Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 14, 2021

The Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority Board called a special meeting to discuss an easement for the Town of Boydton and to give an update on the COVID-19 Pandemic. This meeting was held virtually over Cisco Webex due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

I. **Call To Order**

Members Present are as follows:

Brian Roberts, Brunswick County Sheriff
Dr. Charlette Woolridge, Brunswick County Administrator
Bernard Jones, Brunswick County Board of Supervisors
Kevin Massengill, Dinwiddie County Administrator
Bobby Hawkins, Mecklenburg County Sheriff
Wayne Carter, Mecklenburg County Administrator
Tom Tanner, Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors

Others in attendance are as follows:

Crystal Willett, Superintendent
Major Brent Wright, Deputy Superintendent
Brendan Hefty, Hefty, Wiley & Gore, P.C.
Jennifer Derrenbacker, Finance Director
Shelley Slaughter, Executive Secretary

II. **Town of Boydton Easement**

The Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority discussed the proposed Deed of Easement by Gift to the Town of Boydton. A copy of the deed and exhibit was emailed to each member to review prior to this meeting and was also shared over Cisco Webex.

This Deed of Easement by Gift is for a 20 foot – 12 foot permanent construction easement that will be located beside the existing easement listed on the exhibit. There is also an additional 30 foot construction easement at the southeast corner and continues as a 12 foot – 20 foot easement thereafter. This easement will run from the old Mecklenburg Prison site to the Town of Boydton Waste Water Treatment Plant and will be for sewer lines on the south side of the existing line.

Tom Tanner made a motion to approve the Deed of Easement by Gift from the Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority to The Town of Boydton. Bernard Jones seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

III.   COVID-19 Update

As of today, January 14, 2021, the Jail has had 3 coronavirus testing dates. Out of 392 offenders, 110 have been tested; 79 tested positive which is 72% of the total tested. Due to these numbers, the Health Department has recommended a facility wide testing. This will take place on Monday, January 18, 2021 and the remaining 275 offenders will be tested at this time.

The Jail is hopeful that offenders tested on the third day of testing will be cleared with no signs and symptoms on January 19, 2021 and will no longer have to be separated. The worst case scenario will be the 14 day mark, which would be January 21, 2021.

The Jail had 29 sworn staff out around the same time frame. At this time 14 are still out; of these 10 tested positive, 2 are awaiting test results and 2 tested negative, but do not feel comfortable returning at this time. Also, during this time frame, 5 sworn staff have resigned and stated it is due to COVID-19.

The Mecklenburg Facility has temporarily been closed and all staff and offenders have been moved to the Alberta Facility to help with the current staff shortages due to COVID-19. The Jail is working closely with the Health Department to keep track of staff that has been tested and when they will be able to return to work. Unfortunately, the majority will not be able to return until around January 20, 2021.

We have been working with the Health Department in regards to securing the vaccine for our staff as well. Four of our Medical Team have received the vaccine. We are still waiting on the date all sworn will be afforded the vaccine. We conducted a survey to get an idea of what % of our staff are interested in the vaccine. 47% of our staff indicated they do want to receive the vaccine at this time.

IV.   Next Meeting

The next Board meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 12:30 p.m. at the Meherrin River Regional Jail Board Room. Lunch will be provided.

V.   Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Wayne Carter to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Massengill seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.