

NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY
Minutes
Meeting of Members
February 11, 2021

The Regional Jail Authority meeting was called to order at the Community Corrections Center, 147 Fort Collier Road, Winchester, Virginia 22603 at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Frederick County

Kris Tierney
Judith McCann-Slaughter
Sheriff Lenny Millholland

City of Winchester

Chief John Piper
Sheriff Les Taylor
Mayor John Smith

Clarke County

Chris Boies
Sheriff Anthony Roper
Jimmy Wyatt

Fauquier County

Sheriff Robert Mosier
Erin Kozanecki

ABSENT:

Christopher Butler
Doug Lawrence
Bob Wells
Bill Wiley
Daniel Hoffman

STAFF PRESENT:

Clay Corbin, Superintendent
Lynn McKinley
Kim Wilson
CSO Cooper

VISITORS:

Evan Goodenow, Winchester Star
Captain Mark Lavoie, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
1st Sgt. Parsons, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
Lt. Shawn Lasher, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
Brendan Hefty, NRADC Attorney
John Hill, Vice Mayor, City of Winchester

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tierney called the Special WebEx meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Tierney explained that since the soul purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget, he handed the meeting over to Interim Superintendent Corbin.

II. REQUEST FOR FUND BALANCE DRAW

Interim Superintendent Corbin reported that the Professional Line Item for fiscal '21 budget was set at \$1.2M. Our current balance is \$61,000 for the remainder of this budget year. The three (3) main things that are affecting this is:

- Inmate Anthem Costs
- Pharmacy Costs
- Temp. Nurses

Interim Superintendent reported that the RJA Finance Committee also met this morning and he will provide the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Corbin provided the following chart:

Bill Date	Amount Due
June 2020 (paid in July)	\$ 12,979.25
July	\$ 18,922.65
August	\$256,442.72
September	\$158,306.15
October	\$230,842.31**
November	\$103,579.70**
December	\$ 71,603.38

Anthem expenses for Inmates paid to date - \$621,834. Total budget allocated for Anthem for FY21 - **\$525,000**

**October bill has not been paid; waiting on credits (est. \$315k) from Anthem for inmate claims not approved by the Jail.

Bills for January 2021 – May 2021 estimated at \$95k per months. **Anticipated over budgeted amount by \$510k.**

Mr. Corbin explained that the costs are driven by the number of inmates under medical care and the rise in acute care.

Mr. Corbin provided the following chart to show historical Anthem costs:

Fiscal Year	Amount
FY17	\$ 688,345
FY18	\$ 473,030
FY19	\$ 499,062
FY20	\$ 216,659

The average spent for the past 4 years was \$469,000 and we felt \$525,000 would have easily gotten us through the end of the year.

Interim Superintendent Corbin reported that to date we have spent \$286,493 on contract nurses. Total budget allocated for contract nurses for FY21 was \$375,000. Bills for the remainder of FY21 estimated at \$215,000. Estimate over budgeted amount by \$127,000.

Mr. Corbin explained the back story behind the cost of the contract nurses. Our facility currently has 8 nurse vacancies and some of those vacancies have been open for more than 4 years. The Board of Supervisors approved us to increase the NRADC nurse's salary effective January 1, 2021. Mr. Corbin explained that we have had to rely on contract nurses because of those 8 vacancies. Gateway's hourly salary is \$51.60 per hour and we contracted with 6 or 7 nurses through them. We now are working with Medical Edge and we have 7 or 8 nurses contracted through them. We still have three (3) Gateway nurses working for our facility, but two (2) of the nurses have applied to fill 2 of the 8 vacancies. The third contract nurse through Gateway either will join Medical Edge or we will terminate her contract. Four (4) of the contract nurses through Medical Edge plan to apply for full-time work with NRADC, but the contract requires them to wait 6 months before they can apply. Out of the eight (8) nurse vacancies, we have anticipated to fill seven (7) of them with contract nurses.

Interim Superintendent Corbin reported that the pharmacy bills to date is \$231,69 (July – November). The total budget allocated for pharmacy bills for FY21 is \$384,000. Mr. Corbin reported that the bills for the remainder of FY21 are estimated at \$342k. We estimate that we are \$190k over budget.

Reasons for the extraordinarily high Anthem costs are:

- Dialysis patients driving up costs – We currently have 3 inmates simultaneously on dialysis.
- High patient acuity causing need for increase in specialist care.

Reasons for pharmacy cost increase:

- Number of inmates on medications increased 16%.
- Average cost per inmate per month increased 6%.
- Psychiatric medication cost increased by 6%.
- Increase in chronic care admissions and chronic care cases.
- Increase in the amount of psychiatric medications ordered.

Mr. Corbin reported quarterly meetings with Correct RX to break down the medications most used, the medications we use that spiked and discussed other formularies that we could use that would be much cheaper but provide the same effect.

Interim Superintendent Corbin reported the current fund balance at \$4,998,712. He also provided the following chart:

Current Fund Balance

\$4,998,712	
\$2,385,896	FY22 draw
\$ 612,815	Remaining DOC reimbursement for Security System to be applied to bond payments until depleted
\$ 827,000	Draw Request for medical costs
\$1,173,001	**Should increase by about \$550k the end of FY21 due to remaining \$ in staff vacancies/fringe

**In November 2017, the Finance Committee discussed setting a formal policy on what the minimum Fund Balance should be; this amount was \$2M. For FY23, there will be no draw from Fund Balance except for the bond payment for the Security upgrade, the locality shares will increase.

Mr. Corbin reported that he met with Command Staff and informed them that in terms of our budget, if it's not a necessity, we're not spending it. Due to the freeze in unnecessary spending, we are hoping to return even more money to fund balance.

Interim Superintendent presented the following chart to explain the fund balance draw request of \$827,000.

Expense	Budgeted Amount	Expenses as of 01/15/21	Expected by 06/30/21	Short	Explanation
Inmate Medical Costs	\$ 1,648,125	\$ 1,166,221	\$ 2,475,100	-\$ 826,975	Anthem, Pharmacy and Contract nurses

Mr. Corbin reported that it was the recommendation of the RJA Finance Committee to draw \$827,000 from fund balance to cover the shortfall in medical costs and replace with revenues from the previous year.

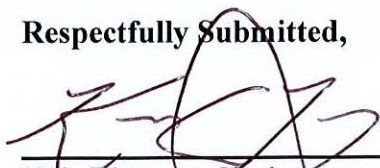
Ms. McCann-Slaughter made a motion to recommend a fund balance draw in the amount of \$827,000. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Millholland. The Jail Authority unanimously approved.

Mr. Corbin would like to see a policy establishing a threshold for fund balance. Mr. Tierney agreed that 10% is a bit lean and this item would be discussed at the April meeting.

IV. ADJOURN

As there was no further business brought before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kris Tierney, Chairman
Regional Jail Authority