

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY
July 11, 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 10:12 a.m. by Chairman Richard Chidester.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Bland County:	Mrs. Burton
	Carroll County:	Mr. Martin; Sheriff Kemp
	Floyd County:	Sheriff Craig; Mr. Turman
	Giles County:	Mr. Chidester; Sheriff Millirons
	Grayson County:	Sheriff Vaughan
	Pulaski County:	Sheriff Worrell
	Radford City:	Mr. Fleisher; Sheriff Armentrout
	Wythe County:	Sheriff Foster

ALTERNATES PRESENT:	Wythe County:	Mr. Hankins, Ch. Dep Cline
----------------------------	---------------	----------------------------

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:	Superintendent Kimberly Haug
	Dep. Superintendent Chris Loan
	Major Daniel O'Dell
	Steve Durbin-Sands, Anderson, Marks & Miller
	NRVRJ staff: Tonya Akers, Tim Clark

B. ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Akers called roll and reported a quorum was present with (12) twelve members and (2) two alternates.

C. APPROVAL OF MAY 2025 MINUTES:

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

Motion: Sheriff Millirons made the motion to approve the May minutes as presented. Mrs. Burton seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Superintendent Haug said the kitchen floor project was moving right along. We went out for bid and decided to go with a group out of Richmond. Major O'Dell gave a summary of the project which should take approximately one month to complete. That will require us to shut down the current kitchen then move everything out into a temporary on-site trailer. After the flooring is complete, we will also paint the kitchen walls with an epoxy-based paint.

Mr. Hankins asked if we had a projected cost. Mr. Clark said the flooring project was budgeted for in the FY 2025-2026 annual budget and is expected to come in at \$250,000.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCIAL REPORT:

In Mr. Sweet's absence, Mr. Martin reviewed the monthly financial reports with the group. Everything appears to be on track for this year and ADP remains the same. Mr. Clark added that we're trending positively at 95% revenue and a little high at 103% expenses. Staff is working to reduce and negotiate some cost especially related to medical.

Motion: Mr. Martin 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.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Transport:

Over the last 2 months, we've had 3 instances of transport issues where we had to call the jurisdictions. All of them had to do with inmates being in the hospital so transport had to be pulled during this time.

Staffing

We did lose several officers to Montgomery County and we believe they still have one open position. We are still doing ok on staffing but a lot of experience was lost with the officers that left.

FCC Update:

The new FCC Chairman has issued a waiver for any major changes with inmate telephone calls and the ability to earn revenues from it at least for a couple of years. Although it would have been helpful to have an actual decision so we could move forward with contracts. Our current telephone contract is ending soon so it would have been helpful to know something definite but at least there is a stay and isn't being taken away all at one time.

New Bills:

Several new bills passed July 1st regarding pregnant females. We are not allowed to restrain a pregnant female unless we can articulate individually why we had to handcuff or waist chain that particular female. She said to please make sure your courts are aware of this. Also, please notify us if there is a reason that a female inmate needs to be at least handcuffed so that they can be transported to the jail the same way.

Department of Behavioral Health:

We were contacted by and met with the Department of Behavioral Health. They would like to rent some space from a regional jail for incarcerated individuals when they have to be transported for mental health evaluation. We've had a couple of conversations with them and things are looking pretty interesting. We would have a per diem rate very similar to what we were looking at doing with the feds. The difference would be that they would just be renting the space. The Commissioner really wants this program to happen. We hope to be able to negotiate with the comp board on how much of the per diem they would take from us and that we might be able to get a flat fee. They would pay for any construction that would need to be completed and they would also contract out for security. We would have an MOU with them that they would respond if an incident occurred. It is still in the early stages and we still need to talk to the Board of Local and Regional Jails to see what it looks like from their perspective.

The Dept. of Behavioral Health went out to several regional jails to discuss this project. While we aren't in the ideal location for them regionally, we do have a whole floor available to them. With it being an entire floor instead of just a housing unit, they won't necessarily be around other inmates. The plan would start pretty small with around 15 inmates but could definitely grow. We're still gathering information at this time but it could generate some decent revenue for the jail.

Sheriff Vaughan asked if these were for patients that have a commitment order and are under a TDO? Superintendent Haug said they would be temporarily released and this is a court ordered in-patient treatment for them. They are incarcerated for criminal charges and being court ordered for mental health evaluation, so they would be in the Department of Behavioral Health's custody so to speak.

Sheriff Vaughan asked if these were folks from inside our catchment area. Superintendent Haug said no it would be state-wide. She said there are still some logistics to work out but so far it looks good to us.

Mr. Chidester said his thoughts are they're probably trying to free up beds for non-criminal TDO's. It makes sense that instead of having to take people to various places for evaluations that you would have them all in one place. The kick is going to be from the outlying jurisdictions but the state may come up with a way to transport or possibly reimburse them to transport.

The Dept of Behavior Health is going to go out to bid to contract medical staff and security. Superintendent Haug made it very clear to them that they would have to provide those services themselves. Maybe a year or two from now, we may be in a better position to post security there. If we were to do that, then per diem would go significantly higher.

Superintendent discussed the current set up of the empty floor and some of the construction changes that would be needed for them to use the facility. The Dept of Behavior Health said we can go out to RFP for those updates with them covering the cost or they could do that legwork themselves. With the Authority's approval, staff would like to continue in talks with the group.

Sheriff Worrell asked what their discharge process would be. Superintendent said that they would not be discharged directly from here. They would be here for evaluations and their jurisdictions would have to pick them up.

Mr. Chidester said the thought was to bring this before the board to make sure no one has any strenuous objections to it. If it goes any further, we will get an MOU then bring it back before the board for possible approval. Superintendent Haug said the Dept of Behavioral Health representatives agreed to the \$75 per diem we quoted and also to the fact that it could increase as our costs/expenses increase.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

H. OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Sheriff Millirons announced that today was Sheriff Foster's last Authority meeting. He would be retiring effect August 1st after many dedicated years of service. The group congratulated Sheriff Foster and wished him well in his retirement.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Motion: Mr. Hankins made the motion to adjourn the meeting in honor of Sheriff Charles Foster's retirement after almost 40 years of service. Sheriff Vaughan seconded the motion.

Action: The motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.


Chairman Richard Chidester