

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

May 6, 2021

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn – Chairman
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Ms. Janelle King
Mr. John Mayes
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Bill White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Mike Coggins
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Ms. Burnessa Baker, Nurse, Dooly State Prison
Ms. Brenda Brinkley, Correctional Officer I, Smith State Prison
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology
Ms. Chastity Carter, CO, Bacon PDC/TC
Ms. Sabrina Gregory, Registered Nurse, Coastal State Prison
Ms. Angielea Henry, DWCT, Smith State Prison (Retiree)
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Angela Ivester, OIT
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Melody Lee, Correctional Officer II, Bacon PDC/TC
Mr. Robert Mason, Correctional Officer I, GDCP
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
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
Mr. Jessie Scott, Correctional Officer II, Rutledge State Prison
Ms. Kimberly Robinson, Registered Nurse, Augusta University, GCHC
Mr. Savario Spencer, AV Specialist
Ms. Gretta Taylor, Licensed Practical Nurse, Turner RSAT

Ms. Betsy Thomas, Human Resources Director
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director, GCI
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Dexter Walker, OIT

VISITORS:

None

First, Chairman Duke Blackburn called to order the May 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 and recognized all guests, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Next, Chairman Blackburn confirmed the following individuals were present via conference call: Board Members Chris Clark and Bill White.

Chairman Blackburn presented the May 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 Blackburn also presented the April Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. W.D. Strickland made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher and Ms. Andrea Shelton. The Minutes were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Timothy C. Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, to assist in introducing and honoring four correctional officers with a Governor’s Proclamation and a Commissioner’s coin for Correctional Officers Week. Correctional Officers Week is celebrated the week of May 2-8th. A group photo was taken of the presentations.

Plus, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Health Services, to assist in honoring four correctional nurses for National Nurses Week. The Board of Corrections honors these nurses for the vital role they play in the correctional health setting each day. The nurses were presented a Governor’s proclamation and a plaque containing a Commissioner’s coin. National Nurses Week is celebrated the week of May 6 - 12th. A group photo was taken of the presentations.

To follow, Commissioner Ward discussed the dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

To follow, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of the Health Services Division, to present a Division update. Mr. Sauls began his Health Services overview presentation by discussing the COVID Positive Hospital Admissions for the period covering March 4, 2020 - May 4, 2021, GDC’s Positive COVID-19 Offender 7 Day Moving Average between March 25, 2020 – May 3, 2021 and the difference between isolation versus being quarantined.

In addition, Mr. Sauls discussed the vaccinations by month, the vaccination totals, and the current vaccination plan in place.

This concluded Mr. Sauls’ report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner of the Facilities Division, to give a Facilities Division update.

Mr. Holt began by discussing the GDC COVID inmate population by month, GDC’s COVID – 19 visitation plan, the modified visitation procedures regarding eligibility, scheduling and safety.

Mr. Holt continued by discussing the visitation totals, the vaccination process, the weekly doses of vaccine given, the survey being done at each facility, vaccine transports, facility leadership that are onsite and the stations for vaccine distribution.

This concluded Mr. Holt's report.

Last of all, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services, to give an Inmate Services overview.

Mr. Sanders began his report by discussing the active volunteer numbers, the number of volunteers being trained, the number of anticipated volunteers returning in mid-June, programming items such as the Trauma/Domestic Violence grant being implemented at Arrendale State Prison and the grant from Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).

Plus, Mr. Sanders discussed reentry items such as the expansion of Metro Reentry Facility (MRF) Concept, Academic Education, GED/Charter Schools, Rural Distance Learning Grant, Library Services, 55,000 books being donated this fiscal year, expanding the Milledgeville based book repository and the Career, Technical and Higher Education (CTHE) virtual programming, diesel programming, mobile classrooms and staff training.

This concluded Mr. Sanders' report and the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Duke Blackburn began the Chairman's Report by moving into Regular Session to approve the appointment of Mr. Caden "Tyler" Sikes as Deputy Warden of Screven County Correctional Facility.

Chairman Blackburn called upon Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on Mr. Sikes. Ms. Williams stated that the Committee received the follow-up information they needed on Mr. Caden "Tyler" Sikes and therefore would like to make a motion to untable Mr. Sikes' appointment approval from the March 2021 board meeting.

Ms. Rose Williams made the motion to untable the appointment, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. The motion was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Thereafter, Ms. Williams continued with the Facilities Committee update, advising the members that after reviewing Mr. Sikes' report, the Committee unanimously recommends appointment approval of Mr. Sikes, to the Deputy Warden position at Screven County Correctional Institution.

Ms. Rose Williams made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. The motion was voted approved by the Board as presented. Chairman Blackburn congratulated Mr. Sikes, and Mr. Sikes thanked the Board for the opportunity.

To follow, Chairman Blackburn called upon Ms. Janelle King, Chairman of the Budget/Utilities Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on increasing the amount of money that an inmate /parolee or max-out offender receives at discharge for re-entry to society. The current amount would be changed from \$25 to \$50.

After a brief discussion, the committee recommended that an offender should be paid a maximum of \$50 at discharge.

Ms. Janelle King made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams and the motion was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Lastly, under Old or New Business, Chairman Blackburn asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel of the Office of Legal Services, to present a bond resolution.

Ms. Ammons stated that the bond resolution 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, equipment or facilities, both real and personal, necessary or useful in connection therewith totaling in the amount of \$45,590,000.

Chairman Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the bond resolution. Ms. Rose Williams made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher and Mr. W.D. Strickland, and the bond resolution was then voted approved by the Board as presented.

To close, Chairman Blackburn reminded the board members about Annual Board Training following the meeting.

Chairman Blackburn then reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on June 3, 2021, at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Duke Blackburn, Chairman

Andrea Shelton, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison