



# MIDDLE RIVER REGIONAL JAIL

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

October 5, 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 October 5, 2021 Middle River Regional Jail Authority Board meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### Members Present:

Stephen King, Rockingham County Administrator (Chairman)  
Timothy Fitzgerald, Augusta County Administrator  
Michael G. Hamp, Waynesboro City Manager  
Jennifer Whetzel, Augusta Assistant County 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  
Matthew Robertson, Staunton City Sheriff  
Bryan Hutcheson, Rockingham County Sheriff  
Donald Smith, Augusta County Sheriff  
Leslie Beauregard, Assistant Staunton City Manager (Alternate)

### Members Absent:

Steven Rosenberg, Staunton City Manager (Vice Chairman)  
Eric Campbell, Harrisonburg City Manager  
Kelly Warner, Harrisonburg 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  
Jeff Gore, MRRJA Legal Counsel  
Tina Reed, Recorder, Middle River Regional Jail  
Suzette Anthony, Middle River Regional Jail

Others Present:

Tyler Moses, IT MRRJ  
Jimmy Wimer, Captain, Rockingham/Regional Jail  
Faye McCauley, Middle River Regional Jail  
Randi Hugl (WMRA)  
Misty Cook, Augusta County Finance Director  
Amanda Dameron, Citizen  
Kayla Brooks, WHSV  
Mr. Whitemore, Citizen

Approximately 18 citizens attended via WebEx

2.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2021 meeting. Mrs. Whetzel seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

3.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

No comments at this time.

4.

**COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS OR LEGAL COUNSEL**

No comments at this time.

5.

**FINANCE REPORT**

a. **Finance Report** – Ms. Colvin stated the financial report dated August 31, 2021 was included in the board packet. She also stated that the auditors have completed the Inmate Canteen audit for FY '21 and expected the regular jail operation audit to be completed and presented at the December Authority Board meeting.

b.

**FY '22 Budget Amendment #2** – Ms. Colvin stated that Budget Amendment # 2 has been prepared for the Board's approval. The amendment adds \$370,934 for revenue and expenses funded by the Compensation Board for a \$3,000 bonus for sworn officers only. The bonus is to be paid on the November paycheck. Ms. Colvin stated the Compensation Board was paying for the bonus and the FICA amount for the sworn positions and requested the approval to pay for the bonus for the non-sworn positions from the vacancy savings in the current budget at a cost of \$114,646. The Jail currently has \$251,438 in vacancy savings as of August 31, 2021.

Ms. Davidson asked how the Jail is making up for the lack of staff with approximately 30 less staff members each month. Mr. Newton commented with overtime, drafting shifts, it is a difficult process every day to have adequate staffing.

Mr. Newton requested the Board approve the \$3,000 bonus for the non-sworn staff as well. He stated the bonus should apply to all employees because all employees came to work during the COVID crisis. Due to the nature of the work, the non-sworn jail staff including the medical and records do not have the ability to work from home.

Mr. Newton requested a motion to be made for the budget amendment which included the bonus for the non-sworn staff to be paid from the vacancy savings in this year's budget.

Ms. Whetzel made a motion to approve the \$370,934 for the bonus for sworn staff to be funded by the Compensation Board and the bonus for the non-sworn staff could be reviewed at a later date.

Sheriff Hutcheson inquired when would that later date would be to discuss this item again. Ms. Whetzel suggested that it could be reviewed no later than February 2022.

Ms. Whetzel amended the motion to include a review of the bonus for the non-sworn staff no later than February 2022. Mr. Fitzgerald then seconded the motion. Approval was **unanimous**.

## 6. REPORTS AND BRIEFING

Major Young reviewed the following reports:

- **Population Report** – (Executive Summary #2021-063) As of September 28, 2021, there are a total of 753 offenders being housed by MRRJ.
  - No inmates were transferred to the Department of Corrections in August, 44 inmates have been moved to the Department of Corrections in September. 120 inmates are out of Compliance.
  - 58 inmates on bond with Blue Ridge Court Services. The monitoring fee for the inmates at MRRJ is paid for by Blue Ridge Community Services Board. Middle River Regional Jail has a good partnership with Blue Ridge Court Services.
- **Community Corrections Report** – (Executive Summary #2021-064) Report reviewed and discussed. As of September 28, 2021 there are 44 offenders on HEI/HEM. Home Electronic Incarceration offenders maintain jobs in the community.
- **Staff Vacancy Report** – (attachment 7C) reviewed. At this time there are 35 Officer vacancies. 10 of the vacant positions are placed on hold. There are also 2 Nursing vacancies, with 1 offer to start on December 1, 2021.
- **Superintendent's Report** – (Executive Summary #2021-068)
  - Middle River Regional Jail continues to offer COVID-19 vaccine to staff and the inmate population. (295 inmates are vaccinated) Periodic clinics have been conducted since June 2021. (See enclosure 1)
  - MRRJ has about 50% of staff that report being vaccinated. (See Enclosure 2)
  - MRRJ has been asking new intakes vaccine status, since March 3, 2021, as a part of the initial medical assessment. Of more than 1,880 inmates processed only 260 indicated that they had taken the vaccine; of those 260 only 148 could be verified through the Virginia Department of Health. (See Enclosure 3)
  - MRRJ has experienced some positive cases of COVID-19 in the inmate population dormitories. Both vaccinated and non-vaccinated inmates have tested positive. (See Enclosure 4)
  - MRRJ has experienced some staff testing positive for COVID-19. Some of these positive cases have been identified during the weekly monitoring checks and others have been reported by staff prior to reporting to work. Both vaccinated and non-vaccinated staff have tested positive. (See Enclosure 4)
  - MRRJ was scheduled to appear before the Board of Local and Regional Jails (BLRJ) August 18, 2021 to present the modified Community Based Corrections Plan that now reflects the renovation approved by the Board motion at the June 1, 2021 MRRJ Board Meeting. MRRJ requested to be removed from the agenda. Errors were discovered in the CBCP that needed to be corrected. MRRJ hopes to appear before the BLRJ in October if the changes are completed to the CBCP.

- Population trend chart enclosed shows the jail population is trending closer to 750. MRRJ moved 44 male inmates to VADOC in September 2021. VADOC has indicated they intend to return to a more regular and routine transfer schedule. (See Enclosure 5)

**Operational procedures:**

- MRRJ continues to maintain a step-down screening process for new intakes that was implemented February 1, 2021.
- MRRJ continues to maintain a staff monitoring program effective February 15, 2021. All staff rapid tested for COVID-19 once per week.
- MRRJ resumed transferring inmates from the Harrisonburg/Rockingham Jail effective April 1, 2021.

- **Programs Report** – (Executive Summary #2021-067) Major Nicholson reviewed the Programs Report.

- **Education Programs:** GED, 1 Male earned his GED, and 2 Females are in the testing process

- **Addiction Programs:** 24 weeks long (Breaking the Cycle of Addiction) While reviewing this program we discovered that a low number of inmates were completing this program due to the length 24-week course. MRRJ will be starting a new course called Re-Wired Workbook mid-October once the current BTC class is completed.

- **Thought Process and Behavior Programs:** (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) this program is being replaced with a program called Real Life. Which started on September 21 for the women and October 1 for the Men. Both classes have 10 seats.

- **Upcoming Programs:** MRRJ is working in collaboration Valley Community Service Board received a Grant for Virginia Department of Behavior and Health Services for the Fiscal year 2022 for the purpose of expanding Forensic Discharge Planning Services with Serious Mental Illness in local and Regional

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Renovation:**

- Moseley Architects has not updated the CBCP. The revised plan should be complete by November 4, 2021 in time to be reviewed in the December 7, 2021 Authority Board Meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no additional business before the Authority Board, Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Hamp. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

The next Authority Board meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Augusta County Government Center Smith Board Room West.

Stephen King, Chairman

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