

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

Regular Meeting.....July 16, 2014

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

Presiding.....David Simons, Committee Chairman

Present..... Carl Peed, Member, Board of Corrections
John F. Anderson, Board of Corrections
Phyllis J. Randall, Board of Corrections
Bobby N. Vassar, Board of Corrections
Robyn deSocio, State Compensation Board
Tim Trent, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
William Smith, Western Tidewater Regional Jail
Captain John Jenkins, Fauquier County
David A. Hackworth, Chesapeake Sheriff's Office
Brian Struzzieni, Chief Deputy, Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Steve Draper, City of Martinsville
Sheriff Gabe Morgan, City of Newport News
Sandra Thacker, Peumansend Creek Regional Jail
A. David Robinson, Department of Corrections
Bill Wilson, Local Facilities Unit, Department of Corrections
Brooks Ballard, Local Facilities Unit, Department of Corrections
Jim Bruce, Policy Unit, Department of Corrections
Jim Parks, Offender Management Services Unit, Department of Corrections
David Kidwell, Arlington County Sheriff's Office
Chuck Hall, Hampton/Newport News Community Services Board
Matt Marsteller, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Dick Hall-Sizemore, Department of Planning and
Budget

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. and attendees in the room identified themselves for the record. Mr. Simons welcomed all attendees.

I. Committee Chairman (Mr. David Simons)

Mr. Simons advised the members that Immediate Past Chair, Peter G. Decker, III contacted him, on July 15, 2014 to suggest a replacement for Mark Schuster on the Liaison Committee. Mr. Simons welcomed Sheriff Brian Struzzieri to the Committee.

Mr. Simons called for a Motion to approve the May Minutes. Upon a **MOTION** by Mr. Trent and duly seconded, the May 21 minutes were unanimously **APPROVED**.

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

Ms. deSocio provided an update of events that have occurred since the May meeting. Following the last meeting, we were awaiting budget action by the legislature and a number of issues were up in the air. Shortly thereafter, the Secretary of Finance and the Administration announced projected revenue shortfalls. Revenues were coming in at lesser amounts than expected. Because no budget was set at the time, discussions focused on how the projected revenue shortfalls would affect the new biennial budget.

Ms. deSocio reported that the FY15/16 biennial budget was finalized on June 27, 2014. Most all new funding requests were eliminated and not included in the budget.

Funding for 48 emergency correctional officers was included in the Governor's introduced budget and maintained in the final approved budget. Only a limited number of facilities received the funding. The proposed 2% salary increase for entry-level grade 7 and 8 deputies and regional jail officers and the 1% salary increase applicable to all officers and state employees were also eliminated and not included in the budget.

Per Diem funding payments for the current year were considered a caboose bill matter and remained on the table following the regular legislative session. As hoped, this issue was one of the first things addressed when the Special Session convened and the additional funding needed for the 4th quarter payments was approved. As a result, the Compensation Board was fully funded for FY14 based upon the previous inmate forecast; however, actual inmate populations resulted in a further \$3 million shortfall in funding for the 4th quarter of FY14. Unspent balances from other programs were transferred just prior to year-end to allow payment for the full amount of the 4th quarter per diem amounts owed, which also resulted in a delay until year end to complete processing of the payments.

Ms. deSocio provided an update on the LIDS-CORIS transition. All major issues have been resolved, one minor issue remains. When system adjustments are made to inmate commitments and releases, they are not going back to the date of the occurrence and adjustments are fully reflected in the current month. As adjustments are being made, the average daily population (ADP) is therefore not updating properly. The vendor has been asked to resolve this issue. The Compensation Board will continue to evaluate and review forecasting data. They have been reaching out to some of the jails for further review of inmate data. Once the upcoming forecasting process has been completed this fall, a request for funding for FY15 will be made. Ms. deSocio advised the members that she would keep everyone updated.

Chairman Simon provided a historical summary of the lack of salary increases in regard to Deputies and jail officers. Ms. deSocio advised the members that it is extremely difficult to keep salaries competitive due to funding limitations. Mr. Wilson commented that funding has also not historically been provided for overcrowding issues.

There being no further comments or questions, Ms. deSocio concluded her report.

III. **Prison/Local Jail Population Report and Jail Construction Update – Mr. Bill Wilson**

Mr. Wilson provided the Prison/Jail Population Report and a jail construction update. The out-of-compliance number was reported at 4,953 as of July 7, 2014. Mr. Wilson advised the members that total Capacity information includes special purpose, segregation and medical/mental health beds. Mr. Parks provided a report regarding efforts to ensure population management. The Segregation Step Down Program is a path for long-term Administrative Segregation offenders to work their way to general population. The program is designed to maintain public, staff and offender safety by implementing the principles of evidence based practices to reduce risk. Mr. Parks advised the members that if they any assistance, they should contact his staff.

Mr. Wilson reported Richmond City plans to open on July 25. The rated capacity of the new facility is 1032. RSW opened on June 24 and has a rated capacity of 365. Southwest Virginia Regional jail is completing its Abingdon, Haysi and Duffield facilities and will add approximately 600 beds.

Mr. Wilson advised the members that he would recommend the Board to begin enforcing the Restraint Standard effective January 1.

Other Business

Mr. Simons led the discussion regarding the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC is working diligently to restrict jail phone features such as 3-way calling and recording for investigative purposes. The members discussed how the controversial proposal would affect the revenues of local and regional jails. The proposal would remove the opportunity to generate any profits by the jails. Mr. Trent advised the members that he recently attended the FCC July 2014 Open Commission Meeting via teleconference. The proposed changes would result in the localities being responsible for approximately \$13.5 million across the state. Opposition to prison phone call rates began in the Midwest and has snowballed over time. It will be an uphill battle to resolve this issue. Mr. Trent encouraged members of the committee to contact their Congressman regarding this issue. Ms. Randall recommended that Secretary Moran be advised of the issue. The next FCC Open Commission meeting is scheduled for 10:30 am, August 20, 2014.

Other Comments

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