

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.

Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken asked that its 275 bed allocation be increased an additional 50 beds for a total of 325 for 2018. By a vote of 8 to 2, board members defeated the motion to grant the additional 50 beds to Lucas County. The board members cited the reason for not supporting the increase in Lucas County’s bed count was due to the fact Lucas County repeatedly postponed the selection process and according to Chairman Robert Hastedt, Lucas County plans to leave CCNO in the future. In addition according to CCNO’s contractual operating agreement the selection of beds was to occur in July of 2017. The CCNO board accommodated Lucas County by allowing several extensions until October 4 at a special meeting at which time they requested 275 beds for 2018. It wasn’t until the current meeting that Lucas County changed their mind on wanting the additional 50 beds after CCNO already secured a contract with the United States Marshal Services.

Dennis Sullivan, Director of Security and Operations, said beds became empty following the Oct. 4 meeting. At that time, it amounted to a loss of revenue 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 reserve the available beds at a rental rate of \$90 per diem, exceeding the \$69.42 operating rate paid by CCNO members.

Jim Dennis, Executive Director, noted for the future of CCNO, we believe the US Marshal beds will be more stable and routinely filled. The City of Toledo’s departure left CCNO with a 1.3 million dollar deficit to manage in 2016. In the past, Lucas County has served CCNO notice that they were leaving, but then withdrew the notice. In a July meeting, they informed us they were putting a bond issue on the ballot in November to build a jail. That bond issue has since been withdrawn.

The CCNO board instructed CCNO administration to fill the beds left vacant by Lucas County’s reduction in beds.