

**IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

**Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017**

**STRYKER** – The financial stability of the regional jail will remain strong following Wednesday’s action of the Corrections Commission of Northwest Ohio.

Board members approved a \$14 million operating budget for 2018 – the same as in 2017 -- which includes renting additional beds to the U.S. Marshals Service and allowing additional funds to be placed in the reserve fund.

Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken had asked that its 275 bed allocation be increased an additional 50 beds for a total of 325 for 2018. He said Lucas County has been a long-time member of the board while taking on 100 additional beds when the City of Toledo withdrew from the group. He said while it may be true that Lucas County may be leaving CCNO, no formal three-year notice had been issued.

But CCNO Board Chairman Robert Hastedt said Lucas County indicated some time ago that it plans to leave CCNO while his county has no where else to go but CCNO. He said Lucas County was to determine the number of beds it needed for 2018 in July but continued to request delays. The due date was repeatedly postponed until an Oct. 4 special meeting at which time Lucas County reduced its 2017 commitment of 323 bed to 275 for 2018. In turn, the board instructed the CCNO administration to fill the empty beds.

The remaining four counties kept their 2017 bed allocations the same for 2018 with 60 for Defiance County; 58 for Williams County; 55 for Fulton County; and 37 for Henry County.

Dennis Sullivan, Director of Security and Operations, said beds became empty following the Oct. 4 meeting. At that time, it amounted to loss of 133 beds totaling \$550,000 as well as potential cutbacks and layoff of staff. He said officials did not want a repeat of what had happened in the summer of 2016 when the City of Toledo pulled out. As a result, the CCNO administration was able to secure an agreement with the U.S. Marshal Service to rent out 133 unoccupied beds at a rental rate of \$90 per diem, exceeding the \$69.42 rate paid by CCNO members.

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By a vote of 8 to 2, board members defeated a motion to grant an additional 50 beds to Lucas County. Board members also voted, 8 to 2, to rent out 133 beds to the U.S. Marshal Service in 2018.

In other business, board member agreed to keep the capital improvement fund at \$1.25 per diem for 2018. The rate will generate \$122,281. Members also agreed to keep the per diem rate the same in 2018 which will generate \$354,000 for placement in reserve funds.

Board members approved two bids. A contract was awarded to Fred Christensen and Sons out of Toledo for the partial roof replacement at a cost of \$216,000. Also a contract was awarded to M&M Asphalt, Edon, with its bid of \$133,197.50 to repave the parking lot.

Members approved an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation to extent the trash collection project into Lucas County. In June, board members approved an agreement allowing low-risk offenders to pick up trash along state and federal highways in the four counties of Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties. The new agreement extents the service to all five counties, providing a corrections officer to supervise a crew of up to four inmates. In turn, ODOT will provide two vehicles with a light bar, trash bags and up to \$55,000 per year to finance costs.

In his operational update, CCNO Executive Director Jim Dennis said Wednesday's population stood at 620 or 94 percent. He also noted that 104 people, to include various officials, attended the three-day open house held at the regional jail earlier in the month.