

CORRECTIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Mike Durfee State Prison
Springfield, SD 57062
Conference Room
August 27, 2009

Members Present: Chair Senator Julie Bartling, Vice-Chair Senator Craig Tieszen, Judge Patricia Riepel, Representative Lance Carson, Representative Richard Engels and Brad Drake.

Others Present: Secretary of Corrections Tim Reisch, Deputy Secretary of Corrections Laurie Feiler, Brady Kerkman, Policy & Compliance Manager, Director of Prison Operations Doug Weber, Warden Bob Dooley, Steve Maruska, Melissa Manning, Randy Dockendorf, Yankton Press & Dakotan, Jesse Batson, KDLT TV, Luke Haverhals, KDLT TV and Sheri Ludens,

Members Absent: Judge John Brown, Paul Aylward, George Prest.

Agenda Item Number One: Review/Approval of minutes from May meeting.

Chair Julie Bartling called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and thanked Warden Dooley and his staff for having the Commission meeting at Mike Durfee State Prison.

Representative Engels made a motion to amend the agenda to include education issues at the West Farm. Second by Senator Tieszen. The motion carried.

Chair Julie Bartling asked for approval of the May 18, 2009 minutes. Representative Engels moved for approval of May minutes. Second by Brad Drake, minutes approved by all.

Agenda Item Number Two: Update on Rapid City Minimum Unit/Perdue Inc. v. M. Michael Rounds, et al.

Secretary Reisch gave an overview of the pending lawsuits involving the purchase of the building in Rapid City. Perdue Inc. is suing the Department of Corrections, alleging two public meetings were not conducted as required by state law. The purchase agreement was signed prior to the public meetings. The ruling by Judge Fuller was in favor of the state. Secretary Reisch also stated there are approximately 25 days left for an appeal to be filed. The other lawsuit was filed by the owners of the building (Ames & Lampy) because the state had signed a purchase agreement to close on July 15, and because of the Perdue lawsuit the closing did not take place.

Vice Chair Senator Tieszen commented Perdue is a good neighbor on both sides. Also, with the current lawsuit from the seller, will the additional costs put this sale at risk or are they still willing sellers? Secretary Reisch confirmed that they are still willing sellers. He went onto say that \$2.2 million has been budgeted for this project and the property has been appraised at \$3.1 million.

Chair Julie Bartling inquired if stimulus dollars will be used. Secretary Reisch responded by saying that energy stimulus dollars may be used in the form of a loan for a portion of the heating costs.

Brad Drake wondered if it is possible we could lose this land. Secretary Reisch stated, since we didn't close on July 15 it is possible the land could be sold, but we don't anticipate that happening. Drake asked what the odds were of Perdue appealing. Secretary Reisch believes the odds are good that they will appeal.

Agenda Item Number Three: Governor's Housing Program.

(handouts provided)

Steve Maruska provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Housing Program. The presentation began with an overview of the history of the housing program, followed by the objective of the housing program, home buyer qualifications, financing options, opportunities for non-profit organizations, consumer/community benefits and floor plans of the homes.

Representative Engels asked if there has ever been any talk of changing the design of the homes to better suit the placement on a long narrow lot. Steve stated there has been some discussion regarding the design. He also went onto say the buyer can place the door on what would normally be the side of the home to better accommodate the lot shape.

Judge Riepel asked if the homes are energy efficient. Steve replied that they are and that they are also looking at trying to get an energy star rating on the entire home. Judge Riepel inquired if the home owner can use the \$1500 energy credit. Steve stated that they should be able to and he also added that the buyers are also going for the \$8000 first time home buyer credit. Steve went onto say that the products used to build the homes are purchased locally whenever possible.

Steve gave a brief description on the production of the Governor's homes as of 8/24/2009. The number of homes sold is 1,805 with 1,764 completed and 1,728 delivered. Seventy-four homes have been built for use for daycares. Currently there are 59 pads with 80-100 inmate workers.

Steve briefly went through the Inmate Carpentry Apprenticeship Program (ICAP) handout.

Vice Chair Senator Tieszen asked what the maximum capacity of homes built per year is. Steve stated 100-150 with the most built in one year being 197. Adding all homes are pre-sold and the amount of time from purchase to delivery is 120 days.

Chair Senator Bartling asked if once an offender is released does anyone do employment follow up. Steve replied that hopefully with the ICAP Program we will be able to better track this information.

Director Weber commented that a large number of inmates working for contractors went through this program.

Agenda Item Number Four: West Farm Education Issues

Representative Engels discussed with the Commission questions he had surrounding the education services provided to students at West Farm and asked if the DOC would be able to honor the West Farm education contract in future years due to a lack of funds.

Drake asked why the West Farm students no longer attend school in Sioux Falls. Secretary Reisch explained that Volunteers of America is the agency who operates West Farm. Secretary Reisch went onto say that he wasn't exactly sure of the reasons surrounding the change in school that youth were sent to, but believed it was related to transportation issues. He thought that Volunteers of America probably found it more efficient to transport all youth to one school versus multiple schools.

Chair Senator Bartling suggested to continue monitoring this item with Doug Herrmann's involvement and the Commission would discuss any concerns that may arise at the next Commission meeting in December after school has been in session for a few months.

Agenda Item Number Five: New Business

Chair Senator Bartling asked if there was any other business.

Secretary Reisch introduced Brenda Hyde, Warden Dwane Russell's replacement at the South Dakota Women's Prison, and asked her to give a little background about herself.

Chair Senator Bartling asked it be noted in the minutes that the Commission extends their condolences to the family of Tom Hennies on their loss.

Agenda Item Number Six: Adjourn

Vice Chair Senator Tieszen made a motion to adjourn.

Second by Representative Engels, the motion carried, meeting adjourned at 2:35.p.m.

APPROVED