

CORRECTIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Mike Durfee State Prison Conference Room

Springfield, SD 57062

June 14, 2004

Members Present: Senator J.P. Duniphan, Commission Chairperson, Committee Members: Senator Garry Moore, Judge Max Gors, Brad Drake and Paul Aylward.

Members Absent: Representative Quentin Burg, Representative Bill Van Gerpen, Justice Steven Zinter, George Prest.

Others Present: Laurie Feiler, Deputy Secretary of Corrections, Ron Zylstra, Director of Pheasantland Industries, Warden Doug Weber, Warden Bob Dooley, Deputy Warden Dallas Schneider, Sheri Ludens, Secretary, Sarah Passick, Mitchell Daily Republic and Randy Dockendorf, AP.

The June 14, 2004 Corrections Commission meeting was called to order by Senator Duniphan.

Agenda Item Number One: Approval of minutes from previous two meetings

Senator Duniphan stated a quorum is present and asked for separate motions to approve the previous minutes.

Senator Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of March 15, 2004.
Judge Gors seconded.
The motion carried.

Paul Aylward made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2004 conference call.
Judge Gors seconded.
The motion carried.

Agenda Item Number Two: Tour and review construction site.

Agenda Item Number Three: SD Housing Apprenticeship Training Program

Steve Maruska briefed the Commission on the program. To become certified through the NCCER (National Center for Construction Education & Research) the inmate needs to complete a set amount of classroom hours along with a certain amount of OJT hours. All of the OJT is done at MDSP building the Governors Homes. It takes 16-18 months to complete the program.

Each inmate is screened to make sure they will be at MDSP for that amount of time. If, for instance, an inmate is released earlier than planned, there are 8 different sites in South Dakota that offer the same program. After release the inmate could then pick up his education where he left off on the outside.

The question was raised as to the demand for the Governors Homes.

Mr. Maruska stated the demand has gone down somewhat from the last 2-3 years. Two to three years ago they were about 4-5 months behind. If you were to order a house today it would be finished in 90 days. All the houses are pre-sold. Last year there were a record 198 houses built. That number includes day care facilities.

Deputy Secretary Feiler informed the Commission of the recent hiring of Brad Bergeson. He is the new superintendent at the STAR Academy in Custer. He brings with him numerous years of experience.

Agenda Item Number Four: Update of Governor Rounds' Adult Corrections Workgroup

(See attached handout)

Deputy Secretary Feiler reported the workgroup has met four times. There are approximately 45 members. This group was designed to take a look at if we are doing everything that we can to not have to put so many people in prison. There continues to be an interest in expanding intensive probation services. The workgroup is also taking a look at the commutation process and recommended that process continue as it has in the last couple years in terms of going through the Board of Pardons and Paroles for the longer term commutations and for the short term work commutations having the procedures in place where there is victim notice and so on. There are two pieces of legislation that were successful that came up through that workgroup. One was to eliminate indeterminate sentencing. The other bill impacted mandatory consecutive sentences for crimes committed as inmates. That is still an option but it is not a mandatory stand alone consecutive for crimes committed as inmates. The group is ongoing. There is no date set for the next workgroup, but there will be one probably this summer or early this fall.

Judge Gors commented on Latessas' use of assessment tools. UJS uses an assessment tool for both juveniles and adults. They would like to get their assessment tool the same as corrections uses, then corrections would just use it or update it, which would save time, effort and be more consistent.

Agenda Item Number Five: Prison Industries Native American Craft Shop and Pheasantland Industries Update

Director Ron Zylstra handed out the updated Native American Craft Shop brochure. The craft shop started up on March 27th. In the last few weeks there has been no negative feedback on the shop. An advisory council has been formed. The advisory council will be made up of spiritual leaders, medicine men and tribal liaisons. Four to six people will be selected and a meeting conducted to establish some ground rules for the shop.

Senator Moore feels some of the negative remarks made in the newspaper were a result of people not fully understanding the program. People felt it was going to be mass production of original Native American art. Senator Moore also added artists do not mass-produce. He also feels this misconception has been addressed.

Senator Duniphan stated the advisory council is a good idea and will bring in a higher degree of credibility.

Director Zylstra briefed the commission on several different art contests they are entered in.

Senator Moore asked if there are any monetary prizes for any of the contests and if so does the artist receive any portion of that?

Director Zylstra stated the inmate does not receive any of the money, it would all go the Pheasantland Industries. The inmate receives twenty-five cents an hour for their work.

Senator Duniphan asked for a quick update on what other Pheasantland Industries are doing and how everything is going.

Director Zylstra stated they are having a year about the same as last year with around 2 million dollars in business. 2005-2006 will be a big year as that will be the change over in license plates. The shops continue to stay very busy. There are currently 221 inmate employees working for P.I.

Agenda Item Number Six: Construction Projects

Warden Weber gave an update on the three major construction projects.

- The Rapid City Trusty Unit will be supervised by Warden Dooley and his staff. The unit will be constructed on a 15.3 acre piece of land. The overall project remains in the design phase. This unit will house about 200 minimum-security inmates. Open date will hopefully be late winter or early spring. Primary focus is for this unit to be a working unit; community service and work release.
- The site at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield will have an additional 400 low medium beds. The footings have been poured. The contract was awarded to James Steel Erection of Lesterville SD. This project is going along very well.
- The D Pod at the Jameson Annex will have an additional 192 maximum-security beds. These are the most expensive beds to build in any system as they house the worst offenders the state has to offer. This project is on track. The bids for this project open tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. The pod is designed so that it can be expanded by going up two stories if extra space is needed in the future.

Senator Duniphan asked for an update on Plankinton.

Deputy Secretary Feiler stated Cornell Corporation has opened the detention area of the campus and they are operating that as a regional detention facility. The next phase will be the opening of

a residential treatment center. Governor Rounds told the community if they find someone to operate the center, they could lease it for \$1.00. Plankinton formed a community group and they chose Cornell Corporation as the provider. Cornell Corporation is a well known provider of juvenile corrections services.

Agenda Item Number Seven: Population Report

(See attached handout)

Senator Moore asked about housing federal inmates.

Warden Weber stated there are approximately 15-16 federal inmates housed daily at SDSP. The budgetary number is ten. These are inmates that have been convicted and sentenced and are awaiting transfer to a federal prison. The stay is as long as 6 months, but normally is around 2 months. The rate for keeping a federal inmate is \$57 a day.

Senator Moore asked how many work release inmates we currently have.

Warden Weber stated the latest number for system wide work release inmates is around 130.

Senator Moore asked if the employer picks up the inmate or do we take the inmate to work.

Warden Dooley stated the inmates in Yankton find their own ride, usually with a co-worker or else they are provided a bike from Pedal Power. Warden Weber stated they utilize the public transportation in Sioux Falls.

Other Business:

Senator Duniphan asked if the commission had any other business or comments.

Senator Moore had a question as to the bi-laws being misplaced. If they are not found, we need to get bi-laws drafted again for reorganization of this commission on an annual basis.

Senator Duniphan may have a copy on file.

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

There was a short discussion of where the next meeting will be held. The meeting will be in Pierre. No date was set for the next meeting.

Senator Duniphan asked for an update on the Homeland Security Grant.

Deputy Secretary Feiler briefed the commission. Last year the department received a little over \$123,000 in grant money. That money was used on radio system upgrades. This year we have \$103,740 that has been granted. There are two projects that money will go for. One is additional cameras and the second is the beginning phase of installing a system of bar code readers as a

security tool. When a person goes through the control room they will have an I.D. they will swipe through the bar code reader.

Agenda Item Number Nine: Adjourn:

Senator Duniphan thanked Warden Dooley for his hospitality and tour.

Senator Duniphan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Senator Moore made a motion to adjourn.

Judge Gors seconded the motion.

The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned.