

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY**  
**April 10, 2015**  
**Held at the New River Valley Regional Jail**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting of the New River Valley Regional Jail Authority was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Shannon Zeman with eight (8) members and seven (7) alternates present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Giles County:	Mr. Chidester
Wythe County:	Sheriff Dunagan; Mr. Reeves
Radford City:	Mr. Young; Sheriff Armentrout
Grayson County:	Mr. Sweet
Floyd County:	Sheriff Zeman
Pulaski County:	Mr. Conner

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Bland County:	Ch. Deputy Harmon
Carroll County:	Ms. Cannon
Floyd County:	Mr. Allen
Giles County:	Mr. Martin; Lt. Gautier
Pulaski County:	Mr. McCready
Radford City:	Mr. Humphrey

**STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:**

Superintendent Gerald McPeak  
Lt. Col. Tom Lawson  
Major Mary Stallard  
Jim Cornwell—Sands, Anderson, Marks & Miller

Chairman Zeman said that Sheriff Millirons had sent an email authorizing Lt. Tommy Gautier to represent him as his alternate in his absence today.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

In Sheriff Gardner's absence, Superintendent McPeak called the roll and reported a quorum present.

**C. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2015 MINUTES:**

The Minutes from the March 2015 meeting were distributed to the Board. Chairman Zeman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes.

**Motion:** Mr. Reeves moved that the March 2015 Minutes be approved as presented. Ms. Cannon seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion passed unanimously.

**D. OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel Committee:**

Mr. McCready said that the Personnel Committee had met today and discussed some personnel issues but had nothing to report. He stated that the committee has been reviewing the social media policy and our attorneys are also looking over it to make sure everything complies with the law. The Superintendent said that he just received Attorney Durbin's comments and had no issues with the changes he had recommended. He will make those adjustments and send the revised copy out to the Personnel Committee prior to the next Authority Meeting.

**Operations Committee:**

The Operations Committee did not meet today.

**Finance Committee:**

The Finance Committee did meet today. Ms. Cannon reviewed copies of the Financial Report for July 2014-March 2015 with the Authority members.

**Motion:** On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Cannon recommended the Financial Report for approval.

**Action:** Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cannon said that work continues on the budget and the group would like to have one more budget planning session prior the May Authority meeting. The date selected is **Thursday April 30, 2015 at 10:00 am.**

**F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

The Superintendent reviewed his report in detail. Our monthly inmate count rose from 1180 in February to 1202 for the month of March. Our state responsible inmate total also

went up from 286 to 302. We continue to send DOC inmates to Bland and Brunswick but new state responsible inmates are constantly added.

In employee activity, we had 2 new hires with one of those being an officer that had recently resigned. The job that he left us for didn't work out and since he resigned on good terms we gladly took him back. We did have a total of 3 resignations: 1 from medical and 2 officers. We still have 15 officers in the academy—14 fulltime and 1 option. The option officer has already been through the police academy and only has to attend certain portions. When she isn't in a class, she is working here at the jail.

Our 3 year DOC audit is scheduled for next Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and should last for about 3 days. The Superintendent said that he is hoping a 100% and that the staff has the facility in really good shape. DOC only has one auditor that is covering the whole state. We're going to assist him the best we can to get him through this process but it may take the full 3 days since he is doing this by himself. We have everything ready and laid out for him back in the audit room. We hope it will go well and he will have something good to report at the next meeting.

He added that if anyone saw EMS outside on their way in, we have situation currently going on. There is an inmate possibly experiencing a heart attack. Our staff is working with him and EMS will be taking him to the hospital.

**G. NEW BUSINESS:**

Sheriff Zeman announced members for this year's Nominating Committee as:

Sheriff Vaughan (Chairman)  
Mr. Reeves  
Mr. Workman

He asked that the group put together a slate of officers to serve 2015-16 and report their nominations at the May Authority Meeting. The election of officers will take place at the June Authority Meeting.

Sheriff Armentrout said that Attorney General Mark Herring came to Radford a couple of weeks ago. One of his main goals is an inmate re-entry program with the jails. A member of his staff, Mr. DeVon Simmons, would like to schedule a meeting with us in the next couple of months to go over the programs they have to offer. The Superintendent said we would be glad to work with him. He added that we used to have a re-entry program here at the jail before until DOC ended it. Sheriff Armentrout said that he would extend the invitation and let us know when Mr. Simmons can come.

Mr. McCready said that ties in with a program that Pulaski County is doing. They have been using inmates on the weekends to paint inside schools and have had a lot of success with that. At a joint Board of Supervisors and School Board meeting, a way to reward the inmates for their work was discussed. He said that they weren't able to do so in any way so during the last General Assembly there was specific conversation regarding returning the program "a day for a day" or "good time off". Inmates could then work

inside or outside the facility and be rewarded with good time. By doing so, it would save us money because the inmates wouldn't be staying here as long. The Superintendent said we are still able to give inmates serving misdemeanor sentences "a day for a day" but now state responsible inmates can only receive 4-1/2 days for every 30 days served. Mr. McCready said there has been much discussion about the possibility of introducing some law to give that flexibility back to us. It was too late to do it for this Assembly but they are working on it for the next one.

Mr. Reeves said that the Attorney General also asked about state responsible inmates, how many we had and if there was a problem getting them out. The Superintendent said we seem to move them. We send people to Bland about every 2 weeks about 5 at a time. About every 90 days we send between 6-11 to Brunswick or somewhere like that. Ms. Cannon asked why only 5 at a time. The Superintendent said that's all the beds that DOC will give us. He added that Western and Southwestern are also feeding inmates to them so everyone has the same problem. It all goes back to the number of facilities that DOC has closed over the last few years. Mr. Reeves said that he informed the Attorney General that we ordered around 300-400 state responsible inmates a month. The Superintendent said that was a good number.

Chairman Zeman asked Major Stallard if he had anything to report. He said no and that he apologized for coming in late. We had a medical emergency in the back that he had to attend to. As the Superintendent mentioned earlier, we had an inmate experiencing a possible heart attack and was now on his way to the hospital.

**H. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

**I. OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**J. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Zeman asked if there was a motion from the floor to adjourn.

**Motion:** Mr. Connor made the motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Ms. Cannon seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Zeman adjourned the meeting at 10:21 am.

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Secretary, Sheriff Gardner

