

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

Regular Meeting.....March 20, 2019

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

Presiding.....Timothy Trent, Chairman

Present..... John F. Anderson, Board of Corrections
William T. Dean, Board of Corrections
Vernie W. Francis, Jr., Board of Corrections
Charles Jett, Board of Corrections
Bobby Vassar, Board of Corrections
Steve Goff, Board of Corrections
Kemba Jennings, Board of Corrections
Joshua Salmon, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Chad Lipscomb, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Keith Lockridge, Charlotte County Jail
Jim Pritchett, Chesterfield County Jail
Patrick Wilson, Richmond Times Dispatch
Justin Brown, JLARC
Jamie Bitz, JLARC
Sarah Berday-Sacks, JLARC
Robyn deSocio, Compensation Board
Phillip Figura, Office of the Attorney General
Kelly Richards, Department of Planning and Budget
Emmanuel Fontenot, Department of Corrections
James Bruce, Department of Corrections
Rebecca Hancock, Department of Corrections
James Parks, 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 8, 2019 minutes. Bill Wilson was incorrectly identified as representing RSW Regional Jail and will be corrected to represent Riverside Regional Jail.

Upon a *MOTION* and duly seconded, the January 8, 2019 minutes were unanimously *APPROVED* as amended.

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

Ms. deSocio advised that the legislature adjourned at the end of March. Several amendments that pertain to jails were approved. Salary increases were approved after revenue contingencies were met. There will be no delay in implementation of a targeted salary increases for entry level deputy sheriffs of \$871 for all grade 7 and \$911 for all grade 8 sworn deputy sheriffs only effective February 1, 2019. It did not include regional jail officers. A 2% across-the-board increase, approved by last year's General Assembly, was increased to 3% by the 2019 General Assembly effective July 1, 2019. There is a stipulation attached requiring governing bodies to use the added funding to support salary increases as opposed to absorbing the funding to offset local salary supplements. The Compensation Board (CB) interprets that any combined salary increases provided locally during the current biennium Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020 (FY19 and FY20) that totals 3% minimally of the CB salary amount, will meet the legislated requirement. Additionally, language proposed a one-time bonus of 1% effective December 1, 2019 in the Governor's budget that was not approved.

A technical change was made to the FY20 funding for the Prince William/Manassas Regional Jail expansion project. The original completion date was expected in December, 2019 which was changed to March, 2020, reducing the cost for FY20.

Another technical change reduced the base funding in the current FY19 budget by \$3 million and in FY20 by \$3.6 million for per diem funding payments to localities and regional jails based on decreased costs of housing local and state responsible inmates in local and regional facilities based on actual populations and the latest growth rates based on population forecasts. This funding is anticipated to be sufficient to meet per diem funding requirements.

These amendments are subject to review or change during the veto session in accordance with recommendations by the Governor.

The CB has resolved a long-standing issue related to the transmission of LIDs confinement data to the Social Security Administration (SSA) on behalf of jails for incentive or bounty payments back to localities and regional jails when a beneficiary is incarcerated. This data transmission was fairly smoothly in the old LIDs system but presented difficulty in the transmission with the new LIDs/CORIS system when trying to interface with the SSA. This resulted in substantially reduced incentive payments for many jails. The efforts of the CB along with the efforts of the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) IT staff have finally resulted in successful interface and now functions as it was intended. Between December, 2018 and February, 2019, \$287,000 in payments have been made by the SSA. This data is available in the LIDs system and was shared with the jails in February.

The CB provided training from November, 2018 through January, 2019 to assist jail staff with reconciliation and other analytical functions using LIDs. Ms. deSocio wanted to thank all jails and staff who participated in this training and hopes this will be helpful in the future.

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

Mr. Casey reported that the Piedmont Regional Jail project to expand the intake area has been completed. Prince William/Manassas Regional Jail's Phase II, 204-bed expansion, floor discrepancy resolution was approved by the building official. The project is nearing 60% completion with the anticipated date remaining March 2020. Henry County Jail received two qualified bids (English and Ballard) in January. Review is underway with award of the contract expected by the end of March. The site demolition of the old Dupont plant is substantially complete. Completion is expected in November 2021.

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

Jim Parks did not attend the meeting, but gave Jim Bruce the out-of-compliance update. The current total for out-of-compliance inmates is 2,585 of which 2,364 are males and 221 are females.

V. **Board of Corrections-Chairmen Vernie Francis**

Mr. Francis advised that Dr. Michael Schaeffer, Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services (DBHDS) would be addressing the full Board of Corrections (BOC) to discuss several legislated amendments requiring the BOC to establish new standards for medical, mental health, dental and pharmaceutical issues. Dr. Schaeffer has offered to organized the committees and begin reviews as soon as possible as cost of implementation is required to be submitted to the legislature by November of 2019.

VI. **Jail Review Committee**

Steve Goff reported that he has received eight death reports since the beginning of 2019, one this morning indicating a suicide and all others for the year as natural causes.

VII. **Other Business**

Mr. Vassar commented on the meager turnout for the Liaison Committee. Mr. Francis appointed a new member today, Major Jim Pritchett representing Chesterfield County Jails.

VIII. **Other Comments**

There being nothing further, by *Motion* duly made and seconded, the meeting was *Adjourned*.