

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
CORRECTIONS COMMISSION
JANUARY 28, 2019

South Dakota Corrections Commission meeting was held January 28, 2019 at 4:30 pm at the Department of Corrections Administration Office in Pierre, SD. Aaron Miller welcomed the group and reiterated the reason for the meeting was to take action on the request from the Prison Industry embroidery program for equipment. An email was sent to the Commission a few weeks ago explained the details involved in the request.

Roll call was taken. Present in person, Chairman Troy Heinert and Senator Arthur Rusch. Participating by telephone, Judge John Brown, Judge Pat Pardy, Mark Anderson, Representative Jamie Smith and David McGirr. A quorum was present.

Also, in attendance was Laurie Feiler, Deputy Secretary of Corrections, Aaron Miller, Policy and Compliance Manager, Candy Snyder, Director of Operations and Wanda Markland, Warden at SDWP. Participating by telephone was Stefany Bawek, Director of Prison Industries.

Chairman Heinert welcomed those participating. Laurie Feiler spoke to the group about the request and briefed them on the information and facts previously sent to the Commission. Laurie explained that the intent was to purchase embroidery machines and software for Prison Industry (PI). The South Dakota Women's Prison has had an embroidery shop since 2001. This shop operates independently from Prison Industry. The shop has provided embroidery services to various state agencies, local governments, qualifying non-profits, schools and the Legislature. The current equipment is obsolete and is not in operating condition. The embroidery shop has not produced any products for a number of months. A service call was completed on the machine, but the repairs would be costly and the software is outdated. A decision was made to purchase new equipment. Currently there is an embroidery machine within the garment and silk screen industry at Mike Durfee State Prison. In addition to the request to purchase equipment, DOC is asking to combine the embroidery operation in Pierre with the Prison Industry embroidery operation at Mike Durfee State Prison. This would allow PI to use funds from the revolving Prison Industry fund to pay for the new equipment.

Senator Rusch asked if the operation would physically move. Laurie responded that the intent is to operate both shops at their present locations. Pursuant to SDCL § 1-15-13.1 the department is requesting approval from the Corrections Commission to purchase new equipment and to include the embroidery shop at the SDWP within the PI embroidery shop.

Stefany shared that based on historical revenues, it is estimated the machines should be paid off in about a year.

The total cost is estimated to be \$43,800.00. Stefany indicated delivery of the machines could occur soon after final approval is granted by the Commission. Set-up of the machine is minimal. On-line training and instruction is available from the company. The company is located out of state.

Senator Rusch asked if inmates had been operating the old embroidery machine. Warden Markland reported two inmates currently work in the shop. One of the inmates has been working there for 12 years. Both inmates will be trained on the new machines and software. If additional inmates are required, they will also complete the training.

Judge Brown asked for clarification on the number of machines that were requested. Stefany responded that Pierre needs two machines to keep up with the demand for services and product. The machine in Springfield does not have the capacity or abilities the machine in Pierre has. Stephany clarified that the old machine in Pierre will be sold or scraped as it is not worth fixing. The machine has been repaired a number of times and continues to break down. Each service call is expensive as the only company that provides service to the machine or software is located out of state.

Senator Rusch asked about the statute that requires the Corrections Commission to take action on the request. Laurie Feiler shared that the statute states "no funds other than those for normal operating costs and replacement of existing necessary equipment may be expended from the Prison Industries' revolving fund for the purpose of enhancement, development or expansion of Prison Industries without approval of the Commission".

Mark Anderson asked if any private employers would be impacted by the work being completed by inmates. Warden Markland indicated that this would involve the same number of inmate employees and that the shop has not employed anyone from outside the prison.

Chairman Heinert asked if this shop is separate from the quilting business, which the Commission approved approximately a year ago. Stefany Bawek responded that Badlands Quilting is not part of the embroidery shop. Heinert asked for action on the request.

Senator Rusch made a motion to approve the purchase of the two embroidery machines and the embroidery software for the Prison Industry embroidery program. Motion was seconded by Representative Smith.

Roll call vote.

Voting yes: Senator Heinert, Judge John Brown, Judge Pat Pardy, Mark Anderson, Senator Rusch, David McGirr and Jamie Smith. Excused: Representative Kevin Jensen and Bruce Yakley.

Motion carried.

Chairman Heinert thanked the Commission for joining in on this meeting as well as the DOC for bringing this forward.

Heinert asked if there was public comment. No public comment offered. Senator Rusch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David McGirr. Meeting adjourned.

Approved