

# WVDCR JAIL BOARD MEETING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

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## REGULAR MEETING

Thursday – December 10, 2020 – 1:05 p.m.

Meeting held via ZOOM video conference

- I.** The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm and a roll call of members was conducted by commissioner Jividen.

Members Present:

1. Matthew Arvon – Medical
2. David Blair Couch, Wood County Commissioner
3. Charles Zerkle, Cabell County Sheriff
4. David Hinkle, Harrison County Commissioner
5. Jeff Sandy, Cabinet Secretary – WV Department of Homeland Security
6. Alan McVey, Cabinet Secretary – WV Department of Administration
7. Betsy Jividen, WV Corrections Commissioner
8. Bill Marshall, Assistant Commissioner – Bureau of Juvenile Services

Members Absent:

1. George Cosenza, Law

A quorum was present

Others Present: Sheila Daves, Executive Assistant/Minutes

Brian Arthur, WV DHS, Assistant Director – Budget and Finance

- II.** New board members were introduced, Charles Zerkle, David Blair Couch and David Hinkle.

- III.** The board selected a new chairman to serve the remainder of the former chair's term.

Motion to select David Blair Couch: Jeff Sandy

Second: Alan McVey

None Opposed

- IV.** William Valentino, DHS Deputy General Counsel explained the history of the jails and the DCR jail board code. Brian Arthur explained the current per-diem rate to house jail inmates is \$48.25. The rate will be set by the state budget office after the bonds are paid in July of 2021. The board will be able to review the rate once set.

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- V.** Jeff Sandy, DHS Cabinet Secretary sent a packet out to the board members via email prior to the Zoom board meeting that contained agency updates, historical per- diem rates and a letter from the Department of Revenue.

Ms. Jividen provided the board with an update on how the facilities are handling the pandemic, and how Covid tests and temperature checks are being conducted on staff and inmates. She provided a brief update on PREA, the Marshal contract, the GOALS program. Mr. Couch asked if the GOALS program was suspended due to Covid. Ms. Jividen responded and said it has been suspended.

The board was briefed on previous litigation concerning the sewer system at the North Central Regional Jail and the town of West Union.

Mr. Sandy went over the historical per-diem rates for the jails and said the current per-diem rate is the lowest in the nation. He also mentioned the 3-year freeze on the per diem cost per inmate. The rate remained at \$48.25 since July of 2018.

A letter from the Department of Revenue Budget Office to the Commissioner was included in Mr. Sandys packet sent to the board regarding the average cost per inmate per day. The budget office calculated expenses from the previous years, as well as the average inmate population and determined the average cost to be \$54.88.

Mr. Zirkle asked if the legislature was going to help with the per-diem. Mr. Sandy answered by saying the governor's office was supplied with 3 options to consider. The plan is to come up with something beneficial to the counties.

- VI.** Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes: David Blair Couch  
Second: Alan McVey  
None Opposed
- VII.** Ms. Daves will coordinate a meeting in June of 2021, prior to the month the bond debt is paid.
- VIII.** The meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.

*Contact information was included on the public meeting notice for any member of the public who wished to listen to the meeting.*