

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY**  
**January 10, 2025**  
**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 10:03 a.m. by Chairman Richard Chidester.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bland County:	Sheriff Ramsey
Carroll County:	Mr. Martin; Sheriff Kemp
Floyd County:	Mr. Turman (in after roll call)
Giles County:	Mr. Chidester; Sheriff Millirons
Grayson County:	Sheriff Vaughan
Pulaski County:	Sheriff Worrell; Mr. Sweet
Radford City:	Mr. Fleisher
Wythe County:	Sheriff Foster; Mr. Vaught

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Grayson County:	Mr. Boyer
Wythe County:	Mr. Hankins

**STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:**

Superintendent Kimberly Haug  
Dep. Superintendent Chris Loan  
Major Daniel O'Dell  
Mr. Reid Broughton-Sands, Anderson, Marks & Miller  
Mr. Gordon Jones-Robinson, Farmer and Cox  
Tonya Akers, Tim Clark, Lt. Matt Wells—NRVRJ

**B.     ROLL CALL:**

Mrs. Akers called roll and reported a quorum with eleven members and two alternates present. Mr. Turman came in following roll call making the total of members twelve.

**C.     APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2024 MINUTES:**

Copies of the November minutes were emailed to each member. Chairman Chidester asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as presented.

**Motion:**           Sheriff Vaughan made the motion to approve the September minutes as presented.  
                          Mr. Vaught seconded the motion.

**Action:**           The motion passed unanimously.

Due to Mr. Jones attending to review the audit, Mr. Chidester asked that we begin with the Financial Report and then we discuss Old Business.

#### **D. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **FINANCIAL REPORTS :**

Copies of the monthly financials were reviewed in detail by Mr. Sweet. With us being mid-year, we should be tracking 50% to budget. Currently we're running a little ahead on revenue which is always good and we're ahead on expenditures. We've had some extenuating expenses that have driven it just over the 50% mark but we have cash to recover that differential.

**Motion:** Mr. Sweet said there was a recommendation out of Finance to accept the monthly financial report as presented.

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

Chairman Chidester introduced Mr. Reid Broughton to the group. Attorney Durbin was scheduled for court today so Mr. Broughton is attending in his absence.

##### **Audit Presentation-Mr. Gordon Jones, Audit Manager for Robinson, Farmer and Cox:**

Mr. Jones appeared before the board and reviewed the FY 24 Audit report. He began with the Independent Auditor's report and said the jail received a clean, unmodified report which is the highest level of assurance given. There were no new GASB this year that the jail had to implement.

He then discussed the Yellow Book Opinion report which pertains to internal controls and reported one finding in regards to adjustments. When the auditors find an inaccuracy on the financial statements and propose adjusting them internally, that results in a finding. This type of finding is common in governmental auditing and many end up with findings similar to this.

Mr. Jones highlighted:

- The jail's total fund balance is still at a healthy number of \$13,677,213
- Debit service fund \$5,809,800
- Main operating general fund is running at \$7,867,413.
- The general fund balance as a percentage of our operating expenditures is at 30%. They recommend somewhere between 25-30% for a smaller entity like the jail so this also a healthy number.
- Total long-term debit for the jail \$50,891,844
- Lease liabilities \$199,077

Mr. Jones reviewed the Summary of the Audit report that listed the internal adjustments made which resulted in the finding. There was one management comment which dealt with bank reconciliation and VRS employer contribution. Mr. Jones said it would be nice if the software would calculate what the VRS employee contributions should be.

He reminded all members/alternates to submit their Financial Disclosure Statements or Statement of Economic Interest Forms by February 1<sup>st</sup>. He advised the group of which form they would need to fill in based on their positions held and asked that they complete the forms in their entirety.

**Motion:** Mr. Sweet said there was a recommendation out of Finance to accept the audit report for FY ending June 30, 2024 as presented.

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

#### **E. OLD BUSINESS:**

The pipe leak repair project is being finished up and we don't have any major capital expenditures planned at this time.

#### **F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Headcount today was 582 and the ADP is 577.

##### **Personnel:**

Retention—we are staying on top of that and we hope that trend continues. Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has received approval to hire eight additional jail officers. Their investigator has been by doing backgrounds on a few of our officers. Montgomery is offering a \$2,500 sign on bonus, 40 hours of vacation and a starting salary of \$57,000. Superintendent Haug said we would try our best to convince these officers to stay. But it's apple to oranges between the two facilities. We house the same number of inmates in a single housing unit as they have in their entire jail.

The question was asked of our current vacant positions. Tim Clark, the Director of Finance said possibly a dozen and Superintendent Haug said we currently have 125 certified officers.

##### **Transportation:**

Mr. Vaught asked the status with the transportation issues. Superintendent Haug said we hope to move more officers into transportation when the shifts are more stable. Mr. Vaught said Wythe County had two recent incidents with transportation and asked if she was notified when no transportation was available. She said no, not always. He said that as a board member that he was going to request that from now on when there is no transportation available for any jurisdiction, that the full board be notified by email. He said from the financial side they need to keep an eye on it. Because the jurisdictions are paying more for services that they aren't getting. Superintendent said she would notify them.

Mr. Chidester said Giles County's frustration is when they call for transport and are told it will be an hour. After that hour passes, they call back to be told it will be another 40 minutes. If they had been told it would have been an hour and forty minutes in the beginning, the officers would have brought them to start with.

Sheriff Millirons said it's a safety issue for him when he only has two officers on the road and one is tied up with a prisoner. He said a lot of these issues don't happen until Administration leaves after 5:00 pm. He said it's becoming more frequent and asked what could be done. Do we have an on-call list and call them in or offer a pay increase of 5% or 10% for your transportation officers to make them want to come to work?

Superintendent Haug some of the changes we've made have definitely been positive. The holidays were rough with people trying to take their time off, transportation gets pulled for hospital duty. Sheriff Millirons asked if we were training officers in the jail to be transportation officer. Superintendent Haug said yes and we're actually doing it now as part of their academy. The academy added a week of transportation training at the end of their training. Once the officers are fully certified, we can then pull them assist with hospital duty so we don't have to always pull from our transportation officers.

Sheriff Millirons asked Lt. Wells how many transportation officers we currently have. Lt Wells said we have 16 transportation officers but if we could add 4 more it would definitely help out. He also described in detail how the newly certified officers are being field trained by showing them the locations of all the jurisdictions, the areas to do pick-ups and supplying them with the proper equipment so they can quickly be dispatched. These officers can then fill for doctor's appointments, treatments, hospital stays, etc.

Sheriff Vaughan added the overlapping transportation schedule is very helpful. Superintendent Haug added that if we should lose any of our transportation officers to Montgomery, we will get those positions backfilled quickly.

Mr. Vaught asked if other regional jail superintendents were facing the same personnel issues that we are? Superintendent Haug said that yes that some she spoke with were. He added that everyone seems is throwing money at law enforcement personnel but to what end. Superintendent Haug said that staffing is better and Mr. Vaught said that morale is definitely better that she's done a tremendous job there.

Superintendent Haug said corrections is tough job. Our training officers are working closely with our new hires, following up and answering any questions that they may have but we continue to lose officers to the jurisdictions. Our main focus is recruitment, retention and training. We read a lot and look at other facilities to see what's working for them.

## **G. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Remote Participation Policy:**

We had asked Mr. Durbin to put together a remote participation policy and copies were emailed out to everyone this morning. Mr. Chidester said it doesn't appear to be extremely helpful due to the limitations put on them by the Code of Freedom of Information Act. Basically, you have to have a physical quorum present before anyone can remote it. There are provisions for a virtual meeting in the declaration of an emergency. We need the policy but he doesn't know how much it will benefit us if someone can't make it at the last minute. As defined by the Code, you have to request permission to participate remotely. Please take time to review the document and we'll discuss it further at the March meeting.

### **Housing Federal Inmates:**

Sheriff Vaughan was contacted by the Marshal Service out of Abingdon looking for bed space. The Marshals feel they're going to have an influx of federal inmates in the near future. We have held federal inmates in the past until our local numbers became so high that we could no longer continue. Approximately 10-15 years ago, our ADP was in the mid 800's and now it's down to the 600's. He feels this would strengthen our revenues and operations here at the jail. Then maybe we could use some of the proceeds to provide hiring bonuses and raises. He thinks it's a good opportunity that we need to look into. We have 1000 beds here and are currently only using 580 so if you're running a business, it's not as productive as it could be.

Sheriff Vaughan added that the average per diem rate is negotiable and the average across the state is \$110 per inmate. The state has cost recovery for \$22 per day per inmate but even if we could get \$70-80 a

day per inmate and we could work toward holding 100 inmates. We could use that to provide incentives for employees and eventually help cut per diems for localities.

Superintendent Haug said it's something we can work towards but in her opinion, it would be detrimental to take them in anytime soon. Currently, 54 of our officers have been here less than one year. We have 24 officers with 10+ years of experience but those are your—Majors, Captains, Lt's and 75% of our staff has been here less than 5 years. The majority of our employees are still very inexperienced. She added that it's not just bringing in 100 inmates, but a whole different class of inmates. Sheriff Vaughan said in his experience with federal inmates, they aren't in there for violent crimes. He thinks we have much more dangerous state inmates here than we would be getting from the feds and that is something that could be negotiated in the contract.

Superintendent Haug said ultimately it is a board decision but currently we aren't PREA certified. That would have to be completed first and could take a few months. We certainly couldn't begin with 100 inmates immediately but they would have to be trickled in a little at a time. Sheriff Vaughan said we could possibly start with 10 and work our way up.

The pros and cons of housing federal inmates were discussed. Staff's concerns were the inexperience of our current staff, the possibility of increased lawsuits and destruction of property. Several board members voiced that they feel it would be a good opportunity for the jail generate some additional income to reinvest back in the facility, to increase employee salaries, to help with retention, stabilize per diems and our workforce.

It was decided that Superintendent Haug would work on a "rough draft contract" beginning with 10-15 beds to possibly give it a trial run. Sheriff Vaughan said he'd be glad to set up a meeting with the Marshal Service for the Superintendent and himself. Superintendent Haug said it seems to be something the board is interested in. We will explore it; she'll give them her opinion then the board can vote and move forward. In the meantime, the Superintendent will speak with other facilities that currently house federal inmates and review their contracts to get more information. It is worth a conversation so we'll look into it further and discuss it again at the March meeting.

#### **H. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

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

#### **J. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Chidester asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** Sheriff Vaughan made the motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Sheriff Millirons seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

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Chairman Richard Chidester