

**MINUTES
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2010
8:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present: Bernie Heier, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Ray Stevens
Deb Schorr

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director
Brad Johnson, Transition Coordinator
Greg Newport, The Clark Enersen Partners
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded approval of the February 4, 2010 Board of Corrections Meeting minutes. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Heier abstained from voting. Motion carried 4-0, with one abstention.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

A. Population Comments

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, said daily population numbers for the first quarter of 2010 are nearly identical to the same period in 2009 but the number of bookings and monthly lodgings decreased.

B. Population Graphs

See agenda packet.

C. Fiscal Year 2010 Monthly Statistical Report

See agenda packet.

D. Fiscal Year 2009 Monthly Statistical Report

See agenda packet.

3 DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Training

Thurber said there were 461 applications for Correctional Officer positions. Orientation training was provided to seven new officers. Five officers attended the Officer's Training Academy. In service training for Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and First Aid was also provided.

B. Mental Health Jail Diversion Program

Thurber said the Mental Health Jail Diversion Program accepted 15 new clients this quarter. Two cases were closed and nine were terminated. He said the program currently has 27 active participants and said they are pursuing funds to accept 12 individuals per year who are completing sentences.

C. Out-of-County Housing

Thurber said they are still housing inmates in Butler, Platte and Saunders Counties, due to overcrowding in the jail facility, but are trying to hold the numbers down to control costs. He said he would like to add a facility in Lexington (Dawson County), as well, to provide more flexibility.

Hudkins asked Thurber whether he has considered utilizing the new detention facility in Kearney (Buffalo County).

Thurber said the facility has indicated it is not interested at this time, but said it may be an option in the future.

D. Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF)/Work Crew Projects

Thurber said the jail work crews performed routine facility maintenance, snow removal and assisted departments with office moves and moving surplus property to storage this quarter.

E. Programs Division

Thurber said Correctional Specialists coordinated an average of 34 evaluations per month with the consulting psychiatrist this quarter. An average of two inmates per month were placed into Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) and transferred with a jail hold to the Crisis Center or Lincoln Regional Center. Correctional Specialists also had more than five hundred contacts with inmates this quarter, addressing mental health, personal problems and confinement concerns. The Work Release Coordinator reviewed an average of 164 court-ordered release applications per month. The average number of individuals on work release this quarter was 37.

F. Transition Activities

Brad Johnson, Transition Coordinator, said they continue to plan for the new jail, citing the following activities:

- Identification of units
- Review of "attic" stock
- Preparation of staffing and keying plans
- A tour of Hall of Justice for Sampson Construction and Commonwealth Electric to identify infrastructure needs and routing for the video arraignment system
- Coordination with Public Works and District Energy Corporation (DEC) for delivery of fiber optics
- Fine tuning of furnishing specifications for bidding process
- Testing of food trays and carts
- Developing processes for the new booking area

Schorr suggested the department video the return of property to individuals being released to try to reduce the number of tort claims filed against the Corrections Department.

Hudkins said he would like to see two cameras installed in the booking area.

4 NEW BUSINESS

Greg Newport, The Clark Enersen Partners, announced that his firm has received a merit award from the 2010 American Institute of Architects (AIA)/American Association for Justice (AAJ) Justice Facilities Review Awards Program and Publication for the Lancaster County Adult Detention Facility (Exhibit A).

5 OTHER BUSINESS

A. Report on Meeting with Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) & Public Works - Heier, Hudkins

Heier and Hudkins reported that they recently met with Thurber, Newport, Trish Owen, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, and representatives of the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) & Public Works to discuss the issue of where to locate two bus stops at the new jail facility.

Hudkins said one of the issues holding up a decision is a future traffic light. He said NDOR and Public Works could not agree on where it should be placed and indicated there is not enough traffic at this point to install one. Hudkins said the representative from NDOR stated it is his opinion that bus stops are not required.

Heier said it is a safety issue.

Newport said the cost of the bus stops is estimated to be \$90,000 and said NDOR wants the City or County to agree to pay to rebuild them if the Southwest 40th Street intersection is developed with a traffic light.

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, said design of the intersection has also been delayed and said they need an Executive Order from the Mayor to proceed.

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to direct Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, to prepare a letter to the Mayor, with a copy to Randy Hoskins, Assistant City Engineer, indicating that the County will proceed with an assumption there will not be bus stops at the new jail facility, unless the City makes a decision by July 1, 2010.

Hudkins questioned whether a shorter deadline would be more appropriate.

The maker of the motion and the seconder amended their motion to indicate a deadline of June 15, 2010.

In response to a question from Workman, Newport said he believes locating the bus stops on West "O" Street at the entrance to the facility, as the County has suggested, is preferable to locating them on Southwest 40th Street.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION AS AMENDED: Hudkins, Workman, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Stevens voted no. Motion carried 4-1.

The Chair and Vice Chair agreed to discuss the matter with Mayor at their monthly meeting.

6 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 a.m. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk