

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS  
LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Regular Meeting.....March 16, 2016

Location .....6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

Presiding.....Superintendent David Simons, Chairman

Present..... John F. Anderson, Board of Corrections  
Ann Gardner, Board of Correction  
Bobby Vassar, Board of Corrections  
Colin O’Dawe, Board of Corrections  
Carl Peed, Board of Corrections  
David A. Hackworth, Chesapeake Sheriff’s Office  
Matt Marsteller, Blue Ridge Regional Jail  
Tim Trent, Blue Ridge Regional Jail  
Rocky Holcomb, Virginia Beach Sheriff’s Office  
Keith Lockridge, Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office  
Bill Wilson, RSW Regional Jail  
Paul Perry Peumansend Creek Regional Jail  
Robyn deSocio, State Compensation Board  
Nicole Storm, Department of Planning and Budget  
Dick Hall-Sizemore, Department of Planning and Budget  
Bob Casey, Compliance and Accreditation Unit, Department of Corrections  
Jim Parks, Offender Management Services Unit, Department of Corrections  
James Bruce, Policy and Initiative Unit, Department of Corrections  
Donna Foster, Liaison Support, Department of Corrections  
Jamie Pham, Vectre Corporation

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. and Chairman Simons welcomed all attendees asking each to introduce themselves.

**I. Committee Chairman**

Chairman Simons called for a motion to approve the November 18, 2015 minutes.

Upon a **MOTION** and duly seconded, the November 18, 2015 minutes were unanimously **APPROVED**.

**II. Funding and Budget Issues (Ms. Robyn deSocio, State Compensation Board)**

Ms. deSocio reported updates from the most recent session of the legislature. She noted that \$11.3 million in additional jail inmate per diem funding was fully approved for the current fiscal year 2016 (FY16). A 2% across the board salary increase was approved for December 1, 2016, contingent upon revenues. Sheriffs' offices and regional jails' staff will receive a compression increase of \$80 per year of service for all sworn officers with three or more years of continuous service up to 30 years of service, not to include the elected sheriff. Non-sworn staff will receive \$65 per year of service for all staff with three or more years of continuous service up to 30 years of service, contingent upon revenues, effective January 1, 2017. The Compensation Board is working on details, but the costs associated with this funding are based on service time in Compensation Board funded positions, and not VRS service. Service time with the Department of Corrections or other VRS covered positions will not apply for this compression increase. Information will be sent to applicable facilities for verification, hopefully in April.

Current participants in the master deputy program will continue to be eligible for funding in FY17. New funding to allow additional participants in the program, where up to 20% of entry-level deputies may be eligible for participation, has been approved beginning December 1, 2016, contingent upon FY16 year-end revenues. New offices opting into the program for FY17 for the first time are not likely to be funded at this time.

New jail funding was approved for the Central Virginia Regional Jail expansion and the Pamunkey Regional Jail renovation for FY17. Anticipated funding needs for Chesapeake City Jail for FY18 were not approved during this session, which is not uncommon this far ahead of schedule.

The legislature also approved jail inmate per diem funding for the next biennium to include \$10.4 million for FY17 and \$11.1 for FY18. This funding need was based upon last fall's official inmate forecast, and the forecast will be updated in the fall of 2016, and changes to the funding needed may result. Also approved is \$100,000 for Nottoway County to offset the costs of incarceration for individuals being housed in the Piedmont Regional Jail from the Virginia Center for Behavioral Health for both FY17 and 18.

All sheriffs' offices and regional jails are currently covered under the VARISK liability insurance of the Division of Risk Management. The Compensation Board has been asked to review the current liability program as well as other potential alternatives available through public and private insurance providers. They will be gathering a group of stakeholders from sheriffs' offices, regional jails and localities to review alternative options and report back to the legislature in early December. The

Compensation Board will be contacting officer associations to appoint representatives.

There was also language included in the Governor's budget bill under the Division of Risk Management (DRM) that requires them to provide more information to the Compensation Board for the billing of premium costs. The Compensation Board pays the premiums to DRM and recovers those costs from localities and regional jails through withholding of these costs from payroll reimbursements. DRM has been directed to have their actuaries provide better information regarding how these premium amounts are to be distributed across all offices, including factors such as claims history, staffing in offices and average daily populations in jails.

The Compensation Board plans to reinstitute the "Managing Jail Risk" training program and the Governor's budget bill also included language directing the Compensation Board to withhold funding to cover this training along with liability premiums.

Budget language directs that the Compensation Board, along with other state agencies, participate in a study group convened by the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The objective is to examine current ways to improve cost effectiveness of purchasing high cost medications to improve care and treatment for individuals served by those agencies, including jails and other institutions. Ms. de Socio stated that she has limited information on this at this time but will reach out to respective associations when more information becomes available.

Funding was included in the governor's budget for a Mental Health Initiative for jails, and was amended by the legislature. One million dollars for FY17 and \$2.5 million for FY18 was approved for the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to solicit proposals from local and regional jails to establish pilot programs to either provide services for mentally ill offenders or to provide pre-incarceration crisis intervention services to prevent mentally ill offenders from entering jails. The DCJS will be soliciting proposals from jails to identify up to six pilot sites that will be recommended for funding beginning January 1, 2017.

There is a summary on the Compensation Board website regarding the conference report including everything proposed in the Governor's budget and by the General Assembly under "Recent Correspondence".

The Compensation Board will have budget estimates out on March 25, 2016. This information will be available on their website and communication will follow. There is a public budget hearing to be held on April 7, 2016 in their downtown offices. The reconvened session is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>, and budgets should be set by the Compensation Board on April 27<sup>th</sup> and released by April 29, 2016.

Ms. de Socio advised of a new staff member with the Compensation Board named Mark Pellet who will be working with the jail cost report.

John Anderson, Jr. asked Ms. deSocio if she would provide a written summary in the future, prior to the Liaison Committee meeting to assist him and Ann Gardner who are trying to record the information provided during the meeting to report to the full Board of Corrections, especially whenever there is a substantial amount of information presented.

III. **Prison/Local Jail Population Report and Jail Construction Update – Mr. Bob Casey**

Mr. Casey reported that Central Virginia Regional Jail is approaching completion of phase IV of construction, which is due in July. Prince William-Manassas Regional Jail's phase II expansion has reached 35% design completion, just recently having their value engineering presentation on February 25, 2016. Richmond City Justice Center's reimbursement package was signed off by the Secretary of Public Safety and delivered to the Department of the Treasury for processing.

IV. **Offender Management Service Update - Mr. Jim Parks**

Mr. Parks reported that the out-of-compliance rates are trending downward, currently at 4,595. As always, he will gladly assist facilities with problem issues such as medical needs. He stated that he has seen an increase in dementia cases adding that there is a much smoother transition when MCV is familiar with the case. A doctor to doctor transfer should be coordinated with MCV for offenders hospitalized at another hospital. This will to prevent duplication of testing and maintain continuity of treatment.

V. **Other Business**

Chairman Simons advised that Sheriff Morgan was caught in traffic apparently related to an accident and would likely miss the entire meeting as a result.

I. **Other Comments**

There being nothing further, by *MOTION* duly made and seconded, the meeting was ***ADJOURNED.***