

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

February 7, 2019

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-Chairman
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. June Wood
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Stacy Jarrard

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Interim Commissioner
Mr. Ricky Myrick, 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. Stan Cooper, Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Ms. Euelia Durden, Sergeant, Hancock State Prison
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
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. Chris Tiller, Executive Director, Georgia Correctional Industries
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Ms. Annetia Toby, Warden of Hancock State Prison
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Andy Collins, Son of Mac Collins
Julie Collins, Wife of Mac Collins
Michael Collins, Son of Mac Collins
Gregory Dozier, former Commissioner of GDC
Stephanie Dozier, Wife of Gregory C. Dozier
Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
April Hoekwater, Daughter of Mac Collins
Wes Hoekwater, Son-in-law of Mac Collins
Scott Poitevint, former Assistant Commissioner of GDC

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

Chairman Alton Russell then asked Dr. 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.

To begin, there was a short video presentation to honor the life of former Board member, Michael Allen “Mac” Collins. Next, Chairman Russell and Interim Commissioner Timothy C. Ward, presented the family of Mac Collins, with a resolution on behalf of the Board. A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

In addition, Chairman Russell and Interim Commissioner Timothy C. Ward, presented Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, former Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, and Mr. Scott Poitevint, former Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance Division, with a resolution on behalf of the Board of Corrections. A photo was taken of the plaque presentations.

Then, Chairman Russell presented the February 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 January Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was also seconded by Mr. John Mayes. The Minutes were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Interim Commissioner Timothy C. Ward began his report by publicly thanking former Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier, for his leadership and friendship. Interim Commissioner Ward also thanked the Collins family. Then, Interim Commissioner Ward announced that the American Correctional Association (ACA) audit team was at Pulaski State Prison yesterday and the facility earned a 99.7 percent on the audit. He also announced that the audit team was currently at Wilcox State Prison, and that all hoped that both facilities will receive ACA certifications.

Next, 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. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance Division, to present a Budget Update.

Mr. Watson began by discussing the Annual Fiscal Year 2019 and the Fiscal Year 2020 Governor’s recommendations. Mr. Watson’s presentation included the Annual Fiscal Year 2019 statewide changes, and the Fiscal Year 2020 agency specific changes, such as the health program workload adjustment, administration program, and the offender administration program. Added to that, the Fiscal Year 2020 statewide changes were discussed. Mr. Watson explained the Governor’s recommendation regarding merit-based pay adjustments, adjustment in employer share of Teachers Retirement System, adjustment in the employer share of the State Health Benefit Plan, adjustment for Agency DOAS premiums, adjustment in Cyber Security premiums, and adjustment in TeamWorks billings. Last of all, Mr. Watson discussed the Fiscal Year 2020 bonds. Some of the highlights were the Metro State Prison phase three process, the facilities repair and maintenance bonds, and the replacement of vehicles. This concluded Mr. Watson’s report.

Afterwards, Interim Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services Division, to present the Fiscal Year 2018 Inmate Services Impact Report. To begin, Mr. Sanders stated that the report highlights the agency’s progress toward successful offender rehabilitation. Some of the highlights mentioned were the treatment effect from programs based on Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 releases, 3-year felony reconviction rates, program completers versus general population, GED completions comparisons for Fiscal Years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, the academic education enrollment trends for Fiscal Years 2017, 2018 and 2019 year to date.

Additionally, Mr. Sanders discussed lifer inmate's educational achievements, career and technical programming enrollments for Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018, and career and technical programming completions for Fiscal Years 2016, 2017, and 2018. To close, Mr. Sanders discussed risk reduction highlights, the Driver's Services partnership, and the Chaplaincy/Volunteer Services highlights. This concluded Mr. Sanders' report.

Thereafter, Interim Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel, Office of Legal Services, to give a brief legislation update. Ms. Ammons began by stating that the legislative session began and that there were not many bills that are on the list for the House and Senate, that will have a direct impact on the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC); however, Ms. Ammons provided the Board members with a tracking sheet to track GDC legislation.

Some of the bills mentioned were:

- Senate Bill 6 - which prohibits the operation of drones in the airspace over facilities for delivery of contraband or photographing prisons.
- Senate Bill 19 - which creates a Public Safety Officer higher education fund.
- House Bill 31 - which provides appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2020.
- House Bill 43 - which revises the crime of sexual assault by persons with supervisory or disciplinary authority.

Ms. Ammons expressed that she would continue to monitor all the bills, in addition to anything new, and update the Board if there is anything that is significant to the Agency. This concluded Ms. Ammons's report.

Next, Interim Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, to present the "Beyond the Call" employee recognition award. Mr. Myrick stated that he would be presenting the award to Sergeant Euelia Durden, who is an officer at Hancock State Prison.

Sergeant Durden was processing in second shift officers at the front entry, when she came across water bottles. The bottles had an unusual appearance and weighed more than typical bottles, which prompted concern for Sergeant Durden. She immediately radioed for additional security to assist her. While waiting for additional security to arrive, Sergeant Durden was able to keep the officer's attention diverted, preventing the officer from attempting to flee the scene. Once assistance had arrived, it was confirmed that contraband was concealed in three of the water bottles belonging to a fellow officer. By remaining committed and diligent in her Portal Sergeant duties at Hancock State Prison, Sergeant Durden was able to uphold the Department of Corrections' mission of ensuring the safety of its staff and offenders.

Mr. Myrick presented Sergeant Durden with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Interim Commissioner Timothy C. Ward. A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

Thereafter, Interim Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs, to introduce the "Profiles in Corrections" short video on Mr. Maurio Sinkford, Superintendent of Coastal Transitional Center.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Alton Russell began the Chairman's Report by presenting the revised 2019 Board calendar to the Board for approval. Chairman Russell stated that at the last Board meeting, Board members were undecided on a location for the October meeting, so Chairman Russell decided to table approving the location of the October meeting until today. Chairman Russell explained that he had a brief discussion with the Executive Committee, and he has decided to have the October Board meeting in Jackson, Georgia.

Chairman Russell asked if there was any discussion and there was none, so Chairman Russell asked for a motion to approve Jackson as the location for the October Board meeting.

Ms. June Wood made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The October Board meeting in Jackson, was then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Following such, there was a collection for the Georgia Prison Warden’s Association scholarship fund, a collection for the Board of Corrections flower fund, and Chairman Russell told the Board members that he assigned each Board member to a Board Committee.

Then, Chairman Russell asked Mr. Wayne Dasher to briefly speak on the April Board meeting that will be held in Glennville, Georgia. Mr. Dasher stated that the draft agenda with information is included in the Board members packet and that he would have more information to follow later.

Last of all, Chairman Russell continued with Old or New Business by asking Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel, to present a property resolution. The resolution was a Surplus Request for Southwest Probation Detention Center, Colquitt County.

Ms. Ammons briefly stated that Colquitt County is interested in using the property, buildings and premises known as the former Southwest Probation Detention Center. The Georgia Department of Corrections has ceased operations on the Property and has no intent to use the property in the future, therefore, the Georgia Department of Corrections is willing to transfer custody of said property to the Georgia State Properties Commission in support of Colquitt County’s mission.

Chairman Russell asked for a motion to approve the property resolution. Mr. Chris Clark made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Rocio Woody, and the property resolution was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

To close, Chairman Russell reminded the Board of the following:

- The inmate art show will be from February 11th through the 14th, at the Twin Towers in Atlanta; and
- The next Board of Corrections meeting is on March 7th, in Forsyth

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alton Russell, Chairman

Duke Blackburn, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison