

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH DAKOTA CORRECTIONS COMMISSION
Remotely via Microsoft Teams
November 19, 2024
11:00AM – 11:35 AM CT

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Shawn Bordeaux – Chair
Sen. Helene Duhamel – Vice Chair
Mark Anderson
Rep. Eric Emery
Judge Christina Klinger
David McGirr
Judge Jon Sogn

DOC STAFF PRESENT:

Kellie Wasko, Secretary of Corrections
Brent Fluke, Deputy Secretary of Corrections
Amber Pirraglia, Director of Prisons
Brittni Skipper, Director of Finance and Administration
Michael Winder, Public Information Officer
Nicole Gednalske, Constituent Services Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lynette Johnson, constituent, Sioux Falls, SD
John Hult, reporter, Sioux Falls, SD
Beth Warden, reporter, Sioux Falls, SD

WELCOME:

- Secretary Wasko welcomed all to the meeting. Attendance roll call was conducted and the quorum was met.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Chair Bordeaux requests a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. A motion to approve the minutes from September 5, 2024, was made by Sen. Duhamel and seconded by Mark Anderson. A voice vote was conducted with no members opposing. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

PHEASANTLAND INDUSTRIES FINANCIAL UPDATE:

- Director Skipper provides a financial update including the profitability of each of the PI shops over the past two fiscal years. The business management policy was referenced regarding corrective measures that are required for shops that do not make a profit. It is reported that there are no shops on corrective measure plans at this time and all shops have positive operating income.

- McGirr reports he has gotten letters of complaint about the new commissary shop, specifically the prices of the items. Requests a cost-analysis be provided comparing the current commissary prices to those offered by the previous vendor.

LOCKDOWN REVIEW:

- Secretary Wasco provides insight into the recent lockdown of the South Dakota State Penitentiary (Hill), Jameson Prison Annex, and Sioux Falls Minimum Center. Reports this lockdown was a proactive security measure to implement a full campus search for dangerous contraband and was not a response to a fight, assault, or disturbance.
- Secretary Wasco defines contraband and dangerous contraband. Images of contraband seized during the lockdown were shown and described.
- Lynette Johnson inquires about the source of some of the contraband, whether any offenders will be charged criminally, and the frequency of shakedowns.
- Secretary Wasco reports contraband was found in all three facilities, but that she cannot disclose specific information on the source of contraband or frequency of shakedowns. Reports she estimates around six offenders could be charged.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- John Hult inquires whether any contraband was found in the sweat lodge and whether the structure has been rebuilt following the search.
- Secretary Wasco confirms contraband was found in the sweat lodge, that the structure was rebuilt October 30, 2024, and that sweat lodge ceremonies have resumed.
- Beth Warden inquires whether Jameson Prison Annex has space for an elevator. Requests clarification on differing accounts.
- Secretary Wasco explains that a complete elevator shaft does not currently exist at Jameson Prison based on information from the structural engineer.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING:

- A date of Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 11:00 AM CT was decided upon by commission members.

ADJOURN:

- Chair Bordeaux requests a motion to adjourn. A motion for adjournment was made by Sen. Duhamel and seconded by Judge Sogn. The meeting adjourned at 11:35AM CT.