

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

December 3, 2020

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. J.C. "Spud" Bowen
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Alton Russell-Chairman
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

CONFERENCE CALL:

Ms. Janelle King
Mr. Bill White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Mike Coggins
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CONFERENCE CALL:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
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
Ms. Jessica Eanes, Public Affairs Office
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Angela Ivester, OIT
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Derek McKinney, Statewide STG Coordinator
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
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. Savario Spencer, AV Specialist
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director of GCI
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Human Resources Director
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Dexter Walker, OIT

VISITORS:

Ms. Sherry Bowen, Wife of J.C. Spud Bowen
Ms. Lisa Haynie, Wife of Larry Haynie
Ms. Karen Russell, Wife of Alton Russell
Mr. Jerry Willis, Former Board Member
Ms. Pat Willis, Wife of Jerry Willis

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. Chairman Russell welcomed and 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 Mr. Jerry Willis. Mr. Willis was appointed to the Board of Corrections in July 2011 by Governor Nathan Deal. Since that time, he has faithfully served on several committees as well as serving as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary on the Board.

The resolution and badge were presented to Mr. Willis for his 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 Mr. W.D. Strickland. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Russell also presented the November Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. W.D. Strickland 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’s Report, Commissioner Timothy C. Ward discussed the dashboard, which is a three-page overview highlighting key areas within the Agency.

To follow, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services Division, to present a Division Update. Mr. Sauls began his presentation by giving an update on COVID-19, the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, and a Mental Health Expansion Completion update.

Some of the highlights Mr. Sauls discussed were aggressively promoting guidelines regarding COVID-19, aggressively conducting daily surveillance for offenders experiencing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 or flu, quarantine procedures, medical isolation, and testing.

To conclude, Mr. Sauls discussed the Commissioners Priorities, COVID-19 vaccinations, the expansion of access and availability of Mental Health Services to all close security facilities, and the benefits and results of the Close Security Mental Health Expansion.

This concluded Mr. Sauls’ report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance Division, to give a Major Projects Overview.

Mr. Watson began his report by discussing the major projects such as KRONOS Timekeeping, Physical Health Transition, Behind the Wire/Outside the Wire Care, Offender Tablet Replacement, and Electronic Log books.

To close, Mr. Watson discussed the Capital Outlay Projects: Augusta State Medical Prison (kitchen floor replacement, replacement of 2 chillers and 7 air handlers, replacement of exterior windows, Dialysis unit relocation/expansion); Metro Reentry Phase 3 (4 Dorms/TC beds, TC admin and laundry area completed); and Rogers SP kitchen floor (floors, walls, door/windows, and ceilings).

This concluded Mr. Watson’s report.

Following such, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Derek McKinney, Statewide STG Coordinator, to give an Office of Professional Standards STG Update.

The items discussed in Mr. McKinney’s report were the mission of the Security Threat Group (STG) Unit, the individuals that are a part of the STG staff, gang cases assisted by the STG Unit,

validated STG members, the most prevalent STG's within GDC, 3 year validations, STG assaults, and prison contraband.

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Alton Russell began the Chairman's Report by stating that he had received the 2021 Nomination of Officers for the Executive Officer positions from Board member Rose Williams, Member of the Nominations Committee.

Chairman Russell stated that the Nominations Committee met and agreed to nominate Mr. Duke Blackburn as Chairman, Mr. Wayne Dasher as Vice Chairman, and Ms. Andrea Shelton as the Secretary for the 2021 calendar year.

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

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

There was no Old or New Business so Chairman Russell reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on January 7, 2021 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