

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

February 5, 2015

Atlanta, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Ms. Sonja R. Allen
Mr. Lee Anderson
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl L. Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. J. M. "Bob" Plemons
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. John Mayes

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. William S. Acuff

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Assistant Commissioner
Dr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Terry Edge, FOM of County Facilities
Ms. Jada Garmon, Investigations Unit
Mr. Alex L. Haden, Warden of Harris County Prison
Mr. Gary Harmon, Technology Analyst
Ms. Tamika Harvey, Investigations Unit
Mr. Walter Hudson, Investigations Unit
Mr. Carl Humphrey, Spaulding County
Mr. Rick Jacobs, Director of Facilities Operations
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Robert E. Jones, General Counsel
Mr. Bill King, Investigations Unit
Mr. Michael Kraft, Director of Probation Operations
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of OIC
Mr. Jay Neal, Executive Director of GOTSR
Ms. Lisa Rodriguez-Presley, Office of Public Affairs
Mr. Jay Sanders, Deputy Director of GOTSR
Mr. John Wesley Sikes, Harris County
Mr. Arnold Smith, Director of OPTD
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Director of Admin Division
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Ashlee Aurandt, Governor's Office
Mrs. Lisa Bryson, Department of Juvenile Justice
Ms. Becky East, former Admin Division Director of DOC

Ms. Kathryn Hamoudah, Southern Center for Human Rights
Ms. Melissa Hargrove, Norusco
Mr. Joe Hood, Governor Office of Planning & Budget
Mr. David Jordan, GOTSR
Mr. Tony Kitchens, Volunteer
Ms. Leona Rittenhouse, Massey, Watson, Bowers & Hembree

Chairman Rose Williams called the February meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Williams asked Chaplain Steven Turner to give the invocation.

Secretary Alton Russell led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chairman Williams recognized all guests and visitors at the meeting.

Next, Chairman Williams confirmed Mr. William S. Acuff was connected via conference call and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Williams introduced Mrs. Lisa Bryson, wife of Mr. Homer Bryson and asked her to say a few words. Mrs. Bryson thanked everyone in the room for making her husband Mr. Bryson feel welcomed as a part of the GDC family. Mrs. Bryson stated it really meant a lot. Chairman Williams stated it is a pleasure to meet both Mr. & Mrs. Bryson and that she is looking forward to working with Mr. Bryson.

Chairman Williams then called on Mr. Wayne Dasher to read Mr. Homer Bryson's biography and to introduce Mr. Bryson to the Board of Corrections. Mr. Dasher stated it's an honor to read Mr. Bryson's biography. Homer Bryson has served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources for the past four years. Prior to his current role, Mr. Bryson served as Colonel of the DNR Law Enforcement Section, working his way up from Conservation Ranger. Mr. Bryson currently serves on the Georgia State Indemnification Commission, the Peace Officer's Annuity and Benefit Fund and the Peace Officer's Association of Georgia, for which he is the legislative chair. He earned a bachelor's degree from Valdosta State College and a master's degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University. Mr. Bryson and his wife, Lisa, have three children and reside in Flowery Branch.

Mr. Dasher then stated it is an honor to make a motion to approve the appointment of Homer Bryson to the position of Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections. Sheriff Roger Garrison and Mr. Tommy Rouse seconded the motion and the appointment of Homer Bryson to the position of Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections was voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Williams continued by asking Mr. Bryson to stand before the podium and raise his right hand prior to her administering aloud the official oath and loyalty oath of the Commissioner. Once Commissioner Homer Bryson was sworn in, he thanked the Governor, the Board of Corrections and the staff of the Department of Corrections.

Afterwards, Vice Chairman Jerry Willis presented Ms. Becky East, former Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Corrections with a resolution on behalf of the Board of Corrections.

To follow, Chairman Williams presented the February Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Tommy Rouse made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams presented the January Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Sonja Allen and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Assistant Commissioner, Chief of Operations, Timothy C. Ward began the Commissioner's report by discussing the Upcoming Events for February, March, and April. Significantly mentioned were the Georgia Probation Association Conference in Brasstown Valley, the Joint Board meeting, the Law Enforcement Appreciation Cookout and the Military Job Fair.

Assistant Commissioner Ward then reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 207. The total number of probationers waiting for placement is 381. Thus, the total number of state sentenced inmates in the state-wide jail system is 588. Assistant Commissioner Ward stated the Sheriff's count is at 2,624; both counts are correct.

Thereafter, Gregory C. Dozier, Assistant Commissioner, Chief of Staff, presented the Amended Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. Assistant Commissioner Dozier talked about the current Fiscal Year 2015 Budget by program, the Governor's Amended Fiscal Year 2015 Recommendation and he explained the Recommended Amended Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. In addition, Assistant Commissioner Dozier discussed the Legislative Budget Status-Amended Fiscal Year 2015, the Recommended Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and the Recommended Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Outlay.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Williams proceeded to move into Regular Session to approve two county wardens. Chairman Williams called upon Mr. Alton Russell, Chairman of the Operations Committee to give the Board their recommendation of each candidate.

