

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

May 2, 2024

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. J.C. "Spud" Bowen
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Thomas Culpepper
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie – Chairman
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Alton Russell
Mr. W. D. Strickland

CONFERENCE CALLS:

Ms. Janelle King
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Bruce Carlisle
Mr. John B. Edwards
Sheriff Gary Gullede
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff
Mr. Jackson Defore, Acting Assistant Commissioner of Finance & Admin
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Ms. Nilelaya Barnes, Correctional Officer II, Central State Prison
Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Office of Professional Development
Mr. Antoine Caldwell, North Regional Director
Ms. Chandra Calton, Sergeant, Dodge State Prison
Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering & Constructions Services
Ms. Jessica Eanes, Office of Public Affairs
Ms. Bethany Hilliard, Director of Nursing, Dodge State Prison
Ms. Rachel Hatch, Health Service Administrator, Walker State Prison
Ms. Donna Drago, Health Services Administrator Baldwin State Prison
Ms. Komola Edwards, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Reginald Gantt, Correctional Officer III, Burruss CTC
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Mark Miller, Health Service Administrator
Mr. Luther Minix, County Warden, Jackson Correctional Institution
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
Ms. Kimberly Stewart, Lieutenant, Hays State Prison
Mr. Murray Tatum, County Deputy Warden, Jackson Correctional Institution
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Mr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Ms. Armanda Williams, Licensed Practical Nurse, Wilcox State Prison
Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director of Office of Professional Standards

VISITORS:

Grant Blankenship, Reporter, GPB

First, Chairman Larry Haynie 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 Haynie

then asked Chaplain Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Haynie led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Haynie welcomed and recognized all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Haynie then confirmed the following individuals were present via conference call: Board Members Ms. Janelle King, Mr. Lou Solis Jr., and Ms. Rose Williams.

Chairman Haynie presented the May 2, 2024 Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Thomas Culpepper. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Haynie presented the April 4, 2024 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. W.D. Strickland made the motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Rossie Ross. The Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver discussed Healthcare, CLA on the Hill, Washington County, the Senior Leadership Offsite, Senator Albers visit to Smith State Prison, and Officer Robert Clark’s recognition and tribute in other states.

To close, Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Antoine Caldwell, North Regional Director, to assist in introducing and honoring four (4) correctional officers (Nilelaya Barnes, Correctional Officer II, Central State Prison; Chandra Calton, Sergeant, Dodge State Prison; Reginald Gantt, Correctional Officer III, Burruss CTC; Kimberly Stewart, Lieutenant, Hays State Prison) with a Commissioner’s coin for Correctional Officers Week. In addition, the Board of Corrections honors the service of correctional officers each year by presenting a Governor’s proclamation to a select group. Correctional Officers Week will be celebrated the week of May 7-11th, 2024. Individual photos were taken of each officer’s presentation.

Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Health Services, to assist in honoring four (4) Nurses (Donna Drago, Health Services Administrator, Baldwin State Prison; Rachel Hatch, Health Service Administrator, Walker State Prison; Bethany Hilliard, Director of Nursing, Dodge State Prison; Armanda Williams, Licensed Practical Nurse, Wilcox State Prison) 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 with a Governor’s proclamation and a Commissioner’s coin. National Nurses Week will be celebrated the week of May 6 – 12, 2024. Individual photos were taken of the presentations.

This concluded the Commissioner’s Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Under the Chairman’s Report, Chairman Haynie began by advising the Board that we collected a total of one thousand four hundred sixty dollars (\$1460.00) towards the 2024 Georgia Prison Warden’s Association Board of Corrections scholarship fund. The Board will continue to collect for this scholarship until the fifteen-hundred-dollar (\$1,500) goal is met.

Chairman Haynie then discussed the 2024 Board Calendar advising that he would like to change and update the June 6th meeting from Ringgold, Georgia to Rome, Georgia, since we were not able to secure a location in Ringgold.

Chairman Haynie asked for a motion to approve the new location. Mr. Thomas Culpepper made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. J. C. “Spud” Bowen. The motion was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Next Chairman Haynie continued the Chairman’s Report by moving into Regular Session to approve a County Warden and a County Deputy Warden’s appointment.

Chairman Haynie called upon Mr. Duke Blackburn, who is the Chairman of the Board Facilities Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on Mr. Luther Minix and Mr. Murray Tatum.

Mr. Blackburn stated that he would like to do both candidates at one time in one vote. Mr. Blackburn stated that the Committee received the report on Mr. Luther Minix – Warden of Jackson County Correctional Institution, and the Committee reviewed his report and would like to make a motion to approve Mr. Minix's appointment as the Warden of Jackson County Correctional Facility.

In addition, Mr. Blackburn stated that the Committee received the report on Mr. Murray Tatum – Deputy Warden of Jackson County Correctional Institution, and the Committee reviewed his report and would like to make a motion to approve Mr. Tatum's appointment as the Deputy Warden of Jackson County Correctional Facility.

Mr. Blackburn made the motion to approve both appointments and stated that the entire Committee formally recommended approval so there was not a need for a seconded motion. The motion were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Chairman Haynie congratulated Mr. Minix and Mr. Tatum, and both candidates thanked the Board for the opportunity.

There was no Old or New Business so Chairman Haynie asked to take a vote to go into Executive Session so that the Board may consult with legal counsel pertaining to potential litigation. Mr. Rossie Ross made a motion to move into Executive Session, which was seconded by Mr. W.D. Strickland and Mr. Thomas Culpepper. The vote for the Board to move into Executive Session were voted "approved" by the Board.

Chairman Haynie asked for a motion to approve moving out of Executive Session. Mr. J. C. "Spud" Bowen made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Thomas Culpepper. The vote for the Board to move out of Executive Session were voted "approved" by the Board.

Chairman Haynie asked for a motion to approve moving back into Regular Session. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. J. C. "Spud" Bowen. The vote for the Board to move back into Regular Session were voted "approved" by the Board.

Chairman Haynie reminded the Board about the Board Luncheon honoring Correctional Officers and Nurses following the board meeting. Chairman Haynie also reminded the Board that the June 6, 2024 board meeting will be in Rome, Georgia at the Forum River Center.

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned.

Larry Haynie, Chairman

J.C. "Spud" Bowen, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison