

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY

March 14, 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 10:06 a.m. by Chairman Richard Chidester.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carroll County:	Mr. Martin; Sheriff Kemp
Floyd County:	Sheriff Craig
Giles County:	Mr. Chidester
Grayson County:	Sheriff Vaughan
Pulaski County:	Mr. Sweet
Radford City:	Mr. Fleisher

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Giles County:	Ch. Deputy Moye
Grayson County:	Mr. Boyer
Pulaski County:	Major Johnson
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
Tonya Akers, Tim Clark—NRVRJ

Prior to roll call, Chairman Chidester read a notice from Wythe County reappointing Mr. Brian Vaught to serve as Authority member and Mr. Matt Hankins to serve as alternate. This is for a one year ending December 31, 2025.

B. ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Akers called roll and reported a quorum was present.

C. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2025 MINUTES:

Copies of the January 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 January minutes as presented.
Mr. Hankins seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

None

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Sweet reviewed copies of the Finance reports ending February 2025. We're at the 67% point in our budget. Our revenue totals are at 72% and 69% on expenditures. We do have one jurisdiction that is in the rears for January and February payments.

Mr. Martin asked if staff could send out follow up bills and a request to that locality. The Director of Finance said he would personally do that. (*Full payment was received on March 24, 2026*).

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.

Mr. Sweet said the jail wants to offer a deferred compensation opportunity to the NRVJR employees through VRS. It is a 457B both Standard and Roth and must be approved by Resolution. Mr. Sweet read the Resolution in its entirety to the group and a copy is available to all members and alternates. With that, there is cost consequence depending on how many employees we carry and how many utilize the plan. It could be approximately \$8,000 a year to provide the deferred comp option. It will be reflected in the proposed budget if the authority decides to approve the resolution.

Mr. Sweet said we would like to encourage employees to take a close look at this opportunity by providing them a \$50 or \$100 first payment into their fund. We think this would help to recruit or retain staff by saying we offer this 457B option.

Mr. Sweet stated that all the state employees have access to this type of benefit but we're now seeing localities provide access to deferred options. Nothing is really triggering the addition; we're just filling that gap.

Motion: Mr. Sweet said there was a recommendation out of Finance to adopt the Commonwealth of Virginia 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Resolution.

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

Lastly, he gave preliminary information on FY 2025-2026 budget. The good news is the ADP will remain the same at 630. The Finance department and Superintendent have worked diligently to keep the per diem flat so there's no increase in per diem. For planning purposes, even with no increase in per diem, some communities' budgets could go up a little based on where each locality is currently trending in inmate population.

He also mentioned that revenues will be going up approximately 4% for FY 26. This is mainly due to the state comp board's funding with proposed state raises, the 1.5% bonus and we have additional revenue

coming from telephone services. The expenditures flush out to balance that 4% as well. Copies of the proposed budget will be provided to everyone for review and we will need to vote at the May 9th meeting to adopt the budget. *(A copy of the proposed budget is also included in this packet).*

Mr. Hankins asked if we had an increase in our health insurance. Tim Clark said our USI broker came to us in January with a \$480,000 increase so we went back out to the market for bid. It went out to approximately 200 people and we are awaiting that information. Mr. Sweet said staff is very diligent to try to mitigate that for employees, the Authority and member jurisdictions so hopefully the marketplace will be favorable to us.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Haug said it was requested that we notify the board when we didn't have transports available. She did so on the 2 occasions that happened and reviewed with the group what happened during these instances.

Mr. Sweet had asked for a monthly report on the instances but several of the jurisdictions needed the notifications each time. After some discussion, it was decided that the Superintendent would do both; notify at the time and then do a monthly review of occurrences to see if there is a pattern. Mr. Vaughan said it had improved.

Ch. Deputy Moye asked if there was an on-call list in case all transportation is out. Superintendent Haug said staff members are able to do so if they don't have to pull someone off post. She also explained how we have added a final week to our academy to do field training in transports. It gives them that extra certification and will allow us to have more people on the floor to provide transports and cover inmate hospital stays. Ch. Deputy Moye said there seems to be a delay in transports at shift change. Major O'Dell said the Transportation Lieutenant is developing a 2pm-2am power shift schedule. Deputy Superintendent Loan added we're also in the process of staging vans in different jurisdictions so when transport officers come on shift, they can pick of the van at the locality.

We have found out that two of our officers that had applied to Montgomery have decided to stay. However, we've been told that 4 additional officers have applied. Mr. Chidester asked the pay differential. She said one officer was offered \$10,000 more a year, a \$2,500 sign on bonus as well as a week's vacation. Both Sheriff Vaughan and Sheriff Craig each said that Montgomery County were doing backgrounds on one of their employees.

We recently had our surprise DOC inspection and had 0 deficient standards. A huge shout out to Lt. Carl Akers, who at the drop of a hat can have this inspection with all of his documentation in place. He always does a great job making sure we're on top of everything. Also, thanks to the staff in general. For us to have zero deficiencies in a facility of this size, we're very happy.

She spoke to Jared Olsen regarding reimbursement for all the projects we did that didn't make last year's budget. He said they do show on the current budget and unless something happens during final negotiations, it should go through. The projects totaled \$1.8 million so we should receive 20% back.

At the last meeting we discussed housing federal inmates to help with revenue. Both she and Sheriff Vaughan met with Matt Davis from the Marshals. The initial per diem of \$100 per day isn't really correct. We would probably fall somewhere in the range of \$55-80. That's something that they determine and could be discussed in contract negotiations. All of that funding wouldn't come to us. The state would take about 60% because we are state funded by that amount leaving us with \$33-48 a day per diem. We would

be responsible for transporting the federal inmates probably 1 time per week. When a federal inmate is transported, it would require two officers. The Marshals would reimburse us \$20-25 per hour for those transports.

Superintendent Haug's main concern was the level of federal inmates that we would receive. Many of our officers are still quite young and don't have the experience to handle inmates from Raleigh, Richmond, and high-level gang members. Mr. Davis suggested that we just house local federal inmates. He said it could take us a couple of years for us to have 15-20 local inmates because they can't pull from the facilities that are currently holding them. In reviewing the guidelines, the amount of policy changes we would have to make is huge. We would be responsible with in house medical: all medical care inside the facility such as cost of medical, dental, mental health, medical supplies, over the counter and prescription medication. The federal government is responsible for anything outside of the facility. Many of our DOC guidelines would need to be changed as well. She added that the facilities that are bringing in the extra million dollars in revenue all have riders to their contracts where they accept federal inmates from those outside areas.

Sheriff Vaughan said we just talked about our budget based on an ADP of 630 and we're sitting at 574 as of this morning. Localities are wanting the opportunity to reduce per diem and empty beds aren't making any money. He would like to explore up to 630. If we could house 30 federal inmates and receive \$30 a day, that would generate almost \$1000 per day. If we do that over 1-2 years' time that's going to help reduce costs and possibly even use some of that for hiring bonuses or incentives for our employees.

There was discussion on the amount of time it would take to draw up a contract, the possibility of a rider for ICE, the revenue opportunity that we many need to look into. Mr. Sweet said that we need to understand the net gain of this. In other words, how much are we going to have to spend to make that much? Is the net healthy and worth it? The Superintendent suggested forming a committee to look into it further. Possibly visiting some of the jurisdictions currently housing federal inmates to speak with their finance departments and LIDS technicians to see how everything is done. Mr. Sweet added that the exercise of due diligence in the Risk/Reward analysis will be helpful for everyone to make a more informed decision. This could be a great opportunity or it may not be worth the squeeze to take on something like this. Sheriff Vaughan said we held federal prisoners about 20 years ago. He asked if we still had any of that information. Superintendent Haug said she didn't know about the numbers and there are only just a handful of employees still here from that time.

After more discussion, Mr. Chidester appointed Sheriff Vaughan, Mr. Martin, Sheriff Kemp and possibly Sheriff Ramsey (alternate) to serve on the committee, perform a Risk/Reward Analysis then report back by the July Authority meeting. Staff will supply the committee with any information they may need.

Sheriff Vaughan asked where we stood on the training academy and for a status update. Mr. Sweet suggested going into executive session to discuss it further.

Chairman Chidester said he would entertain a motion need to enter into executive session.

Motion: Mr. Sweet made the motion to enter into executive session pursuant to §2.2-3711A.6 of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. Sheriff Vaughan seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

Executive session began at 11:19 am.

The motion was made at 11:26 am for the Authority come out of closed session and to certify that only matters permitted under §2.23711. A.6 of the Code of Virginia were discussed.

Motion: Mr. Sweet made the motion that the board come out of closed session and certify. Sheriff Vaughan seconded the motion.

Action: Following roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

The election of officers will be held at the May meeting. Mr. Chidester will reach out to the current slate of officers to see if they would like to continue serving. As always, nominations will also be accepted at the May 9th Authority meeting.

Mr. Hankins and the Superintendent reported on an incident that occurred this week at the Wythe County Sheriff's Office. One of our transportation officers had an accidental discharge of his weapon that damaged the toilet. All of the reports have been complete, thankfully nobody was hurt and the jail will reimburse the WCSO for the damages.

H. OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

I. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Motion: Mr. Sweet made the motion to adjourn the meeting.
Sheriff Craig seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Chairman Richard Chidester