

**MINUTES
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008
9:00 A.M.**

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

Board Members Absent: Bob Workman, Vice Chair

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded approval of the Board of Corrections Meeting minutes dated October 25, 2007. Hudkins, Schorr, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

A. Population Comments

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, reported an increase of approximately 9% in the daily population for the final quarter of 2007, primarily in the downtown facility. He said there was a decrease in total lodgings compared to the same quarter in 2007.

B. Population Graphs

See agenda packet.

C. Monthly Statistical Report

See agenda packet.

3 DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Training

Thurber said there was orientation training for six new officers, a chaplain and a probation officer.

Thurber also reported on participation in County Government Career Day (students learned about career opportunities in Corrections).

B. Mental Health Jail Diversion Project

Thurber said participation in the Mental Health Jail Diversion Project averages around 33 individuals. A total of 165 individuals have been diverted since the onset of the program. He said an article about the program was published in the February issue of *American Jails* magazine.

C. Out of County Housing

Thurber said inmates continue to be housed in Platte and Butler County facilities, due to overcrowding. Lancaster County has also entered into a contract with York County to house additional inmates.

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

Thurber reported on work and road crew projects (see agenda packet).

Heier noted he has requested a legal opinion on whether the County can require inmates to work.

E. Programs Division

Thurber said Corrections took over collection of the department's work release costs from County Court, effective December 1, 2007.

Hudkins asked whether it would be viable to have inmates assist the Capitol Humane Society with kenneling and animal care.

Thurber said those type of programs generally take place in prisons because inmates are there for longer terms.

4 NEW BUSINESS

A. Architectural Design Workshop

Thurber said the first Architectural Design Workshop took place February 11th through 13th. He noted there was a recommendation that the Board tour adult correctional facilities in Orange County, Florida and Hampton County, Massachusetts.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Heier seconded to travel to Hampton County, Massachusetts on Tuesday, March 18th, visit the Hampton County Adult Correctional Facility on Wednesday, March 19th, travel to Orange County, Florida later in the day on the 19th, visit the Orange County Adult Correctional Facility on Thursday, March 20th and return to Lincoln later in the day on the 20th.

Hudkins said he would also like to tour a facility in Tampa, Florida.

Thurber said the Board could tour the facility on Friday, March 21st but would be unable to get a flight back to Lincoln until Saturday, March 22nd.

Schorr questioned whether the additional cost is justified.

Heier said he might stay at his own expense to see it.

Thurber said the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) may be able to assist with travel costs for Board members.

Schorr indicated she would be willing to stay and tour the Tampa facility if there is funding available to offset costs.

Heier asked whether the County Clerk will need to accompany the Board on the tours, as there will be a quorum.

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, suggested that the Board seek a legal opinion.

Stevens asked who else will participate in the tours.

Thurber said he and one or two members of his department will accompany the Board on the tours. The consultants will also be present. He said Gary Hill, a member of the Jail Design Request for Proposals (RFP) Review Committee, has also indicated interest in touring the facilities, at his own cost.

ROLL CALL: Stevens, Schorr, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

5 ADJOURNMENT

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

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk