

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1993 MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, CONTINUED

implementation on June 1. He reported construction on the new wing of the Adult Detention Center was about three weeks behind schedule and that updating of air conditioning/heating equipment in the existing part of the Adult Detention Center had begun.

Dick summarized the background which had prompted the Board to postpone opening of the jail commissary bids until March 29. He added that, although the Board may like to contract with Larry McCray through the Department of Human Services (D.H.S.), it would rely on the advice of the district attorney's office.

Blanchard discussed the Memorandum of Authority he had delivered to the Board March 24 and stated that the inclusion in 19 O.S. 1991, Section 180.43 D. of the reference to 7 O.S. 1991, Section 73 demonstrated that the jail commissary was to be considered a vending facility. In reference to a March 12 letter from Carol R. Dill of the State Auditor and Inspector office, Pallotta declared that the county would not be purchasing anything so should not be required to be bid. Blanchard and Pallotta stated that a bid for operation of the jail commissary was not submitted by them because they believed neither D.H.S. nor McCray could meet the specified minimum requirements. Dick suggested they prepare a written explanation of their failure to submit a bid, the rationale used, and what they would be willing to include in a contract for jail commissary services.

Harrison, Regional Sales Manager for Canteen, Inc., pointed out that the funds for commissary items were non-appropriated funds the inmates used for sundries or other items and that similar operations elsewhere have gone through a bidding process which had not allowed D.H.S. preferential treatment. O'Neil, Regional Manager of Swanson Inmate Commissary Services, emphasized their proposal provided audit trails and accountability needed for keeping track of inmate's money.

Glanz stated D.H.S. had operated the jail commissary for 4-1/2 years without the necessary accountability and that his office had been unsuccessful in negotiating a contract with them.

Blakeley said it was legitimate for the county to go through the bidding process in order to obtain a commercially advantageous contract and that he did not believe priority applied to the jail commissary because it is not a vending facility open to the public. He added that the same legislature which wrote 19 O.S. 1991, Section 180.43 D. also wrote the definition of a vending facility which did not include jail commissary.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that it was obligated to open all bids submitted in good faith and it would proceed on March 29 with the bid openings for jail commissary arrangements.

Jones discussed his March 12 request to form a task force of M.I.S. programmers to work on a tax system conversion project for the county treasurer's office. He stated the programmers' overtime would be limited to 10