

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY
September 11, 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 10:04 a.m. by Chairman Mark Armentrout with twelve (12) members and seven (7) alternates present.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Bland County:	Sheriff Thompson; Mr. Workman
	Giles County:	Sheriff Millirons; Mr. Chidester
	Radford City:	Mr. Young; Sheriff Armentrout
	Floyd County:	Sheriff Zeman; Mr. Turman
	Pulaski County:	Mr. Conner; Sheriff Davis
	Wythe County:	Sheriff Dunagan; Mr. Reeves

ALTERNATES PRESENT:	Carroll County:	Ms. Cannon
	Floyd County:	Mr. Allen; Deputy Turner
	Giles County:	Mr. Martin
	Grayson County:	Mr. Smith; Ch. Deputy Ashby
	Pulaski County:	Mr. McCready

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:	Superintendent Gerald McPeak
	Lt. Col. Tom Lawson
	Major Marty Stallard
	Jim Cornwell—Sands, Anderson, Marks & Miller
	Robert Lyons- citizen

Chairman Armentrout said that he would like to take a minute to remember what happened on 9/11 fourteen years ago today.

B. ROLL CALL:

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

C. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2015 MINUTES:

The Minutes from the August 2015 meeting were mailed to each of the board members. Chairman Armentrout asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes. Mr. Young said that there was one small change that needed to be made on page four under the Superintendent's portion. The words guide wire needed to be changed to read guy wire.

Motion: Mr. Conner moved that the August 2015 Minutes be approved reflecting that one correction. Mr. Workman seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed with a vote of 14 yes and 1 abstention.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Armentrout said that last month we talked about water and electrical and he asked the Superintendent for an update. Mr. Bill King met with the Design & Construction committee this morning to talk about the ongoing issues with our solar hot water system. The Superintendent has also received some additional information from Moore Mechanical on the hot water. They have provided us with a dollar amount for that but he isn't ready to move forward with that so it wasn't discussed. It isn't an urgent problem but we will need to address it moving forward.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Committee:

Mr. Reeves said the group met at 9:30 this morning. We have had five new hires and we are currently down nine positions from last month. They have interviewed and promoted two security sergeants. Two officers will be completing orientation this week and have already been assigned to teams. One security sergeant transferred to a sanitation officer position and one sergeant transferred from security to supervisor of the sanitation operations of the facility. Chairman Armentrout asked if the social media policy was passed on. Mr. Reeves said that it wasn't discussed this morning.

Operations Committee:

The Operations Committee did not meet today.

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee did meet and copies of the Revenue & Expenditures from July through August for this fiscal year. One thing that was mentioned this morning was that we have two costs that are trending a little higher than normal. We are averaging three inmates a day in medical facilities right now. In order to cover these inmates in those facilities, it takes six officers. So the two line items that are running higher are medical and overtime charges for the officers.

Motion: On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Cannon recommended the Financial Report for approval. Mr. Conner seconded the motion.

Action: Following a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Design and Construction Committee:

The Design and Construction Committee met at 9:30 this morning. The committee directed the Superintendent and Mr. Bill King to get Moore Mechanical's recommendations to Baker Renewable. The Committee will have more to report on next month as to how they respond. For those that aren't aware, the jail installed a solar water heating system in 2012 and it currently isn't operating due to some design flaws. He hopes to have more to report next month.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The Superintendent reviewed his report in detail. In employee activity, we had three new hire officers and 1 cook. There are currently nine officers in training at the academy. He also reviewed all of the current inmate programs and gave information on upcoming programs. The jail has quite a few employees that are active and non-active reserves. So many in fact, that the Superintendent and the jail will be receiving an award from the ESGR (Employer Support for the Guard and Reserves) for being a patriotic employer. This is the 2nd award that the jail has received in the last several months.

He previously reported the problems that they jail was experiencing with our water and electrical utilities. AEP has made several upgrades in the area that have increased the level of service that the jail has been getting. They have replaced three large transformers near the jail that will help give us the voltage and reliable service that we need. When we have power outages here at the jail we tend to lose pumps, motors and computer equipment. So to receive more a reliable supply of electricity will help us out a great deal.

Last year, we partnered in a program with Giles County School System called Life Choices where 7th graders came in and experienced a day in the life of an inmate. We talk with them about making positive life choices and try to divert those children from the paths of their parents or friends/relatives. There will be three sessions in October.

We are also working with Pulaski High School's criminal justice class. That class will be done a little bit differently as these students are considering a career in the criminal justice field. Their class will be tailored to show what life is like as an inmate but more so as a correctional officer. Hopefully we will do some recruiting for some future correctional officers.

We were approached by Giles County about doing a parenting program for the inmates. The NRV Cares program is partnering with Virginia Tech and the Superintendent has already had one meeting with them so far. They are putting together a program and then will come back for a second meeting. Hopefully there will be a 6-12 week program that will offer parenting skills. This should marry in with our Life Choices Program and we will reach some of these inmates that have children that will be visiting the jail. When they get out, they can use both of those experiences and we won't see those kids come here in future generations. It's a program that he's been trying to get started for awhile and he would like to thank Giles County for helping to get this going.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Chidester asked if the town was giving us any credit on the water bill when we had issues and had to flush the system. The Superintendent said yes they were. He said that the town manger Mr. Bill Parker would send one of his folks over here to take a meter reading before we begin flushing. Ms. Cannon asked if they were crediting both water and sewer. He said yes we were being credited on both.

Mr. Turman said he had a question for the Superintendent. He said that six or eight months ago he brought up the officers not having enough equipment when they went to the hospital and having to switch out holsters. He asked if that was still happening. The Superintendent said yes it was but we have already ordered additional equipment and it is on the way to us.

Mr. Turman also asked about the boxes that are being put on the phones to monitor calls. The Superintendent said that we record incoming calls just like the Sheriff's Offices do. We record calls coming into outside lines like Master Control, Sallyport, Booking and Medical departments. From time to time, we get complaints from citizens that call in and say they weren't helped, they weren't provided any information or that officers were hateful or rude to them. It is a protection for the staff here and the staff has always been aware that these phone calls are recorded. The Superintendent said he has used these recordings on a number of occasions. A complaint will come into him and then he will go back and listen to the phone call. He said that 99% of the time our staff has done nothing wrong so they are a big help to us. We budgeted for an upgrade to our phone equipment this year and that's why the boxes are being put on there. He said that he sent an email to staff explaining the boxes and why there are being installed.

H. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

I. OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Mr. Reeves said that he would to make a motion to go into closed session to talk about personnel matters.

Motion: Mr. Reeves made the motion for the board to go into executive closed session to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Workman seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

The purpose of the closed session is:

Personnel Matters, § 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia, (candidates for employment OR the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, resignation of employees)

After a lengthy discussion, the motion was made that the Authority Board come out of closed session.

Motion: Sheriff Millirons moved that the board come out of closed session.
Mr. Workman seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Sheriff Millirons moved to certify what was discussed in closed session.
Mr. Workman seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Armentrout asked if there was a motion from the floor regarding what was discussed during the closed session.

Motion: Mr. Workman made the motion to give permission to the Chairman to go out for bid to hire a consulting service to do a survey here at the regional jail regarding employee morale and satisfaction. They will then report back the findings of that procurement to appropriate the funds. This service will also include exit interviews.
Mr. Reeves seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff Davis said that Pulaski County has also had some issues with mental health. He said that he sees a lot of our officers coming and going to work at local convenience stores. He said that just because they were going to work they are no longer safe and he hopes that the majority is qualified and are carrying firearms. The Superintendent said that a couple of years ago the Authority passed the policy that employees could carry firearms as long as they were qualified and kept them in proper storage. He said that he thinks three people are taking advantage of that. Sheriff Davis said that as long as they were wearing that uniform that they are targets. The Superintendent said that is one reason he put an armed officer in the lobby. Because we have a Magistrate office onsite sometimes we have domestic issues where both parties show up here at the same time. Folks come in that aren't happy because their loved ones are here, things may not have gone their way in court or they have visitation issues. Our officers are also armed when they do perimeter checks because it is a very real danger these days. Mr. Turman said the public doesn't see what wrote on that (referring to the badge on the shirt) they just see the badge and it's a target.

J. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Motion: Mr. Workman made the motion to adjourn the meeting.
Sheriff Dunagan seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Armentrout adjourned the meeting at 10:59 am.

Secretary, Sheriff Gardner

