

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**January 3, 2019
Forsyth, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell-Chairman
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. June Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Mike Coggins
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. John Mayes
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

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. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Shania Eldridge, Correctional Officer, Smith State Prison
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Dr. Allen Hughes, Volunteer Services Coordinator
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Terence Kilpatrick, Warden of Smith State Prison
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

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin

First, Chairman Alton Russell called to order the January 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. Allen Hughes 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, Chairman Russell presented the January 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 December Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was also seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Minutes were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Interim Commissioner Timothy C. Ward began his report by highlighting that Johnson State Prison and Baldwin State Prison will be going through American Correctional Association certifications in New Orleans, this month. In addition, Interim Commissioner Ward stated that he will be presenting the department’s budget to the Joint Appropriations Committee on January 22nd.

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. David Smith, Director of Engineering and Construction Services, to present an overview on the 2018 Engineering and Construction Services Centralized Maintenance. Some of the items that were discussed were work orders, types of work orders, completed work orders, completed projects, 2019 current projects, and projected needs for the future.

Afterwards, Interim Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner, to present the “Beyond the Call” employee recognition award. Mr. Myrick stated that he would be presenting the award to Ms. Shania Eldridge, Correctional Officer at Smith State Prison, for responding and assisting in aiding an unconscious individual that was involved in a two-vehicle wreck. Officer Eldridge’s immediate actions displayed immense courage, fearlessness and selflessness.

Mr. Myrick presented Officer Eldridge with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier. A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

Thereafter, Interim Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs, to introduce the “Beyond the Walls” article and short video on Ms. Jeanne Weathers.

Ms. Heath stated that Ms. Weathers is a Habersham County volunteer firefighter. Currently, the fire team at Lee Arrendale State Prison is the only female offender structure fire team in the nation. Ms. Weathers was a part of that team from 2008 to 2010. She says those skills she learned from the program, served to ignite the fire within her and others.

Ms. Weathers says she started volunteering with the Habersham County fire team in January 2018. Now, she gets to participate in extended fire training with her new team.

Thereafter, Ms. Heath showed the short video on Ms. Jeanne Weathers.

This concluded the Commissioner’s Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Alton Russell began the Chairman’s Report by presenting a gavel to the former Chairman, Jerry Willis. The Executive officers (Vice Chairman Larry Haynie and Secretary Duke Blackburn) assisted with the gavel presentation and photos were taken.

Then, there was a collection for the Georgia Prison Warden’s Association scholarship fund and the Board of Corrections flower fund. Plus, Chairman Russell advised that he would be assigning each Board member, to a Board Committee in February.

Following such, Chairman Russell stated that the 2019 Board calendar has been updated with meeting locations and the Board members need to vote to approve the locations for April, June, and October 2019.

Chairman Russell presented the Board calendar to the Board for approval. Ms. Andrea Shelton and Ms. Rose Williams made a motion to approve the calendar; however, there was some discussion regarding the October meeting location. Chairman Russell asked the Board members to review the calendar and to decide if the members would like to meet in Coweta County or Carroll County for the October meeting. The Board members were undecided on which location would be best for the October meeting, so the Chairman decided to table approving the location of the October meeting.

Chairman Russell then asked for a motion to approve the Board calendar and all locations except for the month of October. Mr. Jerry Willis made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. The Board calendar with meeting locations, except for the month of October, was voted "approved" by the Board.

Last of all, Chairman Russell continued with Old or New Business by asking for a motion to approve two resolutions. The first resolution was to posthumously honor Retired Congressman and Board of Corrections member, Michael Allen "Mac" Collins. The second resolution was to honor Assistant Commissioner Scott Poitevint, on his retirement from state government.

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

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

- To file their annual affidavit for 2018;
- 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 February 7th, in Forsyth

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alton Russell, Chairman

Duke Blackburn, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison