved by VADOC. MRRJ has a total of 7 Inmates completely approved for Male Residential Work Release.
- **Staff Vacancy Report** –(Attachment) At this time there are 28 officer and 5 nurse vacancies. At this time, we can safely cover through schedule adjustments, overtime, etc. All daily functions are being completed.
- **Programs Report** – (Executive Summary Report #2022-013) Reviewed by Major Nicholson. Only one notable change is that the Therapy Dog program will resume mid-April.
- **Superintendent's Report** – (Executive Summary Report #2022-015) Superintendent Newton reviewed the Executive Summary
  - Middle River Regional Jail has not experienced any significant positive cases of COVID-19 in MRRJ in the inmate population in the last couple of weeks. MRRJ staff continue to monitor the situation.
  - MRRJ has not experienced any significant positive cases of COVID-19 in MRRJ staff in the last couple of weeks.
  - MRRJ is hosting a visit from the Board of Local and Regional Jails for 3-year audit starting April 4, 2022.
  - As noted in previous communication, MRRJ has moved a significant number of inmates to VADOC in the last 10 days. MRRJ is housing male inmates at RSW Regional Jail, Southside Regional Jail and Western Virginia Regional Jail.
  - Residential male work release scheduled to start April 11, 2022.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business to discuss.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. King made a motion to go into closed session; seconded by Chief Warner. Ms. Cook will set in for Mr. Fitzgerald for the rest of the meeting. The vote of the Authority members to go into closed session was **unanimous**.

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

- The legal exemption under Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1) Personnel Exemption.

Mr. King made a motion to go out of closed session; Seconded by Ms. Whetzel. All ayes certify only discussion of personnel exemption was discussed.

Roll Call vote as Follows:

Misty Cook; Setting in for Timothy Fitzgerald	Aye
Jennifer Whetzel	Aye
Stephen King	Aye
Patricia Davidson	Aye
Bryan Hutcheson	Aye
Leslie Beauregard	Aye
Phil Trayer	Aye
Chris Hartless	Aye
Michael Hamp	Aye
Cameron McCormick	Aye
Christopher Johnson	Aye
Ande Banks	Aye
Larry Propst	Aye
Kelly Warner	Aye

With nothing further to discuss Mr. King made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Whetzel seconded the motion. Approval was **unanimous**. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

**The next Authority Board meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Augusta County Government Center Smith West Board Room.**

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Michael Hamp, Chairman