



District 2 Supervisor Tom Sockwell (from left), Sheriff Tom Sheahan, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Buster Johnson, District 3, County Attorney Matt Smith and District 1 Supervisor Gary Watson listen as Arizona Department of Corrections Director Charles Ryan responds to a question from the sheriff regarding the July 30 escape of three inmates from Arizona State Prison – Kingman. Ryan made his presentation during the regular Board meeting Monday, Sept. 20, at the County Administration Building in Kingman. Kingman Mayor John Salem also attended and asked questions.

## Mohave County Supervisors hear report from state corrections director

KINGMAN – Arizona Department of Corrections Director Charles Ryan didn't hold anything back during a presentation Monday regarding actions following the escape of three inmates from Arizona State Prison – Kingman.

Convicted murderers Tracy Province and Daniel Renwick, and John McCluskey, convicted of attempted murder, escaped the medium-security unit on July 30 with the assistance of McCluskey's cousin/fiancé Casslyn

Welch. They have all since been recaptured, although they now face new escape, kidnapping and murder charges.

Ryan reported to the Mohave County Board of Supervisors during the Monday (Sept. 20) Board meeting in Kingman regarding his department's investigation of the July 30 escape from the Management and Training Corporation (MTC) private prison near Kingman and actions taken before, during and after that incident.

He started with a PowerPoint on the state's prison structures and inmates, saying that within the next month, all Arizona inmates will be housed in the state. Right now the state's prison system has a total capacity of 45,067 beds. "Only 18 percent of our beds are in private prisons," he said. He described the timeline of the MTC facility from its first approval in 2002 to the "loading" of DUI inmates in August of 2004.

In May of 2005, the "former director approved the change of the Kingman inmate population from DUI to General Population inmates which allowed non-DUI inmates to be housed at the facility." He explained that MTC did not notify "the Legislature, the Mohave County Board of Supervisors or the public of the change." Dec. 13, 2007, "was the first time murderers were assigned to the Kingman facility."

He stated information regarding the July 30 escape including the actions of the escapees and MTC's delayed notification to the Mohave County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Corrections (DoC). He then reported the DoC's actions following the escape.

"On August 4 through 6, the department assigned a security team to an onsite security report..." he said. "The Draft Security Assessment, which had been conducted on the fourth through sixth, (found) human error was a great contributor as well as the department's monitoring function. MTC submitted a letter accepting full responsibility for the escape."

The report found the facility, which has been enlarged to a 3,400 bed capacity, to have several problems.

"On September 9, I was advised the entire electronic security perimeter alarm system, in essence, was defective on the unit from where the escape



Arizona Department of Corrections Director Charles Ryan reports to the Mohave County Board of Supervisors, sheriff and county attorney and the Kingman mayor Monday at the Board meeting

occurred," Ryan said. "It will have to be overhauled and/or replaced in its entirety."

Ryan ordered removal of any convict serving a sentence for murder or serving more than 20 years from the MTC Kingman facility – leading to the transfer of 155 inmates to other prisons.

Arizona State Prison – "Kingman's delay in notifying local law enforcement and the department was not the result of unclear or vague guidelines," he said. "It just wasn't done. To correct that, we are working with MTC onsite.... MTC staff are being redirected and retrained. No new inmates will be assigned" to the Kingman prison until the facility is compliant and all contractual agreements are met. Training and emergency drills will take place.

Ryan responded to questions and statements from Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Buster Johnson, District 3, District 2 Supervisor Tom Sockwell, District 1 Supervisor Gary Watson, Sheriff Tom Sheahan, County Attorney

Matt Smith and Kingman Mayor John Salem.

He said he and his department are working hard with MTC to “restore the trust and confidence by the citizens of Kingman, the Board of Supervisors and the people in Mohave County.” He called the escape, “and tragic aftermath, is the worst thing that has happened in 32 years” with Arizona prisons. He assured the Board that “MTC is liable” for the costs incurred by the county due to the prison escape and the continuing justice system actions where the county will have to be involved.

“Right now, it (Arizona State Prison – Kingman) is a prison that needs a lot of guidance and leadership,” Ryan said. “It is a prison that needs to implement structure and accountability to the population.”

Following the Board meeting, County Manager Ron Walker said that Ryan’s presentation was “extremely professional and respectful. He itemized the complete history of the MTC facility and spelled out the problems that led to the escape, the errors that occurred during and after the escape, and he placed the blame where it belonged. He didn’t hold back. The actions that the facility will take to correct the problems were presented to the Mohave County residents. We appreciate his candor and thoroughness in his presentation that explained every aspect of the situation’s problems and solutions that are already in process.”