

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113 - BILL LUXFORD STUDIO  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015  
8:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present: Deb Schorr, Chair  
Todd Wiltgen, Vice Chair  
Roma Amundson  
Bill Avery

Board Members Absent: Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director  
Brad Johnson, Jail Administrator, Corrections  
Department  
Sergeant Brent Wrinkle, Corrections Department  
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2015 MEETING**

**MOTION:** Wiltgen moved and Amundson seconded approval of the minutes of the July 16, 2015 meeting. Wiltgen, Avery, Amundson and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried 4-0.

**2 POPULATION STATISTICS**

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, discussed population statistics, referencing the following graphs (see agenda packet):

- Average Daily Population Comparison

Thurber said the average daily population for this quarter in 2015 was 564, compared to 603 for the same period in 2014. He said that is a 81% increase when compared to 2000. The facility is currently at 84% of functional capacity.

- Booking and Lodging Totals

Thurber said average bookings were down 10% and average lodgings were down 7% this quarter, compared to the same time period last year. He noted 2,387 individuals were booked in this quarter and 1,776 were lodged.

- Pre-Trial/Sentence Conversion Release

Thurber said 10 individuals were on behavioral health/jail diversion, 23 on pre-trial release and 13 on sentence conversion this quarter.

### **3 PROGRAMMING**

Thurber said the Lancaster County Adult Detention Facility (LCADF) averaged 491 religious meetings, 123 substance abuse educational classes and 12-Step Program meetings, and 132 educational classes this quarter. He said a Veterans Administration (VA) representative assisted with VA outreach in the facility and CenterPointe Inc. assisted with dual diagnosis homeless outreach. Southeast Community College (SCC) assisted with Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) classes. Thurber said three individuals passed their General Educational Development (GED) tests this quarter, noting the County pays for those tests.

### **4 TRANSPORTATION**

Thurber reported on transports for court appearances (video and physical), off-site medical appointments and mental health referrals and transfers to other correctional facilities during this period.

Wiltgen noted the number of mental health referrals and asked whether mental health issues were a contributing factor to those individuals being incarcerated or whether the issues occurred after they were incarcerated. Thurber said inmates that are being transferred to the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) are being tested for competency related to their case or have deteriorated to the point they are committed to LRC. He said those deemed to need emergency protective custody (EPC) are moved to the Crisis Center and returned to the facility after the crisis is resolved. Wiltgen said he doesn't want law enforcement taking EPC's to LCADF instead of the Crisis Center.

### **5 WORK CREWS**

Thurber said work crew activities this period included assisting at the Lancaster Event Center with routine cleaning and maintenance and assisting County Engineering staff with picking up litter along county roads.

## **6 TRAINING**

Thurber reported on orientation and in-service training for new staff, including correctional officers.

## **7 605 BUILDING**

Thurber said the Transport Division began operating out of the 605 Building in September, 2015.

## **8 WORK RELEASE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Thurber said 137 inmates sentenced through County Court and 98 inmates sentenced through District Court participated in the Work Release Program this quarter. The industries in which they worked include construction, food service, retail, convenience store/gas station, hotels, cleaning, mechanics, cosmetology, clerical, factory, and information technology (IT) support. He said inmates in the program are paid \$7 per day and many have their checks garnished for child support. The average age of participants was 33, with the oldest inmate 73 and the youngest 20.

Thurber said four inmates were on school release this quarter. Two attended SCC, one attended both SCC and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and one attended Metropolitan Community College. Three of the four also had outside employment. In addition, three inmates had supervised visits in the community through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and 22 inmates participated in treatment/counseling release (12 males and 10 females).

Wiltgen asked whether these inmates provide their own transportation. Thurber said some do. Others have someone provide transportation or they ride a bus.

Amundson asked whether the inmates are allowed to use any tools in their jobs. Thurber said yes, adding they are supervised by their employers.

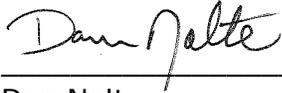
Avery asked whether the inmates are required to wear identifying clothing. Thurber said no, they may wear civilian clothing.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Wiltgen noted the Board received an email from a constituent regarding frustrations in trying to use the kiosk at LCADF to post bail for an individual (Exhibit A). Thurber said he will contact the individual, adding there may have been a misunderstanding in how to operate the kiosk. He described the equipment as very user friendly.

