

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

Regular Meeting March 15, 2005

Location6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

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

PresentClay Hester, Board of Corrections
Sterling Proffitt, Board of Corrections
Bobby Mitchell, Board of Corrections
Jimmy Burrell, Board of Corrections
W. Alvin Hudson, Board of Corrections
Renee Maxey, Board of Corrections
Chris Webb, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Thomas D. Jones, Charlotte County Jail
Jack Dewan, Virginia Association of Regional Jails
B. J. Roberts, Hampton City Jail
John Roberts, Newport News City Farm
Frederick D. Hildebrand, CFFW Regional Jail
Sandra Thacker, Peumansend Creek Regional Jail
Vernie Francis, Southampton County Jail
Bill Gentry, Southampton County Jail
Tony Casale, Department of Criminal Justice Services
Barry Green, Office of the Secretary of Public Safety
Robyn Desocio, Compensation Board
Gary Bass, Classification and Records, DOC
Bert Jones, Architecture and Engineering, DOC
Donna Lawrence, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC
Ron Elliott, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC
Donna Foster, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC

I. January Minutes

Minutes from the January 18, 2005 meeting were motioned for approval, seconded and passed.

II. Minutes Summary

- Tony Casale from the Department of Criminal Justice Services presented information concerning requirements for the pre-trial services program that need improvement. He advised that the screening process (handout attached) needs to be more consistent. The re-use of the "J7" form (included at a reduced size sheet, originally 11" X 17") could provide most of the necessary information. Mr. Casale also advised the LIDs program is not an interactive program, thereby, not providing up-to-the-minute resources, therefore the re-use of the J7 form would be more efficient.
- Sterling Proffitt informed the committee that Renee Maxey with the Board of Corrections was in attendance.
- Dave Hawkins, representing the Architecture and Engineering Unit was in attendance for Bert Jones to present the Capitol Program Presentation. He advised St. Brides Phase I is in punch out phase and all buildings are expected to be complete by mid-April with the exception of Building F, the large programs building. Building F is expected to be completed by late July. The move in date will be contingent upon completion of all buildings (late July). St. Brides Phase II has been approved for the design phase to be done by KBR with initial building to begin in Spring 2005 with an expected completion date two years from the initiation. Phase II will provide 800 additional beds. There is also a 1,024 bed facility in Tazewell that was just issued a building permit to begin initial phases with an expected completion date of March 2007. Another facility in beginning stages is located in Pittsylvania, which will also be a 1,024 bed facility and is scheduled for a May 2007 completion date. Both of the new facilities will have its waste water managed by the respective locality. The Deerfield expansion, which will add 600 beds is still awaiting approval of a requested building permit, but is expected to be completed in November 2006. Lastly, the explosion incident at the St. Brides construction site was discussed briefly.
- Ron Elliott presented the prison population report. He noted the prison capacity stating that he was unable to verify the change from 31,074 in January to 31,273 in March. The only change he could verify was the addition of the temporarily closed beds that were re-opened at Pocahontas Correctional Unit #13. Note: Additional beds were added at Fluvanna Correctional Center and Virginia Correctional Center for Women, increasing the prison capacity effective October 2004 per Kim Lipp with the Architecture and Engineering Unit, DOC.
- There was discussion regarding the federal prisoners. Sterling Proffitt asked if a report would be created and later presented to the General Assembly and what it

would involve. Jack Dewan, representing the Virginia Association of Regional Jails, responded that a report would be presented November 15, 2005 and would involve the House Appropriations Committee and the Compensation Board. Robyn Desocio noted that this discussion involved the overhead recovery. She added that there was discussion during the last session of the House regarding alternative options in the methodology for recovering more than just staffing costs, which is the current basis. The possible methodology is considering calculating all Commonwealth contributions. A committee will probably be formed toward late summer, including members of sheriffs offices and regional jails, to consider different options to present to the members of the House of Delegates. Mr. Proffitt asked if this would consequently be detrimental for the jails causing loss of money to which Ms. Desocio answered that in her opinion that was the intent. There was discussion involving capitol contribution costs that were not being recovered, but she was unable to foresee where it may lead in the next session. Barry Green stated that he felt this is possibly more directed at reducing the number of federal inmates held by the jails as opposed to cost recovery. He said that the jails complain about the overcrowding due to state inmates, but the first question from legislators would be if the jails also hold federal inmates. He added that this was only an opinion and he could well be incorrect in this deduction. Ms. Desocio stated that she felt the important point was to get all the issues on the table and identify as many options as possible. Mr. Elliott then presented the jail construction status report and the jail contract bed report.

- Robyn Desocio, representing the Compensation Board discussed the determinations made by the General Assembly in the last session. Salary increases include a 3% increase, effective December 1, 2005 for sheriffs, regional jail superintendents and sworn positions in sheriffs offices and regional jails. They approved a 4.4% increase for the non-sworn positions. State employees received a 3% increase plus \$50 per year of service for employees with 5 years state service or more. The Governor proposed 28 law enforcement positions for 1 – 1,500, but the General Assembly approved 30 law enforcement positions based on final population estimates. There was additional funding allocated for the Loudoun facility as requested by the Governor’s budget proposal. There was also a one time reduction of \$1.7 million in the current fiscal year. She explained that this is due to the delay at Virginia Beach as well as some funds that are still budgeted for the Fairfax facility, specifically two floors that have not yet been opened and the funding for the staffing of the unopened space. The funding will be returned in next year’s budget. Items from the Governor’s budget that have been approved include funding for participation of twelve additional offices the have opted into the master deputy program and a sheriff’s career development program. An item proposed last year that will be revisited in the next session is for 40 emergency correctional officers that will be considered for allocation due to overcrowding in jail facilities. Compensation Board per diem items include a return to custody program to be implemented by the DOC. The Comp Board was previously not authorized for

funding of this program. Although the fourth quarter funding in 2006 was removed from the original budget request, per diem funding language includes funding based upon population. In addition the Legislators discussed prioritizing the movement of inmates under medical treatment for certain illnesses. Upon Adjournment of the General Assembly, the information provided by Ms. Desocio in this committee meeting was provided to the Association President for Sheriffs and Regional Jails. The most recent budget estimates for the Compensation Board have been posted on their website at <http://www.scb.virginia.gov/budgets.html>. Additional information will be addressed on the website as of May 1, 2005. Lastly, there was a re-appropriation of funds from last year's budget which was returned to other budget categories.

- Mr. Cherry announced that the upcoming VARJ Conference will be held on March 29, 2005.
- Chris Webb asked if changes in the Compliance Documentation or the Operational Standards would have to go through the Board (of Corrections) and Mr. Hester answered that changes are required to have Board of Corrections approval. Mr. Hester said that if anyone has concerns regarding the standards or compliance documentation, they should address the issue in writing and send to Donna Lawrence, 6900 Atmore Drive, Room 2072, Richmond, VA 23225.
- Mr. Cherry commented on the professionalism of the state auditors, stating that they do a good job.

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