

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

Regular Meeting .. .....January 18, 2005

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

Presiding Chairman..... Roy Cherry, Chairman, Board of Corrections

Present .....Clay Hester, Board of Corrections  
Sterling Proffitt, Board of Corrections  
Bobby Mitchell, Board of Corrections  
Jimmy Burrell, Board of Corrections  
Jacqueline Fraser, Board of Corrections  
W. Alvin Hudson, Board of Corrections  
Chris Webb, Blue Ridge Regional Jail  
Thomas D. Jones, Charlotte County Jail  
Stuart Kitchen, Sheriff, Sussex County Jail  
Jack Dewan, Virginia Association of Regional Jails  
B. J. Roberts, Hampton City Jail  
Barry Green, Office of the Secretary of Public Safety  
Robyn Desocio, Compensation Board  
Gary Bass, Classification and Records, DOC  
Donna Lawrence, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC  
Ron Elliott, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC  
Bert Jones, Architecture and Engineering, DOC  
Pat Waskey, Community Corrections, DOC

**I. November Minutes**

Minutes from the November 16, 2004 meeting were motioned for approval, seconded and passed.

**II. Minutes Summary**

- Bert Jones presented the department's construction program. KBR construction (at St. Bride's) expects final completion by March 1, 2005. Some furniture should go in after February 1, 2005 to prepare for occupancy. The PPA program including the new prisons in Tazewell County, Pittsylvania County and the expansion of Deerfield, has gotten design approval from the Department of

Conservation and Recreation for the soil erosion control and water management plan. The contractor plans to mobilize during January and February. Building permits will be requested from the Department of General Services in January and February. Chris Webb asked if the department would be requesting funding from the General Assembly for future building. Mr. Jones responded that the department has no plans for such requests in the '05 session but would probably have requests for projects in the '06 session. A report was requested by the General Assembly in the previous session which will be reviewed during the current session as an informational document, not a budget submission.

- Barry Green stated that this is more of a legislation session. Budget requests include education and some for forensics lab. The focus this year is Health and Human Resources, economic development, and education. Crime rates are falling and populations are manageable, so there are some budget requests in for alternative sentencing, primarily dealing with technical violators. Forecasts will be reviewed for next year's session recommending alternatives or construction projects. Mr. Webb asked about proposals in regard to technical parole violators. The budget items include home electronic monitoring, additional day reporting centers and an alternative custody center which would be partnering with primarily regional jails to house probation violators. Research shows that the average wait for a court date in the jails system was, typically around 79-80 days. With this proposal, they violator would go to the jail under a 30-day program, potentially work release, and attend a treatment program and substance abuse screening and after which to return to probation. This is to prevent the additional jail time while awaiting a court date and possible additional jail/prison time to be served. This will probably begin on a trial basis and be implemented if successful. There is some discussion about additional jail construction for a return to custody center. There has been a prisoner re-entry discussion group for the past year or year and a half looking at alternatives for state inmates returning to custody for technical violations, but this will be expanded to the local level involving jails. James Burrell asked is cost effectiveness is being considered by the discussion groups. Mr. Green answered that yes, cost is a primary factor in consideration for these alternative programs as well as impact on populations. These programs have been implemented in other states. For the immediate future, this is a pilot program among 13 jails involving 150 beds.
- Ron Elliott presented the Population Report and the Jails Construction Report to the committee. Loudoun County may be asking for some additional exemption language which would allow them to expand the current project to include additional beds. The current growth rate in Loudoun is extremely high and, if the existing expansion were opened today, the jail would be overcrowded. Jack Dewan asked the total number of inmates housed. Mr. Elliott responded that the total capacity for three different sites would be 780 beds. Mr. Elliot was

asked if anyone was hired for the Middle River Superintendent position, to which he answered, yes, Jack Lee. Mr. Hester asked if it was a material cost increase issue causing the price increases. Mr. Elliott answered that it was probably fuel costs. Mr. Jones added that just about all construction costs have increased including steel, concrete and drywall, some increases as high as 20%. Mr. Hester asked if this was due to exporting the materials overseas or if there was a shortage. Mr. Jones stated that most of what we use is imported. Mr. Elliott stated that concrete was being exported which may be impacting the prices and availability stateside. Mr. Burrell questioned the jail capacity vs. the population and why this was not considered the out of compliance rate. Ron and Mr. Hester answered that some of the inmates in the jails were there awaiting trial, were local inmates or were in the jails for reasons other than state responsibility.

- Robyn Desocio representing the Compensation Board, told the committee that Jim Matthews is doing well. Proposals to the Governor include the salary increase of 4.82% for sworn officers and 3% for support staff for the sheriff's office and regional jails and a 3% increase in the next fiscal year for all Compensation Board funded jails and sheriff's offices. This is the same increase proposed for classified state employees. \$769,000 was funded for an additional 28 positions for law enforcement. There were also some changes in the new construction projects. There was a decrease over the last fiscal year related to delays in construction and in increase for next fiscal year for the Loudoun County facility. There have been additional facilities that opted into the Master Deputy program that were not previously funded. The Governor's budget includes funding for almost \$450,000 for 8 jails and 4 regional jails to join in this program. Also, \$240,000 is funded for a sheriff's Career Development program. A shortage of about \$6 million was expected for this quarter. After close scrutiny, there is a reduction of about \$1.5 million, therefore the funding is expected to be fully sufficient for per diems in the last quarter. \$4.8 million has been projected for fiscal year '06. They are updating the SNIP reimbursement system (the coin system) to begin implementation January 1 and be fully in effect July 1, as well as some new salary systems which offer more flexibility in pay scales. Ms. Desocio encouraged anyone to contact her in Jim's absence when assistance is needed. Mr. Proffitt asked about the salary increase for the next fiscal year and Ms. Desocio said it was 3%. Mr. Hester asked if that included the Correctional Officers, and Mr. Green added that all state employees were included in the Governor's budgeted salary increase. Mr. Cherry asked about the Senior Master Deputy Program. Ms. Desocio replied that it had been discarded and was not expected to be revitalized. She went on to say the \$4 million surplus from last year was approved to be re-appropriated. Jails were not allowed to use savings from the vacancy freeze, but it would be permitted for transfer into other budget categories within the jail.

- Mr. Cherry asked the committee if there were any issues from the Sheriff's Association before the General Assembly. Stuart Kitchen addressed the Chairman saying that they had requested that retirement be funded through the Governor's budget, but failed to do so, but the association is now working with one of the committees hoping that they can work on it.
- Mr. Cherry opened the floor to new business. Jack Dewan said that there is a bill proposed for building a separate area in the jails to establish a visiting area for families to include a visiting area, playground area and medical area backed by Virginia Cure.

By motion duly made by Chairman Roy Cherry and seconded by several members present, the meeting adjourned.