**9 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Amundson moved and Wiltgen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 a.m. Amundson, Wiltgen, Avery and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk



**Ann C. Taylor**



**From:** Todd Wiltgen [todd.wiltgen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:59 AM  
**To:** Ann C. Taylor  
**Subject:** Fwd: Frustrations with Lancaster County Jail

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Commish <Commish@lancaster.ne.gov>  
**Date:** November 3, 2015 at 11:09:49 AM CST  
**To:** Bill Avery <wavery06@yahoo.com>, "Bill P. Avery" <BAvery@lancaster.ne.gov>, "Deb E. Schorr" <DSchorr@lancaster.ne.gov>, "Deb Schorr (debschorr@aol.com)" <debschorr@aol.com>, Roma Amundson <Roma.amundson@Homerealestate.com>, "Roma B. Amundson" <RAMundson@lancaster.ne.gov>, "Todd J. Wiltgen" <TWiltgen@lancaster.ne.gov>, Todd Wiltgen <todd.wiltgen@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** "Kerry P. Eagan" <KEagan@lancaster.ne.gov>, "Gwen K. Thorpe" <GThorpe@lancaster.ne.gov>, Mike Thurber <mthurber@lancaster.ne.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Frustrations with Lancaster County Jail

Hardcopy- Larry H

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**From:** Michael Werner [mailto:wsswerner@windstream.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:55 AM  
**To:** Commish  
**Cc:** Marcia Werner  
**Subject:** Frustrations with Lancaster County Jail

Commissioners,

I am writing this to bring your attention to the overall dissatisfaction my wife (Marcia) had using the Lancaster County Jail Kiosk in mid-August.

In review:

- Marcia and another neighbor of ours (Dave) drove to LCJ on a Friday evening during August in order to post bond for another neighbor of ours (Gary) who was arrested.
- I would have performed this task myself, however my work schedule involves me being in Omaha and working evenings until 11:30pm.
- The bond was for \$250.
- Marcia and Dave brought with them multiple denominations of 20, 50 and 100 dollar bills.
- Upon arrival it was learned by them that you do NOT deal with human being concerning posting bail. You use a Kiosk machine. The (3) officers behind the window simply pointed at the Kiosk and stated that is what you use.
- After 40 minutes of trying to use the Kiosk, of which it refused to accept any of the cash bills, Marcia had to use her credit card.
- After another 20 minutes of fighting with the machine, the thing they learned was this:

- The Kiosk only accepts form of credit payment in \$100 dollar increments. So, for a \$250 bond she had to select \$300 for “payment”
- The Kiosk then applies 3% charge to the payment, so the credit card amount charged to her was \$309
- After the transaction happened then the (3) officers behind the window began the out-processing.
- 30 minutes later Gary was released and everyone went home.

We believe there are some issues here with his process that need addressed.

1. Other folks who made contact with Marcia and Dave continually stated “good luck” with the Kiosk machine. Apparently others have had difficulties using it.
2. Why is it no officer or person could be dealt with concerning posting bond? Especially true when the machine would NOT ACCEPT and cash bills as it may have been broke? The (3) officers were not busy and (1) of them could have easily helped them.
3. There was no officer in the “waiting room” or whatever room is it called where you go to post bond. Marcia was very grateful that Dave was with her, as she felt scared being out there alone.
4. Where is this extra \$50 she paid going to? This appears to be nothing more than stealing.
5. Why is it she was charged a 3% fee for “credit payment” when obviously she tried to best to use cash?

Although a jail experience need not be like an episode from “Mayberry”, we do believe as taxpayers those unfortunate enough that have to use Lancaster County Jailing facility should be treated with simple respect. We hate to think how many citizens that have had to use this facility and leave with a highly unfavorable opinion of the overall experience or operation.

We humbly ask that this overall process be reviewed and see what improvements can be deployed.

Thank you.

Mike Werner  
Marcia Werner

10220 East Oak Lane Circle  
Waverly, NE. 68462  
(402) 786-3931

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