

**MINUTES
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2007
9:00 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bernie Heier, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Ray Stevens
Deb Schorr

Commissioners Absent: Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

**1 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES OF THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2006**

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded approval of the Board of Corrections Meeting minutes dated September 21, 2006. Workman, Schorr, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

A. Population Comments

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, reported a slight decrease in population from the past quarter, compared to the same time frame in 2005. Total bookings for the same period increased 7.6%.

B. Population Graphs

See agenda packet.

C. Population Statistical Report

See agenda packet.

3 DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Training

Thurber reported on the number of interviews held for Correctional Officer, Nurse I and Clerk Typist II positions and on orientation and in-service training.

Thurber said staff assisted with fingerprinting for the Identi-Kid Program at the Nebraska State Fair and provided assistance to the Hall and Scottsbluff County Corrections Departments (the two counties are working toward construction of new facilities).

B. Mental Health Jail Diversion Project

Thurber said the Mental Health Jail Diversion Project has 27 active participants (131 individuals have been diverted since the beginning of the program). Work with the Drug Court and Community Corrections continues.

C. Platte County Housing

Thurber said Lancaster County continues to house inmates in Platte County, due to overcrowding (population averages 34).

D. In-House/Road Crew Projects

Thurber said work crews moved furniture for various departments and started demolition work on the Courthouse Plaza Building. Work crews also participated in county road litter clean-up.

E. Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF) Activities

Thurber said LCF was inspected by the Bureau of Fire Prevention in August, 2006 and was found to be in compliance. LCF was also found to be in compliance when Nebraska Jail Standards conducted its annual inspection on August 31, 2006. The Lincoln Fire Department conducted a walk-through inspection in September, 2006.

Thurber said LCF staff are administering drug tests. He said approximately 20% of new admissions test positive for some type of substance.

Thurber also reported on work release numbers (see agenda packet).

F. Programs Division

Thurber reported the following:

- * There were more than 500 counseling contacts this quarter. Evaluations with the consulting psychiatrist averaged 30 per month for the same period.
- * An average of 18 professional visits per month were scheduled for inmates for the period of August-December, 2006.
- * The Good News Jail & Prison Ministries appointed Chaplain Tom Beatty to serve Lancaster County Corrections.

G. Pre-Architectural Comments

Thurber noted that the Board has received the 2006 Pre-Architectural Jail Study for the Lancaster County Department of Corrections (a copy is on file in the County Clerk's Office).

Stevens asked whether the consultants looked at contracting to have the jail built to the County's specifications with lease back to the County, which would eliminate the need for bonding.

Thurber said no, but said it could be part of the Request for Proposals (RFP).

Schorr noted that the Board has received inquiries from other counties.

Thurber said he would be glad to work with other counties, if there are enough beds.

NOTE: A Special Staff Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2007 to discuss a new correctional facility and funding options.

4 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m. Workman, Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk