

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

January 6, 2022

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn – Chairman
Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. W. D. Strickland

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Chris Clark
Ms. Janelle King
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. Bill White
Mr. Herbert Walker, Warden, Muscogee County

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Guy A. Daughtrey

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General’s Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Sallie Barker, Director of Health Services
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director, Data Unit
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Commissioner’s Executive Assistant
Ms. Angela Ivester, Office of Informational Technology
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Informational Technology
Ms. Mary Jane Moss, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Director, GCI
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Human Resources Director
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director, GCI
Ms. Janine Robinson, Director of Administrative Support, Fleet Operations

VISITORS:

Kate Boccia, CEO, NIA
Leanne Jackson, Member, NIA
Lonnie Jacobs, Citizen
Joan M. Doggrell, Member, NIA
Teresa Pitts, NIA
Lyel Pickett Feros, Member, NIA
Evelyn Ware-Cox, Member, NIA

First, Chairman Duke Blackburn 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 Blackburn then asked Chaplain Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Blackburn led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Blackburn welcomed all guests and visitors to the board meeting, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Blackburn then confirmed the following individuals were present via conference call: Board Members Chris Clark, Janelle King, Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr., Andrea Shelton, and Bill White.

Chairman Blackburn presented the January 2022 Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Sheriff Donnie Pope. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Blackburn also presented the December Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. 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 four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Commissioner Ward then asked Ms. Sallie Barker, Director of Health Services Division, to give a Medical update. Ms. Barker discussed the WellPath Phase Two start date, the 90-day implementation schedule to modernize the model, the Electronic Health Record roll-out, and the Correct Rx Pharmacy Solution. Ms. Barker also discussed the month over month improvements in quality and efficiency, the Mental Health Expansion, Calhoun and Washington State Prisons, the vaccination program, and the partnership with Viral Solutions for first, second, and booster doses.

This concluded Ms. Barker’s report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Clay Nix, Director of the Office of Professional Standards (OPS), to give a brief Contraband update. Mr. Nix’s report discussed the civilian arrests, the canine assisted arrests, and the canine seizures.

This concluded Mr. Nix’s report.

To follow, Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Janine Robinson, Director of Administrative Support Division, Fleet Operations and Risk Management, to give a Fleet update.

Ms. Robinson began her report by discussing Fleet’s overall operations. Some of the highlights were coordination, direction, and management of the Motor Vehicle Program for the Georgia Department of Corrections and Georgia Correctional Industries. Fleet is the 3rd largest in the state with 13 service bays utilized for short and long-term repair. In addition, Ms. Robinson discussed the offender OJT (work detail) from Macon Transitional Center which has 32 offenders, the new processes in place such as quality control, three-tiered inspections, work order dashboard, garage maintenance systems, preventative maintenance, and no fuel reports.

Ms. Robinson continued by discussing inmate transportation, 15 passenger vans, ADA buses, the Blue Bird buses, staff transportation, training, investigations, audits, K9, Fire Services, emergency response, mobile construction, health care, education, and administration.

Ms. Robinson then addressed vehicles/replacement vehicles, Policy 10 updates, the total cost of ownership (TCO) dashboard, vehicle depreciation amount combined with maintenance expenses over the previous two (2) years, replacement cycle analysis, eligible vehicles, operations, Automotive Academy, Fleet Work Detail, Reentry Training, and the Year in Review.

In closing, Ms. Robinson showed photos of a few vehicles that were acquired from UGA (Surplus).

This concluded Ms. Robinson's report.

Commissioner Ward then asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services, to give an Inmate Services update on Programming Initiatives.

Mr. Sanders began by discussing Career, Technical and Higher Education (CTHE) Programming, manufacturing, warehousing, distribution and transportation programs, virtual training platforms, and utilizing simulators for welding, forklift, manufacturing and automotive paint and body. Mr. Sanders discussed the pilot program for virtual reality headsets, and then continued with the soft skills/career readiness training, the training on Chromebooks, the partnership with Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), various courses, and the new career readiness courses through Wiregrass Technical.

Mr. Sanders discussed the following programs that are in progress: Medical Cleaning Vocational Program, Developing Kitchen Cleaning Vocational Program, New Foster Dog Program with is supported by Diamonds in the Ruff (non-profit), Developing Horticulture Program for Juveniles, Persevere Computer Coding Program, and the Statewide Lead Cook Program.

This concluded Mr. Sanders' report.

Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division, to give a Facilities Division update on Offender Tablets.

Mr. Holt began his report by discussing the tablet equipment details, the tablet applications, the Video Visitation System (VVS), the commissary ordering via tablets, and the additional services and requirements. In addition, Mr. Holt discussed mail screening technology, the law library, additional resources, and additional no cost technologies provided by Securus.

This concluded Mr. Holt's report and the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Duke Blackburn began the Chairman's Report by moving into Regular Session to approve a County Warden's appointment.

The candidate was Mr. Herbert Walker of Muscogee County Correctional Facility.

Chairman Blackburn called upon Mr. Wayne Dasher, Vice Chairman of the Board and Member of the Facilities Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on Mr. Walker, since Ms. Rose Williams was absent.

Mr. Dasher stated that the Committee received the report on Mr. Walker and the Committee would like to make a motion to approve Mr. Walker's appointment as the Warden of Muscogee County Correctional Facility.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve the appointment, which was seconded by Mr. J.C. "Spud" Bowen and Sheriff Donnie Pope. The motion was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Chairman Blackburn congratulated Mr. Walker, and Mr. Walker thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Chairman Blackburn then asked the Board to briefly review the updated Board Calendar dates and locations. Chairman Blackburn pointed out that the January 6th board meeting location was changed from Oglethorpe at Macon State Prison to State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, out of caution regarding the Omicron variant. In addition, Chairman Blackburn asked Vice Chairman Wayne Dasher to advise the Board on the April 14th board meeting location. Mr. Wayne Dasher stated the location is still slated for Glennville, as of this time. Mr. Wayne Dasher gave an updated balance on last month's GPWA Board of Corrections Scholarship Fund and advised that the Board would continue to collect for this scholarship for a few more months.

Under Old or New Business, Chairman Blackburn asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel of the Office of Legal Services, to present a Stanley Farms/GSP Revocable Lease Agreement property resolution.

Ms. Ammons stated that the State of Georgia owns and holds title to, and the Georgia Department of Corrections is in custody of, property in Reidsville, Tattnall County, Georgia, known as the Georgia State Prison. Stanley Farms LLC has a need for a temporary access road and easement for timber cutting operations on their property adjacent to Georgia State Prison. The GDC has determined that it can accommodate the Revocable Lease Agreement request without causing harm to the operations of the Georgia State Prison. Ms. Ammons then asked the Board to approve the property resolution.

Chairman Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the property resolution. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Sheriff Stacy Jarrard. The resolution was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

There being no further business Chairman Blackburn reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on February 3, 2022, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia.

The board meeting was adjourned.

Duke Blackburn, Chairman

Andrea Shelton, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison