

November 2020 Jail Board Authority Zoom Meeting Chat

12:53:12 From dwalker3 : Thank you Jay
12:55:02 From blairjc : Agreed. Thanks for stepping up!
12:55:46 From scarter : No problem here.
12:57:31 From scarter : Fine with me!!
13:03:39 From scarter : Can approval be authorized for the Superintendent to approve everything that is within the approved annual budget and anything beyond that would come back to the Board for approval. This would enable the Supt. to approve expenses beyond \$100,000 assuming appropriate controls are in place.
13:05:27 From scarter : Whatever works, of course.
13:09:24 From scarter : I'll just add in Nelson County that the Co Admin is authorized to approve expenditures that are in the budget that can far exceed \$100,000. Anything not within the budget has to be approved by the BOS via a budget amendment.
13:12:31 From scarter : Nelson County's Board approved this consideration (for non-Compensation Board supported positions to also receive the bonus) on 11-10.
13:16:10 From scarter : I don't support the recommendation. If there's a motion to approve this as Martin has proposed, my vote is NO.
13:18:16 From scarter : Diantha, yes. Your description of what I wrote is correct.
13:20:58 From scarter : Nelson County's approval of bonuses for non-Comp BD law enforcement personnel did not include non law enforcement personnel employees in the Sheriff's Department.
13:22:31 From scarter : What David said is correct.
13:29:29 From scarter : Comply with the direction from the Comp BD and include those who are non Comp BD supported who are equivalent to the Comp BD supported employees designated to receive the bonus.
13:34:54 From scarter : The State works in mysterious ways!!!
14:00:37 From scarter : Perhaps not equivalent in all respects, but Nelson County's operational budget is 3+ times ACRJA's budget and Nelson County has an equivalent number of employees to ACRJA. County staff dedicated to all the tasks both Albemarle County and ACRJA staff provide numbers 4 and are supported, as may be necessary, by other County staff. More analysis needs to be completed.
14:01:58 From scarter : Diantha, I did send another comment on the fiscal agent.

- I've read over the new ACRJ Q and A page, and it's my understanding that asymptomatic, newly incarcerated people are still not routinely tested. Though the VDH does not support the routine testing via the state lab, I believe this is the best and only way to ensure the inmates at ACRJ are safe. With rising cases across the country, we need to be extra vigilant to protect this vulnerable population. We are counting on our elected and local government to solve this problem. The current state of things is unacceptable.

-The TJHD Covid portal currently lists all ACRJ cases as zero – clearly there is some kind of error with the reporting, and I hope it's updated as soon as possible.

-I have heard from inmates that guards continue to not use PPE or to wear it improperly – this endangers everyone's health and should not be tolerated.

-And lastly, I ask that the ACRJ make longer term plans to protect the incarcerated with necessary ventilation and unlimited access to hygiene. This crisis is only going to get worse and the ACRJ should be prepared.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Jean Knorr and I am here today as a member of the public. You may remember that I attended several Board meetings before COVID.

My interest in the operations of the jail comes from my volunteer work at the Haven and from visits I have made to the jail.

The specific issue I want to talk about today is the telephone charges paid by inmates, their families and friends, and specifically that those charges generate revenue for the jail. I am aware, though, that there are other similar sources of jail revenue such as commissary fees and payments by VDOT. There may be others.

I have several concerns about these charges. First, the cost for telephone services makes it difficult for inmates to stay in contact with the community. Largely, that cost is borne by community members who, I feel safe in assuming, have few resources to spare.

Second, requiring inmates, their families and friends to subsidize jail operations is a highly regressive form of taxation imposed on people ill-equipped to pay it.

Last, but not least, when looking at the small percentage of the jail's budget that these charges account for, coupled with the hardship they impose on inmates, their families and friends, it looks very much as though the motive is punitive.

My purpose in bringing these concerns to you today is to ask that you reduce phone charges to the amount paid to the vendor. Even better, provide phone calls to inmates free of charge, as other jurisdictions are doing.

Thank you.

Hi, My name is Melissa and I'm a resident of Charlottesville. I have several concerns with current conditions in the jail. I've been in contact with several people currently in the jail and all have reported concerns relating to COVID. Most have mentioned that they are worried about their health, safety, and in some cases their lives. People report that there has been very little information shared with them about what is going on relating to testing, positive cases, and the pandemic in general. I would like to see more information shared with inmates about the covid situation. The people I've communicated with have also mentioned that many of the staff are not wearing their PPE correctly, for example wearing their masks under their noses, which puts everyone at increased risk. Many have also brought up the fact that all of the programs have been cut, and that they are extremely bored. I have concerns about the long term quality of life for these folks, and am relying on you to come up with long term solutions for issues relating to emotional, physical, and mental wellbeing. It is difficult to see UVA bring students back and people being packed onto the downtown mall while the people in the jail are unable to even have contactless visits with family members. Covid is not something that will disappear, and I hope that you are accounting for that in your care for these individuals and in your budget.

-Melissa