

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**December 5, 2024
Savannah, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Bruce Carlisle
Mr. John B. Edwards
Sheriff Gary Gulledge
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Alton Russell
Mr. W. D. Strickland

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. – Vice Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Thomas Culpepper
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Ms. Janelle King
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.
Ms. Rose Williams

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General’s Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff
Mr. Jackson Defore, Assistant Commissioner of Finance and Admin
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services Division
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Office of Professional Development
Mr. Roderick Clanton, Warden, Long State Prison
Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering and Construction Services
Dr. Kenneth Ellis, Statewide Chaplain
Mr. Benjamin Ford, Director Facilities Operations
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. John Moore, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Henry Rutherford, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Tarmarshe Smith, Assistant Regional Director, Southeast
Mr. David Stokes, Warden
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison

VISITORS:

None

First, Secretary J. C. “Spud” Bowen 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.

Secretary Bowen ensured that Vice Chairman Ester Fleming Jr. was connected via conference call.

Secretary Bowen then asked Chaplain Kenneth Ellis to deliver the invocation. Following such, Secretary Bowen led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Bowen welcomed and recognized all guests and visitors and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Secretary Bowen presented the Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Sheriff Barry H. Babb. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Secretary Bowen presented the November 7, 2024 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Sheriff Barry H. Babb. The Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver discussed briefly the Commissioner’s Dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research, to present a Data Management & Research Update.

Mr. Hogan began by pulling up the Georgia Department of Corrections website to show the board members where the research and report items were located on the website. Some of the highlights from Mr. Hogan’s report were the Annual Statistical Report, the Monthly Statistical Report, the Contraband Arrest Report, and the GDC Fiscal Year Reports. This concluded Mr. Hogan’s report.

Following such, Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services Division, to present the Impact Report for Fiscal Year 2024.

Some of the highlights from Mr. Sanders’ presentation were the Career, Technical, and Higher Education, Reentry Services and Cognitive Programming, Chaplaincy and Volunteer Services, Staff Development and Programming, Academic Education, and Partnerships.

Mr. Sanders discussed the treatment effects from programs, the completions for On-The-Job Training, post-secondary, skills trainings, and vocational training. In addition, Mr. Sanders discussed higher education, the Reentry Assessment Center enrollments and completions, the Vital Documents/Repository, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Fidelity Assessment Initiative, the RSAT facilities, the RSAT enrollments and completions and their success stories.

Mr. Sanders then discussed the Offenders Under Transition (O.U.T.) program, the Administration and Orientation (A&O) process, “The Only Person U Cheat Is U” (TOPUCU) program and its completions, the TYRO Dads evidence-based program, and the Addiction Certification Preparation Program (ACPP) to become a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

Mr. Sanders concluded with Chaplaincy and Volunteer Services, the Volunteer Application Process, the Reentry Training and Staff Programs, the GED Acceleration Program, Library Services, and the Education Conference held in April 2024.

This concluded Mr. Sanders’ report and the Commissioner’s Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Under the Chairman’s Report, Secretary Bowen began advising the Board that the 2025 Board of Corrections Board Calendar was updated to reflect locations for the year. Secretary Bowen also stated there would be a possibility of three offsite board meetings this year, but that will be decided later and be brought for Board approval and revision during that time.

Secretary Bowen made the Chairman’s End of the Year Comments for Vice Chairman Ester Fleming Jr. in his absence. Secretary Bowen spoke about losing our beloved Chairman Larry Haynie this year and being thankful for another year.

Secretary Bowen then stated that he would like to form a new Board Committee called the Commissioner's Advisory Committee. This Committee would look into various aspects of Corrections operations and relay any issues to the Commissioner. Mr. Bowen stated he would ultimately chair the Committee and he advised that the following board members would be on the Committee: Spud Bowen, Barry Babb, Duke Blackburn, John Edwards, Stacy Jarrard, Donnie Pope, Rossie Ross and Ester Fleming Jr.

Secretary Bowen asked the Board for a motion to approve this new Committee. Mr. Duke Blackburn and made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. W. D. Strickland. The Committee were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Under Old or New Business, Secretary Bowen asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel of the Office of Legal Services, to present the Approval of Property Resolutions for the Lee State Prison Warden Residence Purchase and the Hancock State Prison Land Purchase. Secretary Bowen asked for both resolutions to be presented simultaneously.

Ms. Ammons stated that Dona Brenner holds title to 0.58 acre located at 131 Hawkstead Drive, Leesburg, Lee County, Georgia. The Georgia Department of Corrections intends to use the property as the Warden's Residence for Lee State Prison and is desirous of acquiring the property for the consideration of \$279,000.00.

In addition, Ms. Ammons presented the John Carlton Johnson and Joann S. Freeman 13.41 acre property located on Cody Johnson Road, Sparta, Hancock County, Georgia. The Georgia Department of Corrections is desirous of acquiring the property for the consideration of \$50,000.00.

Ms. Ammons asked the Board for a motion to approve both property resolutions. Secretary Bowen then asked for a motion to approve both resolutions. Sheriff Gary Gulledge and Sheriff Donnie Pope made a motion to approve the resolutions, which was seconded by Mr. Alton Russell. The resolutions were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned.

Ester Fleming Jr., Vice Chairman

J.C. "Spud" Bowen, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison