

The Piedmont Regional Jail Authority Board meeting was held on February 17, 2021 via Webex hosted by Taylor Harvie

The following were **Present:**

Not Present

Amelia Taylor Harvie
David Felts

Abraham Redman
Ricky Walker

Buckingham

Frank Knott

William Kidd
*Roger Jamerson

Rebecca Carter

Cumberland Darrell Hodges
Don Unmussig

Robert Saunders

Lunenburg

Tracy Gee

Edward Pennington

Arthur Townsend
*Donald Penland

Nottoway

John A. Roark

Ronald Roark
Robert Jones

*C.L. Abernathy Jr.

Prince Edward James Garnett

Douglas Stanley
*David Wilmoth

*Sarah Puckett

Tony Epps

* denotes alternates

Also present

Jail Jerry R. Townsend – Superintendent (PRJA)
Gloria Giles (Secretary)

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

The minutes of the meeting held on January 20, 2021 of the Piedmont Regional Jail Authority Board were approved by a motion from John Roark, seconded by Frank Knott.

The treasurers' report for January 2021 was approved by a motion from John Roark, seconded by Douglas Stanley.

The accounts payable for January 2021 was accepted by a motion from Frank Knott, seconded by Robert Saunders.

The current budget was reviewed.

The commissary account was reviewed.

The Superintendent discussed the transportation report, jurisdiction report, and the billing summary for January 2021.

Capital projects list for FY2023 will change to include a new floor in the kitchen and sliders and doors.

The Superintendent's update addressed the following:

Offender death: An offender serving two life sentences in Cumberland and pending another life sentence in Mecklenburg has passed away. The State Police were notified and all procedures were followed. There was no negligence from either security or medical staff. Camera footage and all documentation is being gathered. It is believed that a drug overdose was the cause of the offender death. There may be possible litigation. It is suspected that staff is responsible for bringing the drugs into the facility. A search procedure will soon be implemented for all staff, visitors and vendors entering the facility to prevent this from occurring. Superintendent has requested that all inquiries be directed to him regarding the offender death.

COVID update: there are currently no staff or offenders testing positive.

Sanitation continues to prevent any spread of COVID.

Minimum movement is being maintained within the jail. Medical transports are when currently necessary only. Medical appointments are being rescheduled when possible. Staff second dose COVID vaccine are scheduled for February 23rd.

The jail has been recertified per the PREA audit for three years.

The Superintendent will hold a town hall meeting at 08:30 and 3:30 on Tuesday February 23, 2021 with all line staff to discuss shift hours for 12 hour shifts, and search procedure and authorized items allowed.

Main Control backup has been received. The backup server for the I building will be ordered. This server will cost approximately \$13,000.

A SUV will be purchase for approximately \$30,000. The additional cost over what was allocated will be paid from contingency fund, as well as one Gator ATV for \$18,000.

The camera system project continues.

There is a vacant Sergeants position that will be advertised both internally and to the general public. There are two cook and one food service director positions vacant. The cook's position will start at a salary of \$30,000 and the food service director will begin at a salary of \$36,000. Both cook and food service director salaries will increase at the one year anniversary date with satisfactory evaluations by \$2,000. Both positions are being advertised both internally and to the general public. There will be a job fair in mid-March. Recruitment will continue for security staff and cook positions.

Medical staffing numbers are low. Wellpath is trying to fill all vacancies to minimize any significant risk to the jail or the offender population. This is being monitored to make sure the jail remains compliant with staffing requirements.

The self-med program is going well. It will hopefully expand in the next few weeks.

The Superintendent presented data from Westwood pharmacy which listed in detail the pharmacy cost for offenders in the member jurisdiction. This will be presented monthly. Westwood is looking at ways to save the jail money by eliminating the unused medication processing fee.

The VCBR offender count continues to rise. The count of VCBR offenders is 21 today. These offenders place an additional hardship on the jail. The jail does not have enough space to house these offenders separately. A meeting will be rescheduled with VCBR staff.

The meeting was adjourned to March 17, 2021 via WebEx.

All motions carried unless noted.

_____, Secretary