

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

Regular Meeting July 16, 2008

Location6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

Presiding Chairman..... Chris Webb, Chairman, Liaison Committee

Present Sterling Proffitt, Chairman, Board of Corrections
Jimmy Burrell, Board of Corrections
Jacqueline Fraser, Board of Corrections
Bobby Mitchell, Board of Corrections
Barry Green, Office of the Secretary of Public Safety
Dawn Smith, Office of the Secretary of Public Safety
Jeff Frazier, Superintendent, Northern Neck Regional Jail
Tom Jones, Sheriff, Charlotte County
Sandra Thacker, Peumansend Creek Regional Jail
Eugene Taylor, Captain, Hampton Roads Regional Jail
John Roberts, Newport News City Farm
Bobby McCabe, Sheriff, Norfolk City Jail
Jack Dewan, Virginia Association of Regional Jails
Robyn deSocio, State Compensation Board
Gary Bass, Classification and Records, DOC
Bill Wilson, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC
Donna Foster, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC

I. May Minutes

- Minutes from the May 21, 2008 meetings were motioned for approval by Jack Dewan seconded by Sandra Thacker and for approved by the attending members.

II. Meeting Summary

- Chris Webb notified the committee that Jack Dewan will no longer be serving as a Liaison Committee member. He has served as a member since 1992. The committee thanks Mr. Dewan for his 16 years of service.

- Robyn deSocio thanked the committee for changing the meeting start time in consideration of her conflicting Compensation Board monthly meeting, stating that she hopes she will be able to participate in the majority of the future Liaison meetings.

Resource requirements for staffing and capacity requirements are to be reviewed in the initial meetings starting in early August. This information will be presented to the General Assembly in the Fall. A Managing Jail Risk meeting is being planned for this Fall as well, likely in mid-October. This will be held in Lynchburg but with a different venue due to complaints from last years meeting. The Division of Risk Management will be cooperation with the Comp. Board to offer additional course topics and extend the training sessions.

The Comp. Board is awaiting revised revenue forecasts. Ms. deSocio hasn't seen any updates to the information that was sent out in April. She followed up with the DPB (Department of Planning and Budget) about the aid to localities reductions but hasn't seen anything official. It will be released around the first of August. Localities will have until August 30th to respond. In the fall, the budget process will proceed as normal. This year will be a short session for the General Assembly which involves amending the existing budget.

Considerations will include new staffing needs for facilities under construction and opening in FY10 as well as jail and prison inmate forecasting for per diem funding requirements. Mr. Proffitt reminded Ms. deSocio as well as the attending members that there will be a Liaison (and Board) meeting in October this year. Ms. deSocio stated that she planned to attend the October meeting.

- Kim Lipp was unable to attend the meeting and provided notes for Mr. Webb to report on the Capital Program update. The only project currently underway is the Grayson facility. There was a naturally occurring asbestos vein found while doing groundwork that caused some delays due to environment hazard concerns, but the particulate levels have diminished thus respirators and suits are no longer necessary.
- Bill Wilson presented the population report and local construction updates. There are a total of 27,789 jail inmates statewide of which 5,547 are state responsible and 1,552 out of compliance inmates.

Rappahannock Regional Jail should be opening the new wing sometime in August. Patrick County will be asking approval of their community based corrections plan from the Board of Corrections during the July meeting adding 120 beds. Brunswick, Dinwiddie and Mecklenburg will also be asking for approval of their community based corrections plan for 798 total beds. Mecklenburg plans a satellite facility in the plan with 126 of those beds due to the distance between facilities with work release and a pre-trial center.

- Gary Bass discussed the Classification updates. The Nottoway beds have been brought back online and have been filled. All the new construction beds have been filled with the exception of St. Brides which, as the committee has been previously advised, has no funding for opening. There are currently 344 out of state inmates, of which 293 are from Wyoming. 20 are from Maryland, 26 from the Virgin Islands and 2 are from Hawaii.
There were 931 temporary beds set up in areas originally designed as single bunk spaces. Those spaces were double bunked on the outer walls. Later, the interior space were double bunked as well leaving no clear view for officers and a possible risk for the officer making rounds inside these dorms. Those 931 were planned to be removed upon the opening of the Green Rock and Pocahontas facilities. Those beds have remained in place and the plan was to bring in the out of state inmates whose bed space would be off-set by the 931 temporary beds. This was a budget balancing strategy due to massive shortfalls in the state budget. The Wyoming inmates are here by contract and are locked in for the duration of that contract. The other inmates have been in Virginia for quite some time and are here for enemy issues and beds space limitations in the case of the Virginia Isles where there is only one jail. The Hawaiian inmates are not welcome back in Hawaii. There is no current plan to bring in more out of state inmates, but the budget is in a dire situation. The possibility remains that there may be facility closures in the future, which will add to the out of compliance rates. He noted that the Powhatan infirmary is undergoing renovation and not currently filled. It should re-open in mid-August. Mr. Webb asked about the revenue forecasts. Barry Green answered that it is officially released December 20th when the Governor releases his budget. Last year it was released early, sometime in September and then re-ran in December. He anticipates something similar this year, but these numbers are not official. Last year the forecast was barely reached at 1.2% growth, this year's projection is somewhere near 4% and next year is a around 6.7%.
- Barry Green had no new staffing study information to report at this time. He stated that numbers of local responsible inmate beds have fallen while the forecast was for around a 4% growth. While this is a good thing, he is unsure of the cause of this reduction in numbers. None of the attendees were able to offer any opinion as to the cause of this reduction and Mr. Green said he would be interested in observations made by administrative officials in the localities. The forecasts are due in October but are usually submitted early.
- Sterling Proffitt advised that the Correctional Service Committee and Board of Corrections would be addressing the minimum operating standards and their revision if necessary in September. Also the construction standards have not

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been revised since around 1994, and he would like to form a committee to begin review of these standards.

By motion duly made by the Chairman of the Liaison Committee, Chris Webb, and seconded by several members in attendance, the meeting adjourned.