

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

August 6, 2020

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Mike Coggins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Mr. Donnie Pope
Ms. Neat Robinson
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell-Chairman
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Mr. Jerry Willis

CONFERENCE CALL:

Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CONFERENCE CALL:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Chief of Staff
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of OPD
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director of GCI
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director of GCI
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Dexter Walker, OIT
Mr. Tim Williams, Deputy Director of OPD

VISITORS:

Ms. Melissa Hargrove, Account Executive, ABM

First, Chairman Alton Russell called to order the August meeting for the Board of Corrections ("the Board") at 11:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

Chairman Alton Russell then asked Chaplain Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Russell led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and then recognized all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Russell presented the August 2020 Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Russell also presented the March Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Jerry Willis made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. The Minutes were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Timothy C. Ward asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services Division, to present a Coronavirus update. Mr. Sauls began his presentation on the Georgia Department of Corrections response to COVID-19. Some of the highlights mentioned were what is COVID-19, transmission, mitigation, COVID-19 testing, and the Georgia Department of Public Health contact tracing. Also discussed was the Centers for Disease Control guidance on COVID-19, COVID-19 intake screening procedural flow chart, facility acquired/exposed COVID-19 flow chart, COVID-19 social distancing and bed position, surveillance monitoring, and COVID-19 offender releases. To conclude, Mr. Sauls discussed COVID-19 outcomes, active COVID-19 cases for staff and offenders, active COVID-19 cases, and hospitalizations.

This concluded Mr. Sauls’ report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner of the Facilities Division, and Mr. Tim Williams, Deputy Director of the Office of Professional Development, to give their Georgia Department of Corrections COVID-19 Response updates.

Mr. Holt began his report by discussing the establishment of a Coronavirus Response Team. Mr. Holt talked about Phase One - Planning and Education, Phase Two – Preparedness and Preventive Measures, and Phase Three - Implementation and Response. To conclude, Mr. Holt discussed the offender modifications, preventive measures, the after-action planning/data management, the inmate population by month, and the Office of Professional Development training.

This concluded Mr. Holt’s report.

Following such, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director of Georgia Correctional Industries, and Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director of Georgia Correctional Industries, to present their Georgia Correctional Industries Response to COVID-19.

Mr. Tiller and Ms. Pataluna began their report by discussing the making of the PPE for the Department of Corrections and how they produced over 310,000 masks. They also discussed items like producing additional chemicals to be utilized within the facilities, how they began making cloth gowns to be utilized by Health Services, and how Georgia Correctional Industries has designed custom polycarbonate shields for offices.

Last of all, Mr. Tiller and Ms. Pataluna closed by discussing the additional areas of response, GCI’s processing units, the food distribution unit, and the transportation team.

This concluded Mr. Tiller and Ms. Pataluna’s report.

Finally, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance Division, to present a Budget Update.

Mr. Watson began by discussing the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget update. Some of the highlights from Mr. Watson’s presentation were the Fiscal Year 2021 budget reduction overview, the statewide changes, the Governor’s recommendations, the leverage technology, the streamline business processes, the facility management, and the revenue.

To close, Mr. Watson discussed the Fiscal Year 2021 program overview, administration, jail subsidy, detention centers, food and farm operations, health, offender management, private prisons, state prisons, transition center, and the Fiscal Year 2021 bond appropriations.

This concluded Mr. Watson's report and the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Alton Russell began the Chairman's Report by asking the board members to review the 2020 board calendar. Chairman Russell then asked the board members to change the September board meeting from Atlanta to Forsyth. There was no discussion.

Mr. Jerry Willis made a motion to approve the location change for the September board meeting from Atlanta to Forsyth, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. The location change for the September board meeting was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Last of all, Chairman Russell continued with Old or New Business by asking Ms. Jennifer Ammons to present the bond resolution.

Ms. Ammons stated that the bond resolution is specifically appropriated for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Department of Corrections by means of the acquisition, construction, development, extension, enlargement, or improvement of land, waters, property, highways, buildings, structures, equipment or facilities, both real and personal, necessary or useful in connection therewith totaling in the amount of \$48,390,000.

Chairman Russell asked for a motion to approve the bond resolution. Mr. Jerry Willis made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher, and the bond resolution was then voted approved by the Board as presented.

To close, Chairman Russell reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on September 3rd, in Forsyth.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alton Russell, Chairman

Duke Blackburn, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison