

The Piedmont Regional Jail Authority Board meeting was held on January 20, 2021 via Webex hosted by Taylor Harvie

The following were **Present:**

Not Present

Amelia Taylor Harvie
David Felts
Ricky Walker

*James Moler

Buckingham
Frank Knott

William Kidd
*Roger Jamerson
Rebecca Carter

Cumberland Darrell Hodges
Don Unmussig
Robert Saunders

Lunenburg Edward Pennington
Tracy Gee

Arthur Townsend
*Donald Penland

Nottoway Robert Jones
John A. Roark

Ronald Roark

*C.L. Abernathy Jr.

Prince Edward James Garnett
Douglas Stanley
*David Wilmoth
Tony Epps

*Sarah Puckett

* denotes alternates

Also present

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

Nottoway County: John Procise
Sherman Vaughan

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Jerry Townsend who opened the floor for nominations for Jail Board Authority Chairman and Vice Chairman. James Garnett was nominated for Chairman. Tracy Gee was nominated for Vice chairman. There were no other nominations. By a unanimous vote James Garnett was elected as Chairman and Tracy Gee was elected as Vice Chairman for 2021. Gloria Giles was nominated for secretary and by a unanimous vote was elected for 2021. There were no other nominations.

The minutes of the meeting held on December 16, 2020 of the Piedmont Regional Jail Authority Board were approved by a motion from John Roark, seconded by Frank Knott.

The treasurers' report for December 2020 was approved by a motion from Frank Knott, seconded by John Roark.

The accounts payable for December 2020 was accepted by a motion from John Roark, seconded by Tracy Gee.

The current budget was reviewed.

The commissary account was reviewed.

The Superintendent discussed the transportation report, jurisdiction report, and the billing summary for December 2020.

The Superintendent's update addressed the following:

Every effort is being made to eliminate exposure to Covid-19.

The jail has been placed on lockdown. There are currently two staff that have tested positive for COVID-19, and three that are awaiting results.

There are twelve inmates that have tested positive, five symptomatic. All new arrestees are quarantined for 14 days. With the increasing number of cases, to minimize exposure to staff and other offenders, it was necessary to lock down the facility. All movement will be at a minimum. The lockdown period will be for 30 to 45 days. Movement will be limited to day shift. There will be no movement after 4:00 p.m. If the female population becomes infected with the virus, staff will have to assume the feeding of the offender population.

Special units have been set up for new arrestees, those testing positive, and symptomatic offenders.

The PREA audit went well. There are 4 or 5 issues that are being corrected. This audit consists of many more requirements than in past years. Staff did an excellent job with this audit.

VCBR offenders create an additional challenge for the jail. Due to their tendencies, they must be housed in special or separate housing units. They pose a threat for PREA violations. The jail currently has 20 offenders from VCBR. The Superintendent and the Chairman will meet on January 22 with the administration at VCBR in hopes of finding a way to keep these offenders from being sent to Piedmont. Two VCBR offenders have been charged for sexual acts by consent.

Painting has been stopped for the time being. Emphasis is on sanitation to combat the COVID-19 virus. Cleaning and sanitizing is done twice a day.

A quote for a backup server for I control and main control is being developed and should be available soon. It is necessary that this equipment be purchased.

Staff work schedules will be determined by the results of the staff survey. The results are due to the Superintendent by February 1st. If it is determined that 12 hour shifts are preferred, the Superintendent hopes to implement the shift change by March.

A draft policy for the new search procedure for individuals entering the facility is due to the Superintendent February 1st. This procedure will be implemented by March.

LT. Sherard Tisdale has been appointed as chief jailer and will work between the Captain of security and the shift commanders to oversee and monitor to insure consistency among the shifts.

One budget meeting has been held to determine facility needs for the next budget year. Another meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

The quote for the roof project came in at about \$170,000. This was the best quote that has been received. The Superintendent again thanked Tracy Gee for her recommendation to contact this roofer for a quote. The Superintendent will keep the board informed as this project moves forward. This quote comes with a 15 to 18 year warranty.

The anticipated quote to integrate the existing camera systems is \$40,000 to \$50,000. This quote will be received in the near future.

Zachary Cohen was hired to lobby for the 40 positions requested to be funded by the Compensation board. These positions have not been approved in the past because the two buildings built to house immigration detainees were not approved by the Board of Corrections. Representatives from both sides are supporting this request.

There are currently only two vacancies. HR has been working hard to fill these vacancies.

All CARES funding has been spent.

Hopefully offenders and staff will receive their COVID vaccine in the next few days. 244 offenders and 46 staff signed up to receive the vaccine.

The bar screen will have to be replaced. The current equipment has parts that need to be replaced. If this equipment malfunctions staff must manually handle feces.

The meeting was adjourned to February 17, 2021 via Webex.

All motions carried unless noted.

_____, Secretary