Mr. Russell stated that the Operations Committee had received two board packets for Mr. Carl Humphrey of Spaulding County Correctional Institution and Mr. John Wesley Sikes of Harris County Correctional Institution. The Operations Committee has reviewed both reports and the Committee unanimously recommends appointment approval of Mr. Humphrey as Warden of Spaulding County and Mr. Sikes as Deputy Warden of Harris County. Mr. Russell made the motion to approve both individuals, which was seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis and was then voted approved by the Board. Chairman Williams congratulated both Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Sikes on their appointments and asked if they each would like to say a few words to the Board. Both candidates thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Chairman Williams then called on Mr. Wayne Dasher, Chair of the Budget/Utilities Committee to report. Mr. Dasher stated the Budget/Utilities Committee met this morning and was prepared to present; however, Mr. Gregory C. Dozier presented a Budget Update and that was the same information the Budget/Utilities Committee had prepared. Therefore, there is no need to reiterate the same information. We will present additional information in three months.

To continue, Chairman Williams gave an update on the Board of Corrections Flower Fund stating the balance as of today is \$725.81. The Board of Corrections members were asked to contribute to this fund if they wish to do so. In addition, Chairman Williams gave a few details on the Scholarship Fund for the Georgia Prison Warden's Association (GPWA). Chairman Williams stated the Board members have until June 2015 to contribute to the fund to reach the \$1000.00 goal. The GPWA Conference will be held at Lake Lanier Islands Resort on June 7-10, 2015. The Board of Corrections Scholarship Fund will be presented at the Award Ceremony Banquet on Monday, June 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Williams continued asking for any Old or New Business. There were several announcements to include:

- Mr. Wayne Dasher spoke briefly about the 28th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Cookout (a location map of the event was distributed)
- Vice Chairman Willis stood and spoke briefly about the jacket he was wearing which he purchased from GCI

- Mr. Wayne Dasher spoke about the possibility of having a board meeting in Savannah at the Port Authority in October
- Mr. Carl Franklin thanked the Board for the many cards and phone calls he and his wife received during the time he was unable to attend the meetings

Subsequently, Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to give a resolution to Mr. Brian Owens, former Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, which was then seconded by Mr. Alton Russell and the resolution to honor Mr. Brian Owens was voted approved by the Board. In addition, Mr. Dasher suggested the Board could present the resolution to Mr. Owens at the Joint meeting in Glennville on April 16th.

Last on the agenda, Chairman Williams asked Mr. Jay Neal, Director of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Reentry (GOTSR) to present the GOTSR Updates and Recommendations. Mr. Neal stated his report would be brief about the Georgia Prison Reentry Initiative (GAPRI). In his report, Mr. Neal talked about GOTSR helping to manage the GAPRI and he discussed the 6 initial GAPRI sites (Bibb, Chatman, Dougherty, Fulton, Muscogee, and Richmond). Plus, Mr. Neal talked about the statewide recidivism reduction grant that grants 3 million dollars over 3 years. At that point, Mr. Neal introduced several individuals and he spoke about posting positions soon for the next 5 GAPRI sites (DeKalb, Floyd, Hall, Lowndes and Troup).

Moreover, Mr. Neal spoke about the Evidence Based Learning, Reentry Partnership Housing Program, the JRI grant, the Partnering Healing Communities and the Smart Supervision grant. Mr. Neal introduced Mr. Tony Lowden who is the Project Coordinator for the Prison In-Reach grant. Mr. Neal spoke about Mr. Lowden's responsibilities and insight. Mr. Neal then introduced Mr. Tony Kitchens who as a teenager was incarcerated for 12 years in the Georgia prison system. Mr. Neal stated that Mr. Kitchens was released in 1985 and granted a pardon in 1990. He received a bachelor's degree and is currently working on his master's degree. Mr. Kitchens also holds several certifications. Mr. Neal stated that he has received several recommendations from organizations such as Correctional Ministries, Chaplain Associations and Institute of Prison Ministries for Mr. Kitchens and he included that information in the board booklets. Mr. Neal stated on to say that Mr. Kitchens has a great deal of mentoring and volunteering within the prison system and we would like to hire him to work with our Prison In-reach project.

Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve Mr. Tony Kitchens' employment with the Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Re-Entry. Mr. Lee Anderson made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Andrea Shelton and Ms. Sonja Allen and the employment of Mr. Tony Kitchens was voted approved by the Board. Chairman Williams congratulated Mr. Kitchens.

To end, Chairman Williams asked if there was any other business. Sherriff Roger Garrison made a motion to present Mr. Brian Owens' resolution in Atlanta, which was then seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis and was voted approved by the Board.

Thereafter, Mr. Alton Russell had a concern regarding two separate votes being passed for two different locations to present the resolution to Mr. Owens. There was some discussion, but it was clarified that Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion and the Board approved to "give/draft" a resolution for Mr. Owens. Immediately following the formal vote of approval, Mr. Dasher then "suggested" the resolution be presented in Glennville. Moreover, Sherriff Roger Garrison made a motion and the Board approved for the resolution to be "presented/given" to Mr. Owens in Atlanta. Ultimately meaning, there were two separate motions made and approved for two different items. Board Attorney Joseph Drolet stated that Sheriff Garrison's motion (to present resolution at a specific location) is/can be viewed as an amendment to Mr. Dasher's motion (to give/draft a resolution for). Chairman Williams ended the discussion by stating Mr. Owens' resolution will be drafted, signed, and framed then given to him in Atlanta.

To conclude the meeting, Ms. Andrea Shelton reminded the Board that the 4th Monday of March is Prison Chaplain's Appreciation Day. In addition, she explained that she would bring a card

for the Board to sign so that we could recognize, honor and show gratitude to our chaplains as a Board.

Chairman Williams reminded the Board that the next meeting will be on March 5th at the James “Sloppy” Floyd Building in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition, Chairman Williams reminded the GCI/Food & Farm Committee of their presentation date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rose Williams, Chairman

Alton Russell, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison