

Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 26, 2026

The Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority Board held their meeting in the Meherrin River Regional Jail Board Room.

I. Call To Order

Members Present are as follows:

Kevin Massengill, Dinwiddie County Administrator
Duck Adams, Dinwiddie County Sheriff
Casey Dooley, Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors
Captain Joseph Lopresti, Brunswick County Sheriff's Office
Leslie Weddington, Brunswick County Administrator
Dr. Alfonso Seward, Brunswick County Board of Supervisors
Major Brent Evans, Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office
Alex Gottschalk, Mecklenburg County Administrator
Tom Tanner, Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors

Others in attendance are as follows:

Rodney Jacobs, Superintendent
Captain Steve Kennedy, Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office
Brendan Hefty, Hefty, Wiley & Gore, P.C.
Jennifer Derrenbacker, Finance Director
Shelley Slaughter, Executive Secretary
Ted Cole, Davenport

II. Approval of Agenda

Tom Tanner made a motion to approve the March 26, 2026 agenda. Major Brent Evans seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

III. Approval of Minutes

Leslie Weddington made a motion to approve the November 6, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes. Tom Tanner seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

IV. New Business

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Davenport Presentation – Ted Cole with Davenport presented the following topics for consideration and discussion by the Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority Board:

- a. The potential refunding opportunity for our 2016C VRA bonds. We will keep an eye on the rates and make a decision at the next Board Meeting regarding these bonds.
- b. Investment options for our Debt Service Reserve Fund (DSRF). The MRRJA Board agreed to keep these funds in SNAP at this time.
- c. The Mecklenburg facility allocation and options. Alex Gottschalk discussed Mecklenburg County assuming the debt service payments for the portion allocated to the Mecklenburg facility. This would release the other localities of their obligations to pay debt service on the Mecklenburg facility and they could use that money for better purposes within their communities. The MRRJA Board agreed this was the best option for everyone. The Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors will need to approve this as well.

Ted Cole with Davenport discussed that if MRRJA decides to refund our 2016C VRA bonds, the debt service for the Mecklenburg facility would be “carved out” and only the portion allocated to the Alberta facility would be refunded. The Mecklenburg facility allocation of our 2016C VRA bonds would not be included in the bond refunding and Mecklenburg County could potentially have the option to purchase the Mecklenburg facility in full at a later date. Davenport and MRRJ staff will reach out to bond counsel as well as VRA to discuss all of the particulars regarding what is needed to move forward.

2. Monthly Status Report – The Monthly Status Report for the months of December 2025 through February 2026 was presented.

We recently had our National Correctional Healthcare Accreditation Audit and passed all aspects of the audit. The auditing staff stated that MRRJ is one of the cleanest and most professional they have ever been in.

One of the biggest struggles MRRJ has had over the years is morale in the secure part of the facility. As of today, morale is at an all-time high. Our main recruiting tool at this time is MRRJ staff recommending jobs to their family, friends and the communities. At our current ADP, staffing is right where it should be. We will be hiring 2 more positions and at that time will be able to remove job ads and put recruitment on hold until more staffing is needed.

Superintendent Rodney Jacobs has been looking into restarting the Work Force Program, however, with the lower ADP, we do not have enough qualified offenders at this time. Sheriff Adams feels that the qualification standards for the Work Force Program is too strict and needs to be lowered. He feels that if an offender has a minor drug charge, they should be qualified for this program. Shelley Slaughter will send the most up to date Trustee Eligibility Analysis Report as well as the Work Force Policy to the MRRJA Board for review and it will be discussed at the May 7, 2026 Board Meeting.

ICE reached out to a MRRJA Board Member with issues stating that MRRJ was non-compliant. The board member reached out to State Police and found it was an issue with the biometrics used to send information to them. This issue has been rectified.

3. Quarterly Financial Report – 2nd Quarter FY2026 – As of December 31, 2025, we have collected 41.55% of our budgeted revenues and spent 38.04% of our budgeted expenses. Expenses are slightly lower than revenues due to lower ADP and staff vacancies. At the end of the second quarter, ADP was 228 with Brunswick accounting for 28%, Dinwiddie 29% and Mecklenburg 43%.

Using the 3-year rolling average to calculate the True-Up, as of December 31, 2025 the actual True-Up shows Brunswick would receive a refund of \$28,448, Dinwiddie would owe \$2,895, and Mecklenburg would owe \$25,552.

The projected True-Up as of June 30, 2026 shows that Brunswick would receive a refund of \$56,431, Dinwiddie would owe \$5,744 and Mecklenburg would owe \$50,688.

4. Proposed FY27 Budget – The FY27 budget has been prepared with the goal of maintaining low operational costs while providing exceptional service to our offenders, staff and community. The budget was prepared using financial data from FY13 through FY25.

Our ADP is decreasing to 250 for FY27. This is determined by using a 3-year weighted average. The total budget is decreasing \$498,531. Locality contributions are remaining flat for FY27. However, due to using the most recent 3-year rolling averages, usage percentages are changing for each locality. Brunswick is decreasing \$37,936, Dinwiddie is increasing \$5,584 and Mecklenburg is increasing \$32,352.

There are several significant changes to the budget this year to include a \$394,900 loss in inmate phone revenue due to the FCC ruling that becomes effective in April 2026 which limits our inmate phone revenues to \$0.02 per minute for phone and internet visitation communications. To offset this revenue loss, we are recommending that we hold an additional 2 Jail Officer positions per shift for a total of 8 additional held positions. There is also a large decrease of approximately \$300,000 in Wages & Benefits expenses due to our VRS retirement contribution rate decreasing from 7.47% to 4.25%. This budget also includes a 2% raise for all positions effective July 1, 2026 which is offset by Compensation Board salary reimbursements on the revenue side. Our medical services contract is increasing \$108,529 due to the CPI-W increase that is included in the contract. Other revenues are decreasing as well due to the lower ADP. We will present the FY27 budget at the May 7, 2026 Board Meeting for adoption by the Board.

V. Good of the Order

Tom Tanner toured the MRRJ facility and was impressed by the cleanliness and professionalism of the facility. He wanted to thank the Superintendent and staff for making this facility top notch. He recommended touring the facility to the Board, if they had not already done so.

VI. Next Meeting

The next Board meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. at the Meherrin River Regional Jail Board Room. Lunch will be provided.

VII. Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Sheriff Duck Adams to adjourn the meeting. Alex Gottschalk seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.