

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

December 6, 2018

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Mike Coggins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis, Chairman
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. June Wood

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Interim Commissioner
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Peter Adams, Deputy Director, Administration and Finance
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Anitra Farrow, Sergeant
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Alexis Height, Correctional Officer 2
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Johnny Miller, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Jonathan Negrón, Lieutenant
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director, Georgia Correctional Industries
Mr. David Smith, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Murray Tatum, Warden
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director, Georgia Correctional Industries
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Clarence Williams, Sergeant

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Lynn Blackburn, Wife of Duke Blackburn
Ms. Kate Boccia, CEO, NIA
Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Ms. Laura Nieno, Citizen

First, Chairman Jerry Willis called to order the December meeting for the Board of Corrections (“the Board”) at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

Chairman Jerry Willis then asked Dr. Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Dr. Turner stated that he would like to remember Retired Congressman and Board of Corrections member Michael Allen “Mac” Collins, who passed away during the Thanksgiving holiday. Following such, Chairman Willis led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and then recognized all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

To begin, Chairman Willis presented the December Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Willis also presented the November Minutes to the Board for approval. Vice Chairman Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was also seconded by Secretary Larry Haynie. The Minutes were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Interim Commissioner Timothy C. Ward began his report by stating Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier was named to the transition team for Governor-Elect Brian Kemp and while Mr. Dozier is working with that team, he will serve as the Interim Commissioner in order to ensure the GDC mission continues with commitment and consistency.

Next, Interim Commissioner Ward introduced recently promoted Georgia Department of Corrections staff members Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner, Administration and Finance Division and Mr. Peter Adams, Deputy Director, Administration and Finance Division.

In addition, Interim Commissioner Ward announce that the current Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance Division, Mr. Scott Poitevint, was retiring on December 20th.

Then, Interim Commissioner Ward discussed the Commissioner’s dashboard, which is a three-page overview highlighting key areas within the Agency.

To follow, Interim Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Jay Sanders, to present the Criminal Justice Reform Metrics overview. Mr. Sanders discussed the Georgia prison population, commitments to prison (*when offender receives a prison sentence from the court*), commitment highlights such as the lowest number of overall commitments, commitment drops from 2008 to 2018, and admissions (*when the offender enters the Georgia prison system*).

Plus, Mr. Sanders discussed the jail subsidy for Fiscal Year 2009 through 2018, the violent vs. non-violent growth, the seven deadly sins population growth, the security threat group growth, the recidivism rates, the 3-Year felony reconviction rates by program type, on-the-job and vocational/ skill-training completions, and GED completions.

Afterwards, Interim Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner, to present the “Beyond the Call” employee recognition awards. Mr. Myrick stated that he would be presenting the award to Ms. Anitra Farrow, Sergeant; Ms. Alexis Height, Correctional Officer 2; Mr. Jonathan Negrón, Lieutenant and Mr. Clarence Williams, Sergeant.

Mr. Myrick stated that these officers were from Dodge State Prison and they were being honored for working together at their perimeter post and swiftly contacting security when they spotted a drone hovering in the air and an unknown individual was standing along Dodge State Prison’s perimeter line. The suspect was apprehended and held for Dodge County Sheriff’s Deputies to make the arrest. Thanks to the vigilance and timeliness of Officers Height, Farrow, Williams and Negrón, the facility’s staff and offenders were kept safe and secure, upholding the mission of the Georgia Department of Corrections by their courage and going above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Myrick presented all four officers with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier. A photo was taken of the plaque presentations.

This concluded the Commissioner’s Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Jerry Willis began the Chairman’s Report by stating that he had received the nominations for the 2019 Executive Officer positions from Sheriff Roger Garrison, Chair of the Nominations Committee.

Chairman Willis stated that the Nominations Committee met and agrees to nominate Mr. Alton Russell as Chairman, Mr. Larry Haynie as Vice Chairman, and Mr. Duke Blackburn as the Secretary for the 2019 Nominations of Officers.

Sheriff Roger Garrison asked for a motion to approve the nominations. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Carl Franklin, and the motion was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Following such, Chairman Willis thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve for the past two years. In addition, he thanked Interim Commissioner Ward, the Board Liaison, and the staff at the Department of Corrections.

Last of all, Chairman Willis continued with Old or New Business by asking for a motion for the Board to draft an honorary resolution in honor of Assistant Commissioner Scott Poitevint’s retirement from the State of Georgia and for a motion to draft a posthumous resolution to honor the life of Retired Congressman and Board of Corrections member Michael Allen “Mac” Collins.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve both resolutions being drafted. Vice Chairman Alton Russell and Mr. Tommy Rouse seconded the motion to approve, and the motion was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

In addition, Mr. Dasher expressed that he would like to change the April Board meeting date to April 18th with the location being Glennville, so that the Board of Corrections could have their Board meeting on the same day as the Board of Public Safety. Sheriff Roger Garrison made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, and the motion was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

To conclude the meeting, Chairman Willis reminded the Board members that the next Board meeting will be on January 3, 2019, at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alton Russell, Chairman

Duke Blackburn, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison