

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

December 5, 2019

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Mike Coggins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Donnie Pope
Mr. Alton Russell-Chairman
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Clyde "Rick" Allen, Unit Manager-Valdosta State Prison
Mr. Jeromy Calloway, Plant Operator Supervisor-GCI
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of OPD
Mr. Brant Galloway, Business Support Analyst-GCI
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Deputy Director of Facilities Division
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Jimmy Miles, Captain-Valdosta State Prison
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director of GCI
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. James Rogers, Deputy Farm Director-GCI
Mr. Ralph Shropshire, Deputy Warden of Security-Valdosta State Prison
Ms. Angela Smith, Office of Information Technology
Mr. David Smith, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Robert Toole, Director of Facilities Division
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Chris Walker, Director of Strategic, Planning & Management

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Lynn Blackburn, Wife of Duke Blackburn
Rocio Woody, Former Board Member

First, Chairman Alton Russell 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 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.

Next, Chairman Russell and Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented a board resolution and a departmental badge to Ms. Rocio Woody. Ms. Woody was appointed to the Board of Corrections on August 16, 2013 by Governor Nathan Deal. Since that time, she has faithfully served on several committees on the Board of Corrections while holding an At Large seat.

The resolution and badge were presented to Ms. Woody for her years of service on the Board of Corrections.

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

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner Report, Commissioner Timothy C. Ward announced several promotions. First, was the announcement that as of December 1st, Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division, has been named as Chief of Staff.

Commissioner Ward stated that Mr. Myrick has more than 30 years’ experience with GDC, serving in a broad range of roles that will serve him well as he takes on the responsibility of Chief of Staff and that he is confident in [Mr. Myrick’s] knowledge, and in his commitment to the dedicated staff of the Georgia Department of Corrections.

In addition, Commissioner Ward stated that with his announcement of the well-deserved promotion of Mr. Ricky Myrick to Chief of Staff, he was pleased to let them know that Mr. Ahmed Holt, Deputy Director of Field Operations, has been named Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division.

Commissioner Ward stated that, in Mr. Holt’s 18 years with the Georgia Department of Corrections, he has gained invaluable knowledge and experience in many areas within Corrections, and is confident that he will excel in his new role, and will ensure the safe and secure operations of our facilities.

Next, Commissioner Ward discussed the dashboard, which is a three-page overview highlighting key areas within the Agency.

To follow, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, to present a Facility /Inmate Release Procedures overview.

Mr. Holt discussed release processes such as the initial release information and paperwork review, Medical and Mental Health Screening, criminal history check, identifying, escorting and segregating offenders, final release procedures for the day of release and final clearance.

This concluded Mr. Holt’s report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ricky Myrick, Chief of Staff, to present a “Beyond the Call” employee recognition award. Mr. Myrick stated that he would be presenting the award to Unit Manager (UM) Rick Allen and Captain (Cpt.) Jimmy Miles of Valdosta State Prison.

Mr. Myrick stated that Cpt. Miles and UM Allen were being recognized for showing tremendous courage as they went above and beyond to control an offender's intent to causing harm to himself and others at Valdosta State Prison.

A photo was taken of the plaque presentations.

Afterwards, Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director of Georgia Correctional Industries, presented a Georgia Correctional Industries (GCI) "Beyond the Call" employee recognition award.

Ms. Pataluna stated that she would be presenting the award to Mr. Jeromy Calloway, Plant Operator Supervisor for the dairy farm, for overseeing the annual processing of approximately 20 million ½ pints of milk and 300,000 gallons of raw milk which is a tremendous tax savings for Georgia and is vital to GCI's mission. She stated that GCI is very proud to have someone with Jeromy's knowledge and skills overseeing this operation.

A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

Afterward, Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs, to introduce and present the Profiles in Corrections short video on the Interdiction Response Team (IRT).

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Alton Russell began the "Chairman's Report" by stating that he had received the nominations for the 2020 Executive Officer positions from Ms. Rose Williams, Interim Chair of the Nominations Committee.

Chairman Russell 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 2020 Nominations of Officers.

Chairman Russell asked for a motion to approve the nominations. Ms. Rose Williams made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. The nominations were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Following such, Chairman Russell thanked the Board for the opportunity to continue to serve as the Chairman for the upcoming year.

Furthermore, Chairman Russell discussed the 2020 Board Calendar. He advised the Board that he would like to change the January 2nd board meeting to Wednesday, January 8th, due to January 1st being a state holiday.

There was no discussion. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve moving the board meeting date to January 8th, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The board meeting date change 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 16th 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. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve changing the board meeting date to April 16th, which was seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis, and the motion was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

To close the Chairman's Report, Chairman Russell commented on the past year as Chairman and he thanked the Board, the Department of Corrections and its staff.

Chairman Russell continued with Old or New Business. There was none, so Chairman Russell continued with the following announcements:

- The Board of Corrections Holiday Luncheon will follow at the adjournment of the board meeting today;

- All board members are to file their Annual Affidavit of Public Officer before Jan 31, 2020;

To close, Chairman Russell reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on January 8, 2020, in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alton Russell, Chairman

Duke Blackburn, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison