



NORCOR CORRECTIONS FACILITIES

Wasco-Gilliam-Hood River-Sherman
201 Webber Street
The Dalles, OR 97058-3507
541-298-1576 telephone
541-298-1082 facsimile



NORCOR Board of Directors Minutes of the Board Meeting December 14, 2017

1.0 PRELIMINARY BUSINESS:

Quorum was determined and the Board Meeting was called to order on December 14, 2017 @ 1:00 PM by Rod Runyon, Chairman.

Present: Bryan Brandenburg- NORCOR Administrator **Board Members:** Rod Runyon- Wasco County Commissioner, NORCOR Board Chairman; Tom McCoy- Sherman County Commissioner, NORCOR Board Vice-Chairman; Bob Benton- Hood River County Commissioner (*alternate for Ron Rivers- Hood River County Commissioner*); Steve Shaffer- Gilliam County Judge; Brad Lohrey- Sherman County Sheriff; Amber DeGrange- Sherman County Juvenile Director (*alternate for Molly Rogers- Wasco County Youth Services Director*)

Guests: Will Carey- NORCOR Attorney; Jim Patterson- Hood River County Juvenile Director; Jeff Justesen- NORCOR Detention Manager; Kristen Campbell- Wasco County Council; Tyler Stone- Wasco County Administrator; Mark Bailey- Bicoastal Media News Director; Karen Joplin- Hood River County Commissioner; Teresa Hepker- The Dalles Resident; Rich McBride- Hood River County Commissioner; Scott Hege- Wasco County Commissioner; Lane Magill- Wasco County Sheriff; Juli Twidwell- NORCOR; Dan Lindhorst- NORCOR; Neita Cecil- The Dalles Chronicle; Connie Krummrich- Wasco County Resident; Robin Shallcross- Multnomah County Citizen; Antonia Kabakov- Wasco County Resident; Joel Kabakov- Columbia Gorge Community College Faculty; Richard 'Red' Stevens- St. Paul's Episcopal Church Minister, Gorge Ecumenical Ministries

Steve Shaffer moved to approve the October 19, 2017 Board Minutes. Brad Lohrey seconded the motion. The motion passed. Tom McCoy moved to approve the December 8, 2017 Emergency Special-Called Board Meeting Minutes. Bob Benton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2.0 BUSINESS ITEMS:

- **2.1 Public Comments/Questions** – Teresa Hepker, a resident of The Dalles, noted that the mystery of the Public Notices of NORCOR Board Meetings missing from the newspaper appeared to have

been solved. Neita Cecil, from that Dalles Chronicle added that she had been receiving the Public Meeting Notices from NORCOR, but that she did not always get those notices in the paper.

- **2.1a Press Release Response Letter to DRO Report** – Rod Runyon made sure that each person had been given a copy of the Press Release Letter and asked if there was anything that anyone wanted to add or that needed to be spelled out further. Steve Shaffer asked if the DRO had contacted any of the local Juvenile Judges or Juvenile Probation Officers for clarification before writing their report about NORCOR. Rod then asked Will Carey if he was satisfied with the Press Release Letter and Will confirmed that he was satisfied with the Press Release Letter. Bryan Brandenburg noted that the Press Release has not changed much from NORCOR’s initial response and that the facts have remained the same. Bryan then asked if there was a central place to distribute the Press Release Letter. Neita Cecil noted that the two media outlets that were present could walk out with the Press Release Letter today. Bryan noted that he was interested in getting this Press Release Letter out to the media outlets that had initially reported on the DRO article. Steve Shaffer moved to approve the Response Letter, for the Disability Rights of Oregon Report, which is dated December 12, 2017. Bob Benton seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tom McCoy asked if Wasco County had made a decision to continue using the NORCOR Juvenile side. Rod Runyon answered that the decision could not be made unless they were in a meeting and noted that the next scheduled meeting was on December 27, 2017.

- **2.2 NORCOR Update/Status- Bryan Brandenburg** –
 - The budget document was reviewed with the Board. Rod Runyon noted his appreciation at the renaming of the Proposed Budget Adjustment column in order to avoid confusion about the purpose of this column.
 - The statistics that had been handed out to the Board were also reviewed.
 - Tom McCoy asked if Bryan had made any progress with setting up a mental health wing outside the jail. Bryan answered that had an initial meeting and has more meetings scheduled in an effort to move the conversation forward within the community.
 - Crestline is removing the rock on the far side of the warehouse and leveling the ground at no charge to NORCOR.
 - The hunger strike at NORCOR ended voluntarily. Bryan noted that he had met with the strikers after they started eating again and one of their continued issues was outside recreation, which has since been implemented on the weekends and that expansion of the outside recreation is being looked at for next year’s budget. Milk has been substituted for the calcium fortified fruit drink, and hot breakfast on the weekends has been added to the menu. The inmates are now allowed to keep their own shoes and one hour of visiting through the Telmate system is now free for each of the inmates weekly.
 - PREA Certification was received on November 13, 2017. The OSSA Sheriffs Audit was on November 16, 2017 and NORCOR met 306 of their 309 standards. The Nakamoto Group from Immigration audited NORCOR and we are waiting for their report. The ICE Medical

- group also audited our Medical Department recently and we are waiting for that report as well.
- The Employee Handbook has been revised and updated following CIS standards. Policies, Procedures, and the Post Order Manual have also been updated and revised. New Emergency Plans have been implemented and copies of those plans have been given to the Sheriffs.
 - There was a positive news article in the Corvallis Gazette-Times in November about what NORCOR is doing.
 - A couple of members of the ACLU came to NORCOR, met with Bryan, and toured the facility in an effort to mitigate a lot of the issues that they have with NORCOR.
- **2.3 Attorney Fees, Doug Goe** – Bryan presented Resolution and Order Number 17/18-1 to the Board and noted that it included the Contingency Funds that had been spent on replacing kitchen items as well as the billed cost of the attorney fees for the work that Doug Goe did on the Bond Levy. Steve Shaffer moved to approve Resolution and Order Number 17/18-1, a Resolution to authorize the movement of funds from Contingency to Capital Outlay in the amount of \$24,274 and to move \$9,000 from Contingency to Legal Services. Bob Benton seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

3.0 REPORTS AND DISCUSSION – ACTION THAT MAY BE REQUIRED:

- **3.1 Sheriff Board** – Brad Lohrey noted that he was not at the Sheriffs Meeting, but that he did get to sit in with ASSO inspectors and with the Nakamoto Group inspection and these were very positive reports and there was nothing reported which would give the Sheriffs concern. Lane Magill reported on the Sheriffs Meeting and noted that the main focus was Policy and Procedure and that the Sheriffs went over the preliminary reports from the inspection. The other topic of the meeting was the drug, alcohol, and mental health issue. Lane added that the Sheriffs would be at the table to help push that subject matter in our region.
- **3.2 Juvenile Directors** – Amber DeGrange reported that the Juvenile Director Oversight Committee had met and were in the process of making an action plan. Amber noted that both the JDAI Assessment from a few years ago and some items from the DRO Report were being merged to cover all the bases of what improvements needs to be made to the facility. Amber noted that one of the first things to be addressed was the intake process which has been overhauled. The policy on visitation has been rewritten to reflect the longer visits that happen between the youth and their families. The Juvenile Directors are going to be a more visible presence in the facility as a resource for both the youth and the staff. The Juvenile Directors are also looking toward implementing the Independent Consultation or Inspection. Bryan Brandenburg noted that the meeting had been a very productive one and noted that implementing programs for the kids in the future was also discussed. Jim Patterson commended the staff that work with the youth and noted that the DRO Report does not illustrate the success that happens every day in the Detention Facility.
- **3.3 Legal Counsel** – Will Carey reported that the Oregon Law Center had filed a lawsuit against NORCOR and also against Wasco County and that the subject of the law suit was an Oregon Statute

which says that funds or personnel will not be used for the purpose of detecting or apprehending people who are in this country illegally and that is their only offense. Will noted that NORCOR had filed a motion to dismiss that lawsuit based on interpretation of the Statute because NORCOR does not detect or apprehend people who are in the country illegally. Will continued his report by noting that NORCOR, by contract, houses prisoners from the Federal Marshall's office until their disposition is determined by ICE. Will added that the question of escape was brought up and that the answer is that NORCOR does not apprehend anyone; if a detainee escapes NORCOR would turn the case over to law enforcement. On November 29, 2017 there was a hearing in front of the Wasco County Circuit Court Judge, where Will and Karen Campbell (Wasco County Attorney) were allowed to argue this motion. Will further noted that there were several representatives of NORCOR present at that hearing, including Commissioner Rod Runyon, Commissioner Joe Dabulskis (Sherman County), Sheriff Brad Lohrey, and Bryan Brandenburg. Will reported that the Judge noted that he would take it under advisement and that the result would probably be available within the coming week. Will added that if NORCOR does not prevail on that motion, the next step is already lined up, and ultimately if none of the motions are successful then NORCOR will end up in trial. Will noted that he feels like the interpretation of those two words is correct. Rod Runyon added that it was great to see Will in action at the hearing and commended the great job that Will did during the hearing.

- **3.5 Commissioners Comments** – Rod Runyon asked if the new Benton County ruling on only housing pre-trial inmates locally, within the County, would affect the contract that NORCOR has with Benton County for housing their inmates. Bryan Brandenburg answered that the contract guarantees 22 beds for three years, but that the numbers have been closer to 30 recently. Bryan added that the inmates can waive the finding of the Judge in order to be able to be housed at NORCOR instead of within Benton County and that they are lined up to sign the paperwork to come back to NORCOR. Rod Runyon asked that if Benton County would still have to pay for the 22 beds according to the contract should if the number of inmates from Benton County was to fall below 22. Bryan answered that that yes, Benton County has guaranteed payment for 22 beds. Brad Lohrey noted that it is likely that they will have to just release the inmates that are in pre-trial who are still in Benton County. Amber DeGrange asked why inmates would be so willing to sign a waiver to come here. Bryan answered that NORCOR offers much a better facility and more services than are offered locally within their county. Rod Runyon noted that for Benton County's bottom line, they have the potential of saving a half million dollars in fees by contracting with NORCOR as opposed to the variety of contracts that they already have. Brad added that he was present when Benton County came and inspected the jail; the inmates had not been prepared in any way to be questioned, but were asked why they would rather be here and the inmates answered that the programming offered was the biggest reason to want to be here.

Steve Shaffer noted a Letter to the Editor that he had read, *Reminder to Protect the Children*, which was written by Charlotte Heckler in University City, Missouri in regards to NORCOR's story from the DRO Report; the DRO Report had far reaching implications which are pretty concerning. Steve added that he thought NORCOR's responses to the DRO Report are on the right track.

Bob Benton brought up an article from the Hood River News about the City of Hood River drafting a letter to the Hood River County Commission in opposition to the ICE contract. Bob noted that the city of Hood River has decided, at this time, to address the Commissioners individually instead, but informed the Board that there may be an official statement from the City of Hood River in the future. Rod Runyon suggested and proposed to the Board that the new Chairman for the Board be elected today so that the new chair is in place at the beginning of the year, rather than waiting until February for that to happen. Brad Lohrey moved to have the Board elect Tom McCoy as Chairman of the NORCOR Board, effective January 2, 2018. Bob Benton seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Rod Runyon moved to have the Board elect Steve Shaffer as Vice-Chairman of the NORCOR Board, effective January 2, 2018. Tom McCoy seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

- **3.6 Next Board Meeting –**

The next regular scheduled Board Meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2018 @ 10:00 AM.

- **3.4 Executive Session 192.660 (1) (h) –**The Board did not adjourned into Executive Session; there was a consensus that the Executive Session was not necessary.

- **3.7 Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned @ 2:10 PM.

Date

Rod Runyon, NORCOR Board Chair

Date

Beth Anderson, NORCOR

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Anderson, NORCOR