

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

Regular Meeting.....March 21, 2018

Location6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

Presiding.....Timothy Trent, Chairman

Present..... John F. Anderson, Board of Corrections
Vernie W. Francis, Jr. Board of Corrections
Olivia Garland, Ph.D., Board of Corrections
Heather Masters, MD, SFHM, FACP, Board of Corrections
Bobby Vassar, Board of Corrections
Steve Goff, Board of Corrections
Brian Sutherland, Board of Corrections
Sheriff Stephen Draper, Martinsville Sheriff's Office
Laura Hopkins, Martinsville City Jail
Bill Wilson, RSW Regional Jail
Matt Marstellar, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Robyn deSocio, Compensation Board
James Bruce, Department of Corrections
Rebecca Hancock, Department of Corrections
Bob Casey, Department of Corrections
Donna Foster, Department of Corrections

The meeting was called to order and Chairman Trent welcomed all attendees.

I. **Committee Chairman**

Chairman Trent called for a motion to approve the January 9, 2018 minutes.

Upon a ***MOTION*** and duly seconded, the January 9, 2018 minutes were unanimously ***APPROVED***.

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

Ms. deSocio reported that the Budget was not approved by the legislature because the House and Senate could not agree on several issues. They will return on April 11, 2018 for a special session. Part of the budget that needs to be approved is sheriff's office and jails per Diem funding of \$500 thousand for fiscal year 2019 (FY19). This was introduced by the Governor and the legislature so it was a non-contentious issue.

The House proposed a \$1,000 annual salary increase for all sheriff's deputies where the sheriff's office provides primary law enforcement. This would not affect larger localities or regional jails, only smaller jurisdictions. The Senate did not have a comparable budget amendment so this will need to go to conference.

The Compensation Board will release the budget as soon as possible following the passing of the FY19 budget. In the past, the legislature did not reach an agreement until the 2nd or 3rd week of June with July 1st being the beginning of the fiscal budget year. No major changes that will affect local facilities are expected for the FY19 budget. Mr. Vassar asked if an amendment session was expected to follow the special session. Ms. deSocio noted that the 6th Wednesday following adjournment begins the reconvened session, where the governor introduces amendments or vetoes. Once the legislature agrees on a budget, they can adjourn and reconvene on the sixth Wednesday after adjournment. When an agreement is not reached until June, they do not adjourn but rather hold the session until the governor acts on amendments or vetoes with the goal being to have the Commonwealth funded by the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1st.

The Governor had proposed a 2% salary increase for state employees effective December 2019. The House of Delegates proposed moving the effective date up to July 1, 2019 and the Virginia State Senate removed the salary increase and added language that would require the Governor to propose a 2% salary increase effective July 1, 2019 while setting money aside for the pay increase in the event revenues for 2018 do not require re-forecasting. If revenues are below the 2018 forecasted level and funding needs to be re-forecasted, the money would then be redirected to offset the reduced revenues and there would be no salary increase. In addition, the House proposed expanding Medicaid and the Senate did not.

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

Mr. Casey reported that Chesapeake Correctional Center remains on schedule for an expected mid-May, 2018 completion date and all inmates have been removed from the Proteus temporary structures in accordance with legislation. The Piedmont Regional Jail expansion is expected to be completed in November 2018. Southside Regional Jail's security door upgrade/replacement project is anticipated to be completed in June 2018. The upgrade/replacement for Northwest Regional Adult Detention Center is expected to be completed in July 2018. The Prince William-Manassas Regional Jail Phase II-204 bed expansion received the notice to proceed with construction on December 4, 2017 with an anticipated completion date of March 2020. The Henry County Jail is currently under design with an anticipated construction start date in June 2019 and completion in November 2021.

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

Jim Parks was unable to attend the March Liaison Committee but the out-of-compliance total was 3,146, with 2,804 being male and 342 being female.

V. **Policy and Initiatives Unit- Mr. Jim Bruce**

The *Standards for Planning, Design, Construction and Reimbursement of Local Correctional Facilities* review ended on March 8, 2018. The regulations became effective on March 9, 2018.

Mr. Vassar asked about the maximum limits for minor renovations and Mr. Bruce advised that the limit increased from \$1 million to \$5 million to be considered a minor renovation project.

VI. **Other Business**

Chairman Trent asked the jail investigators about the status of the death investigations. Mr. Goff advised that they are staying busy. They have begun investigating all deaths going back to the initiation of the legislation effective July 1, 2017. There have been 40 deaths reported, 17 of which are being verified by medical examiner reports and are expected to be brought before the Board for possible closure. According to the 40 reports, 27 of the deaths are due to natural causes, 11 were suicide, one was from an accidental overdose by the deceased and one was a homicide.

Discussion continued surrounding some jail incidents as well as the poor health of the current incoming inmate population. In addition, discussion involving the successful use of Narcan, (naloxone), the antidote for opioid overdose. Chairman Trent highly recommends that this medication should be available at all facilities if possible after witnessing its successful application in one of his facilities.

Sheriff Draper noted a recent hospital death of an obese offender. After receiving no medical examiner report or further information about the location of the body, the jail contacted the hospital. The body did not fit on a standard stretcher or in a standard transport vehicle. The jail was required to make special arrangement for transportation to the medical examiner's office. Sheriff Draper wanted to bring the issue up to the other local facility administrators to make them aware of an increasingly common situation. The hospital did not make an effort to notify the facility.

I. **Other Comments**

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