

# Corrections Commission of Northwest Ohio

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**IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

**Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018**

**STRYKER** – Finances and bids were topics acted upon during Wednesday’s meeting of the Corrections Commission of Northwest Ohio.

Board members voted to place 2017 unused funds totaling \$258,549 in the CCNO reserve account. Members were informed that the account balance stood at \$392,000. State auditors recommended a reserve account of \$800,000 to \$1 million in the event of unexpected emergencies.

CCNO Executive Director Jim Dennis reported a population of 636 as of Wednesday morning with the member population at 459 or 94.6 percent. He said on Friday an overcrowding emergency was declared with jail doors closed to Defiance, Fulton and Williams counties. Mr. Dennis said releases were authorized by area courts over the past weekend.

Mr. Dennis referred to the administrative release policy that allows jurisdictions to use up beds beyond the member beds. He said CCNO officials have followed the Board’s direction on seeking additional beds through the US Marshals and have been transparent on potential overcrowding situations by providing additional information to include giving notices to jurisdictions when their population peaks at 95 percent and higher. It was noted that a jurisdiction can adjust its bed allocations each July if more beds are available in the future.

Dennis Sullivan, Director of Security and Operations, said that in past years it was common to have about 30 spare jail beds to work with but local jurisdictions have to hold more F4 and F5 felons due to changes in the law. He said CCNO’s budget is currently based on 658 funded beds. Director Sullivan also stated that we need to reduce this 658 bed capacity to prevent overcrowding at CCNO because it’s difficult on the staff to have that many inmates to supervise.

Other items addressed at the meeting included:

- CCNO officials were authorized to seek quotes on a 15-passenger van and a mid-sized SUV.

- Board members approved the purchase of a new CCNO bus. A sole bid from Cardinal was received at a cost of \$166,500 with a 2012 bus trade value of \$11,500, bringing the actual price to \$155,000.
- Also approved was the repair to an exterior recreational wall. Officials said the entire block wall has to be replaced with block work listed at \$12,800 and razor wire at \$9,875.
- Board members authorized the architectural design cost of \$23,606 to add a small control room between connecting minimum security dorms. This will allow the addition of a roving officer to assist and increase security in the minimum security units.
- Members approved the estimated cost of \$6,000 for the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit.
- Members were advised that bids will have to be advertised for a full body scanner. CCNO had recommended a company that is not on state contract in the State of Ohio. The specialized body scanner will provide added security measures to prevent introduction of contraband into the facility.

Members agreed by an 8 to 2 vote to add to any new contract the specification that any vendor or contractor lawsuit must be filed in Williams County, the jurisdiction for dispute. Since CCNO deals with numerous contractors from various locations, members were advised it would be in the best interest of the facility to have any contract disputes filed in Williams County to avoid traveling costs. The descending votes were cast by the two Lucas County officials.

Board members met in executive session for 16 minutes to consult with legal counsel on pending legal action. No action was taken.