

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**April 13, 2016
Reidsville, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl L. Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Larry E. Haynie
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Chief of Staff
Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Valiant Lyte, Chaplain, Georgia State Prison
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Antonnio Printup, Director of Special Operations
Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of GCI
Mr. Shawn Wombles, GDC Fire Services

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Lisa Bryson, wife of Commissioner Homer Bryson
Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Mr. Jack Hill, Senator, District 4
Mr. Alima Mims, Augusta Fire Department
Mr. John New, Cherokee Sheriff's Office
Mr. Blake Raulerson, Senator Perdue's Office
Mr. William Smith, Cherokee Sheriff's Office

Chairman Rose Williams called the April meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 4:00 p.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Williams asked Chaplain Valiant Lyte to give the invocation.

Chairman Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance, recognized all visitors and guests. Special guests Senator Jack Hill, District 4, and Mr. Blake Raulerson, Senator Perdue's Office, spoke briefly and thanked the Board for the invitation to this month's meeting.

Chairman Williams presented the April Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Sheriff Roger Garrison and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams presented the March Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Homer Bryson began his report by presenting a four-page overview highlighting key areas within the agency such as inmate population, inmate security levels, bed utilization, safe and secure facilities, inmate services, fire services and Correctional Industries.

Immediately following, Assistant Commissioner Scott Poitevint presented an update on the 2017 Fiscal Year Budget. Highlights included the executive order transfer of probation supervision as a result of House Bill 310 reduced funds for energy efficiency upgrades at state prisons and reduced funds to meet expected projections for jail subsidies. In addition, Mr. Poitevint briefly discussed efforts to increase funds to address recruitment and retention issues in the highest turnover job classes. To conclude, Mr. Poitevint spoke on educational and vocational enhancements, statewide changes such as the Merit Based Increase, Risk Reduction Premiums, TeamWorks Billings, ERS Contribution, Merit Assessment and Capital Outlay Projects.

To follow, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward spoke briefly on the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held earlier that day for the Fire Station at Smith State Prison. Mr. Ward stated that the newest Georgia Department of Corrections Fire Station #20 is located in Glennville, Georgia and it will serve Tattnall and Long counties as well as the City of Glennville.

Assistant Commissioner Ward introduced Mr. Shawn Wombles, Fire Services/Life Safety Manager to present a quick overview of Fire Services. Mr. Wombles spoke briefly about Georgia Department of Corrections Inmate Firefighter team's mission is to plan, implement, and coordinate a professional fire and life safety inspection and certification program. The team also manages an inmate firefighter program that provides fire protection for all GDC staff and inmates in correctional facilities and their local communities. Mr. Wombles' highlighted that the fire team provides highly trained and skilled firefighters as "First Responders" in most counties at no cost. These individuals answer 3,000 call responses annually. Furthermore, Mr. Wombles explained that the fire team responds to various types of emergencies, including wildfires, tornados and other natural disasters.

To close, Mr. Wombles discussed reentry services that allow released inmate firefighters who successfully complete the Georgia Department of Corrections Program to be considered for employment. Mr. Wombles stated that there are 50 former inmates known to have been hired at stations and other inmates who serve as responsible employees in other fields. Mr. Wombles invited a former inmate, Mr. Alima Mims, who is currently serving as the training Lieutenant of Augusta/Richmond County Fire Department, to share his success story with the board members. To conclude the Commissioner's Report, the Smith State Prison Firefighters were also in attendance to answer any additional questions.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Rose Williams stated there is no business to report. Chairman Williams continued by asking if there were any Old or New Business. There was none so Chairman Williams reminded the members that the Correctional Industries/ Food & Farm Committee will have a committee meeting and presentation at the next board meeting scheduled on May 5th at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rose Williams, Chairman

Alton Russell, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison