

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL JAILS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**APPROVED: 5/15/24**

REGULAR MEETING.....March 13, 2024; 12:00 PM

LOCATION.....6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

PRESIDING.....Vernie Francis, Chairman

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:     The Honorable Vernie Francis, Chairman  
                                      The Honorable Charles Jett, Vice Chairman  
                                      Michael Carrera  
                                      Dr. Cleopatra Booker, PsyD  
                                      Tiffany Jenkins  
                                      David Hackworth  
                                      Charles Carey  
                                      Roland Sherrod  
                                      Dr. Amanda Trent

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:       Ryan McCord, Director of Administrative Compliance  
                                      Tawana Ferguson, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor  
                                      John Rock, Jail Death Investigator  
                                      Alison Lautz, Jail Death Investigator  
                                      Gerald Olson, Architect  
                                      Ashley Gordon, Executive Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:             Eric Smith, Office of Attorney General  
                                      Keith Lockridge, Blue Ridge Regional Jail  
                                      Jim Pritchett, Chesterfield Sheriff's Office  
                                      Michelle Lewis, Northern Neck Regional Jail  
                                      Derek Almarode, Rockbridge Regional Jail  
                                      Sheriff Steve Draper, City of Martinsville  
                                      Sheriff Mike Taylor, Pittsylvania County Jail  
                                      Sheriff Antionette Irving, Richmond Sheriff's Office  
                                      Major Stacey Bagby, Richmond Sherriff's Office  
                                      Major Tracy Stancil-Purches, Richmond Sherriff's Office  
                                      Major Jeffrey Feighner, Richmond Sheriff's Office  
                                      Eric Young, Middle River Regional Jail  
                                      William Smith, Western Tidewater Regional Jail  
                                      Dina Davis, Martinsville Sheriff's Office  
                                      Major E. Luna  
                                      Larry Leabough, Riverside Regional Jail

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Chairman Francis determined there was a quorum present.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY BOARD MINUTES**

The February 21, 2024, minutes were approved by motion of Dr. Booker, second by Mr. Hackworth, and unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

**PRESENTATIONS**

Board Architect Gerald Olson presented a project proposal for Chesapeake County Jail for renovations. Mr. Hackworth recused himself from the vote prior to the presentation.

1. Dr. Trent read the motion as follows:

The Board of Local and Regional Jails APPROVES the Chesapeake Correctional Center's request for state funding for the Renovation and Upgrades in their facility. This motion recognizes a total eligible cost of \$1,750,411.00 of which up to 25% or \$437,603 would be eligible for State reimbursement in a lump sum payment. Such reimbursement is subject to the availability of funds and compliance with Board Standards for Planning, Design, Construction and Reimbursement of Local Correctional Facilities, 2018, and Sections 53.1-80 through 82 of the Code of Virginia.

Upon a *Motion* by Dr. Trent and second by Mr. Carrera, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

Board Regulatory Compliance Supervisor Tawana Ferguson presented the Certification and Inspections Report with suggested motions.

1. **Dr. Trent read the motion as follows:**

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I make the following recommendation in the form of a Motion: Unconditional Certification as a result of 100% compliance with Board standards for the following facilities:

1. Richmond City Justice Center
2. Riverside Regional Jail
3. Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority – Duffield Adult Detention Center

Upon a *Motion* by Dr. Trent and second by Mr. Carrera, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

**2. Dr. Trent read the motion as follows:**

In recognition of the outstanding achievements of 100% compliance with Board standards, I make the following recommendations in the form of a Motion: Suspension of the 2024 annual inspection for the following facilities:

1. Richmond City Justice Center
2. Riverside Regional Jail
3. Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority – Duffield Adult Detention Center

Upon a *Motion* by Dr. Trent and second by Mr. Carrera, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

**JAIL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

March 13, 2024 meeting was cancelled.

**Richmond City Justice Center Certification**

Major Stancil-Purches provided updates regarding the compliance plan and security checks they are sharing with the Board to remain in compliance. Major Fieghner mentioned they are currently installing the Guardian RFID and security tags. A network security meeting is scheduled to set up necessary websites to ensure the system is working properly. Also installing more Wi-Fi access points throughout the main secure areas of the facility to make sure every area is covered. Major Bagby shared updates regarding Durabooks, which will allow staff a handheld device to open and close doors in the pods, in addition to having activity sheets available to add information.

**Additional Items for Discussion/Board Member Comment**

Chairman Francis shared that his term on the Board ends June 29, 2024, and a nominating committee will coordinate officer elections for the BLRJ, effective July 1, 2024. Mr. Sherrod

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will serve as chair of the nominating committee, with Board members Mrs. Jenkins and Mr. Carey.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss before the Board of Local and Regional Jails, upon a *Motion* by Chairman Francis and duly seconded, the meeting was *adjourned*.