

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

Regular MeetingOctober 15, 2008

Location6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

Presiding..... Chris Webb, Chairman

Present Sterling Proffitt, Chairman, Board of Corrections
Jimmy Burrell, Vice Chairman, Board of Corrections
Jacqueline Fraser, Member, Board of Corrections
Bobby Mitchell, Member, Board of Corrections
Barry Green, Office of the Secretary of Public Safety
Tom Jones, Sheriff, Charlotte County
Eugene Taylor, Captain, Hampton Roads Regional Jail
Kim Lipp, Architecture and Engineering, DOC
Bill Wilson, Supervisor, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC
Donna Foster, Executive Secretary, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC

The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcomed. No roll was called.

I. Committee Chairman (Mr. Webb)

- Mr. Webb called for a motion to approve the July minutes. By MOTION duly made by Jacqueline Fraser and seconded by Tom Jones, the minutes were unanimously APPROVED by the attending committee members.

II. Meeting Summary

Kim Lipp reported the following:

- The Grayson project continues to progress. The steel cells are going up very quickly and the panelized cells have been approved and will start going up in the near future. The steel modular cells are being delivered at a rate of around 15/day. One housing unit is in place with a second unit about halfway complete and the roofing will be following soon. Chris Webb asked about the modular units and Ms. Lipp said that there is a “cell cam” that is accessible on the internet that enables the viewer to watch the construction. Currently there is an expected completion date of spring of 2010, but an extension has been

requested by the contractor. Due to efficiency, the beds at the Grayson project are more cost effective to operate than the facilities that have been cited to close.

Bill Wilson reported the following:

- Out of compliance rates remain at 1,478, which is a very minimal change from the September meeting at 1,548. As of August 19th, the Tuesday Report listed a total of 28,182 total inmates in local facilities. The Compensation Board is planning to change the Tuesday Report to a monthly update, as well as change some of the statistical data such as the total that do not separate males, females, juveniles or federal inmates with the hope more effectively defining totals. The Department will be closing several facilities to include White Post Detention Center, Chatham Diversion Center, Tazewell Correctional Unit #31, Pulaski Correctional Center, Dinwiddie Correctional Unit #27, Southampton Correctional Center (Main), and the Day Reporting sites. The DOC will not be accepting inmates until after the first of the year in order to realign the housing needs. The exception will include females and medical transfers. This will total approximately 1,400 beds that are being eliminated.

Barry Green reported the following:

- The budget cuts for fiscal year 2010 will be much greater than the cuts for FY09. The Governor's budget is expected to be released on December 17th. The shortfall for 2010 is much greater than for 2009. Remember that the cuts made this year for FY09 will continue into the 2010 budget year. State agencies are assuming approximately a half year's savings with the current reduction. They will continue into FY10, but for the full year. This will basically double savings for the next fiscal year. This year had a \$900+ million shortfall, the governor is proposing about \$250 million in capitol projects that still had cash appropriations and they will propose to issue bonds to generate \$250 million in cash, but this is a one time situation. They have proposed taking money from the "rainy day fund" for this year, which must be approved by the General Assembly and may be repeated next year, although there are some constitutional issues surrounding this tactic. That should provide about \$400 million, with the balance being taken in cuts. The shortfall for next year is close to \$1.5 billion.

Forecasting will probably be done in February and possibly October if there is a significant change. There are some one-time savings for this year that will not be repeated, such as reserve balances that are being captured. He suggested that all agencies, state and local, prepare for future cuts. Aid to localities is on the table for this year with some impact, but may be more significant next year. Large localities such as Fairfax are facing additional shortfalls due to the complexity of their issues. He stressed that there are cuts to state agencies that are painful to all involved but reminded the attendees of contracts with the state

that will cause some damage to localities. Programs that reduce the inmate populations involve services provided at the local level and the local facilities should stay aware of the impacts to their region. Projections expect slowing growth in the inmate population at the local and state levels. It may be necessary to work with the judicial level to control populations. There is also a potential for legislation to reduce the likelihood for the lowest level offenders to take bed space. He suggests that everybody prepare for the worst and hopefully it won't be as bad as we prepared for in advance.

- Jimmy Burrell asked about the incidence of drug violations. Mr. Green reported 23-24% are drug violators with 72-74% having a substance abuse issues. Some of the cuts to communities involve alternatives to incarceration. Additionally, a major factor of revenue for some localities is property tax and with the recent devaluation of property, there is potential for additional revenue shortfalls related to property assessment values.

Bill Wilson quoted the following on behalf of Robyn deSocio who was unable to attend:

- “The Governor announced on October 9th his Budget Reduction Plans. At this time, there have been no further reductions to constitutional officer and regional jail funding beyond those reductions approved by the 2008 General Assembly, other than the shifting of the planned December 1, 2008 pay raise (2%) to July 1, 2009.

“Staff is currently reviewing locality elections to reduce Compensation Board funding (in areas where localities did not choose to send a check to the Commonwealth), and is working on a method of reducing available funds by those reduction amounts to prevent overspending. More information will be provided on this to all offices in the coming weeks. For localities or regional jails that elected to reduced per diems, these amounts are anticipated to be reduced from the 2nd quarter payment, due to be paid this month. We anticipate Compensation Board action to approve this plan at their meeting today.”

Sterling Proffitt reported the following:

- The Board of Corrections will be getting a new member, former sheriff B. A. Washington of Charles City County. His first meeting is expected be the November 19th meeting. The Board wishes to welcome him aboard.

Gary Bass did not attend the meeting:

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