

## CORRECTIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Capitol Building Room 412

Pierre, SD 57501

March 15, 2004

Members Present: Senator J.P. Duniphan, Commission Chairperson, Committee Members: George Prest, Brad Drake and Paul Aylward.

Members Absent: Judge Max Gors, Representative Quentin Burg, Senator Garry Moore, Representative Bill Van Gerpen, Justice Steven Zinter.

Others Present: Tim Reisch, Secretary of Corrections; Annie Mehlhaff, LRC; Laurie Feiler, Deputy Secretary of Corrections, Michael Winder, Communications & Information Manager, Ron Zylstra, Director of Pheasantland Industries, Lynnette Eckert, Executive Assistant, and Joe Kafka, AP.

The March 15, 2004 Corrections Commission meeting was called to order by Senator Duniphan.

Agenda Item Number One: Approval of minutes from previous meeting December 2, 2003

Senator Duniphan stated a quorum was not present and no official action will be taken at this meeting. The minutes were acknowledged of the December 2, 2003, meeting.

Agenda Item Number Two: Status of Prison construction projects.

Secretary Reisch provided brief overview on the following projects:

HB 1280 of the 2003 session provided funding for the following projects using Federal VOITIS funds creating 792 beds.

- Secretary Reisch reported the expansion at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield would consist of a 400 bed barracks and a dietary/laundry facility.
- The preliminary site work has started at the MDSP for the construction of the barracks and the dietary. A security fence has been installed around the construction site. Secretary Reisch noted that Old Main has been demolished and clean up of the site is completed. The old rocks were retained for possible use in a future project.

- Secretary Reisch stated the bids were let in February, and the award letter was provided to James Steel Erection on February 26, 2004. The bid was within the budget. Once all the required documents have been returned to the Office of State Engineer, the Notice to Proceed will be issued. The department staff is actively working with the engineers in regards to site plans and building interior plans. The anticipated operational date will be July 2005.
- The Jameson, Unit D Pod, Sioux Falls, will add 192 beds.

Secretary Reisch reported Phase I of the dirt work is completed, and other preliminary site work is ready to begin, such as the security fence, and the relocation of the water hydrants. The bid process is being planned for April 8, 2004, and the bids are to be returned by May 6, 2004. The penitentiary staff is actively involved with the engineers on site and building plans, including structural design. The anticipated operational date is being planned for April 2006.

- The Rapid City Trusty Unit will be a 200-bed minimum-security unit.

Secretary Reisch reported the DOC is in the process of signing a purchase agreement for fifteen acres of land just northeast of Rapid City limits. HB 1077 provided the funding for the purchase. The department is currently performing required environmental impact statements, and it is in the design phase of the construction process.

Secretary Reisch reported a temporary correctional unit was opened in Rapid City at 2317 Creek Drive in February. This unit provides housing for inmates involved with work release and community service in the Black Hills pending the opening of the permanent unit. Senator Duniphan commented the Rapid City Trusty Unit had very nice opening. The facility will be nice transitional unit for the inmates. Family will be near to help with the transition process. Secretary Reisch noted the local officials are supportive. The anticipated operational date for the permanent site is November 2004.

Senator Duniphan asked if the commission had any questions or further discussions.

Senator Duniphan asked Secretary Reisch if the DOC was accessing any Homeland Security funds or whether this could be an agenda item for the next meeting. Secretary Reisch responded that the homeland security dollars has funded digital radios in some of the vehicles used for transporting. He would have more information for the next meeting.

George Preset asked Secretary Reisch whether the price of steel and will impact the building budget.

Secretary Reisch stated no information is available on how the price of steel will impact the building budget. The building in Springfield is under budget, and the price of steel for the Rapid City Unit will be a little higher, due to the distance traveled to the building site.

Secretary Reisch stated there was cushion to work with.

(Briefing attached)

Agenda Item Number Three: Native American Art Prison Industries venture

Secretary Reisch provided a few opening comments on the new project, and stated one of the department objectives is the rehabilitation of inmates committed to DOC. The commitment is to provide training, and creating jobs within the facility. This venture would help to also provide cultural awareness.

Director Ron Zylstra, of Pheasantland Industry is asking permission to create additional jobs and to enhance cultural awareness via the Native American Craft Shop.

Director Ron Zylstra provided a draft brochure on the Native American Art Prison Industries venture, and he talked briefly about the proposal to implement the project. The new shop would like to hire thirteen Native American Inmates to create the traditional art items. Mr. Zylstra stated he had had some preliminary discussions with other businesses regarding the sale of the art.

Senator Duniphan stated a concern of interfering with private business.

Brad Drake asked Director Zylstra for the forecasted revenue. Director Zylstra stated there could be from \$25,000 to \$ 50,000 incomes from this project, but official forecast had not been done at this time.

Mr. Drake has concerns about creating controversy in the Sioux Falls business area. Director Zylstra stated he had been in contact with a few Sioux Falls businesses, and the businesses have not had problems with it.

Paul Aylward stated he had concerns, and he would feel more comfortable if there would be discussions with the tribes in regards to their religion and cultural concerns. Ron Zylstra requested permission to pursue this further with the tribes and tribal leaders. Senator Duniphan agreed DOC should certainly work with tribes. George Prest noted the Commission could not take any action, as a quorum was not present.

Senator Duniphan suggested a conference call.

(Brochure attached)

#### Agenda Item Number Four: Legislative Session

Deputy Secretary Laurie Feiler provided a brief summary and a hand out on the Legislative session's effect on the Department of Corrections.

- HB 1076 Inmate medical cost covers short falls.
- HB 1077 Completion of construction projects.
- HB 1078 Parole Agreements
- HB 1079 Parole Preliminary hearings
- SB 56 Zero Tolerance DUI changed from traffic court to a CHIN's offense.
- SB 57 repeals mandatory consecutive sentences on some offenses.
- SB 58 Clean up bills on inmate accounts

(Summary attached)

Other Business:

Senator Duniphan asked for an update on the Food Service contracts.

Secretary Reisch stated the first phase was done, and the proposals were received from the food service providers this week. The proposals are being reviewed.

Paul Aylward asked about inmates working in private business.

Secretary Reisch responded that the Prison Industry Enhancement offers rehabilitation. The private vendor has a business within the prison, and it hires inmates at the Department of Labor prevailing wages. The private vendor owns the equipment within the prison.

Paul Aylward asked if the prevailing wages included benefits.

Both Secretary Reisch and Ron Zylstra indicated there are no benefits.

Paul Aylward asked about prisoners being placed into private industry.

Secretary Reisch explained work release inmates work in private industry as part of the rehabilitation back into the community.

Agenda Item Number Five: Date and Location for the next Commission meeting.

There was a short discussion of where the next meeting will be held. It will be held Monday, June 7, 2004, in Springfield, SD, to review the building project.

Agenda Item Number Six: Adjourn:

Senator Duniphan motioned to adjourn meeting.

George Prest seconded the motion.

The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned.