

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

May 5, 2016

Dahlonega, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl L. Franklin
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Mac Collins
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Larry E. Haynie
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. Jerry Willis

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Chief of Staff
Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of OIT
Mr. Walt Davis, Warden of Hall CCI
Ms. Jeal Dorsey, Office of Public Affairs
Ms. Lori Fogle, Program Development Consultant
Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of ECS
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Office of Public Affairs
Mr. Brad Hooks, Deputy Director of GCI
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Gail Kastner, Employment Coordinator
Mr. Tim Mauldin, Superintendent of Arrendale TC
Mr. Bill McKenzie, Warden of Coweta CCI
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Mr. John Reid, Correctional Officer II
Mr. Jack Roberts, County Prison Coordinator
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Scott Wilkes, Superintendent of Augusta TC

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Mr. Matt J. Aiken, Dahlonega-Nugget Publisher
Mr. Chris Dockery, Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners
Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Mr. Steve Gooch, Georgia Senator, District 51
Mr. Brandon Hembree - Massey, Bowers, Watson & Hembree, LLC.
Honorable Judge Emory Palmer, Coweta County
Ms. Cheyenne Thornton, Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office

Chairman Rose Williams called the May meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:30 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Williams asked Mr. Carl Franklin to give an update on Mr. Bruce Hudson, who has been in the hospital. Chaplain Steven Turner prayed for Mr. Bruce Hudson and Mr. Larry Haynie's speedy recovery as he delivered the invocation.

The Junior ROTC Color Guard from Lumpkin County High School posted the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Williams welcomed and recognized all visitors and guests. Special guests Honorable Judge Emory Palmer, Coweta County and Senator Steve Gooch, District 51, spoke briefly and thanked the Board for the invitation to this month's meeting.

Sheriff Stacy Jarrard welcomed guests and visitors to the City of Dahlonega and thanked the Board for agreeing to hold this month's meeting in Lumpkin County.

Chairman Williams presented the May Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams presented the April Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Alton Russell and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Homer Bryson began his report by stating that the General Assembly was no longer in session. The 2016 Fiscal Year Budget for the agency was signed by Governor Nathan Deal giving the agency budget guidance. We will formalize our budget plan and communicate to the field the future plans for the agency. Commissioner Bryson thanked Ms. Andrea Shelton for hosting the 13th Annual Prison Chaplains' Appreciation Day program held at the Great Hall of Mt. Paran Church of God in Atlanta.

Commissioner Bryson presented a four-page overview highlighting key areas within the agency such as inmate population, inmate security levels, bed utilization, safe and secure facilities, inmate services, fire services and Correctional Industries.

Immediately following, Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services, introduced Mr. Tim Mauldin, Superintendent of Arrendale Transitional Center, to present an Arrendale Transitional Center & Community Consortium Welding Graduation presentation. Dr. Evans stated the welding program began with the initiative of Mr. Mauldin and his leadership team entering into a partnership with the North Georgia Technical College to train and graduate the first eight female certified welders for the Department of Corrections.

Mr. Tim Mauldin stated that the welding program gives the residents a second chance; it is a 12-week certification program that allows residents to train and learn two days a week. Mr. Mauldin praised Ms. Gail Kastner, Employment Coordinator, who assisted in the program efforts. At that moment, two residents approached the podium and articulated their personal success stories to the Board. Both residents explained in great detail their overwhelming gratitude for the program, reflections from their welding graduation, and their future plans for success.

To follow, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward introduced Mr. Jack Roberts, County Prison Coordinator, to present an overview of the county facilities. Mr. Roberts stated that Georgia has entered into an interagency agreement with twenty-three counties in Georgia to lease beds in county prisons that house state offenders. Mr. Roberts explained that county prisons benefit the Georgia Department of Corrections by managing and providing bed space for offenders and reducing the jail backlog. In addition, county prisons provide a major source of general and skilled low cost labor for contract details such as facility maintenance, patrol posts, recreation departments, fire stations, solid waste treatment plants, recycling centers, fleet maintenance, animal shelters and roads/bridges to local communities.

To close, Mr. Roberts discussed the location, statewide capacity, and selection criteria of the twenty-three county facilities and the county transitional center program.

Next, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented a slideshow that featured vehicle restorations, repairs and services done by Phillips State Prison. Mr. John Reid, Correctional Officer II, oversees inmates in the Phillips State Prison trades shop. He is responsible for the paint and auto body program, auto mechanics, carpentry, small engine and welding. Mr. Reid was presented an Employee Recognition plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Homer Bryson for "*Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.*" A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

In addition, Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services, spoke highly of Ms. Lori Fogle, Program Development Consultant at Lee Arrendale State Prison. Ms. Fogle was instrumental in developing several programs at Lee Arrendale State Prison such as the

Charter High School and coordinating the training for the Mountain Educational and Foothills Charter School. Ms. Fogle was presented an Employee Recognition plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Homer Bryson for “*Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.*” A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

This concluded the Commissioner’s Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Rose Williams began the Chairman’s report by asking Mr. Scott Wilkes, Superintendent of Augusta Transitional Center and Secretary for the Georgia Prison Warden’s Association (GPWA), to give a brief overview and update on GPWA. Mr. Wilkes stated the Georgia Prison Warden’s Association is a non-profit organization designed to improve the administration of the prison system of Georgia. It is comprised of state, county, and private prison wardens and superintendents. The Association works to promote the welfare of all facilities and support the education of employees and their families through a scholarship program. To finish, Mr. Wilkes discussed the upcoming conference in June 2016 and accepted and thanked the Board of Corrections for its donation to the scholarship fund.

Chairman Williams continued with Old or New Business by asking Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner of Administration Division to present a bond resolution for the 2016-2017 Issuance of the State of Georgia General Obligation Bond package totaling \$46,655,000. The bond is specifically appropriated for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Department of Corrections by means of the acquisition, construction, development, extension, enlargement, or improvement of land, waters, property, highways, buildings, structures and equipment or facilities.

Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve the bond package. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher and the bond package was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams reminded the members that the next meeting will be at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth. In addition, the Facilities Committee will have a committee meeting and presentation on June 2nd. The Board will also discuss whether to meet for the July and August Board meetings, which will depend on whether any business transactions need Board approval during those two months. The Health Committee presentation has been rescheduled until November 2016. There was a get-well card passed around for Mr. Bruce Hudson and an official Board photo will be taken at the June meeting. To close, Chairman Williams thanked Arrendale State Prison, Hall County Correctional Institution, University of North Georgia, City of Dahlonega and Sheriff Stacy Jarrard for the great hospitality. Additionally, Chairman Williams thanked Mr. Wayne Dasher for hosting last month’s meeting in Glennville, Georgia and acknowledged all correctional employees for Public Employees Recognition Week.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rose Williams, Chairman

Alton Russell, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison