

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

November 3, 2016

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Christopher Clark
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Mr. Mike Coggins
Mr. Bruce Hudson

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Chief of Staff
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jack "Randy" Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Stan Cooper, Assistant to Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Brad Hooks, Assistant Executive Director of Operations for Georgia Correctional Industries
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Charles Jackson, Volunteer Services Coordinator
Mr. Anthony Jenkins, Program Director, Risk Reduction Services
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Cliff Kennedy, Deputy Warden, Effingham County
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Georgia Correctional Industries
Ms. Lisa Rodriguez-Presley, Office of Public Affairs
Ms. Vonnie Stewart, Executive Assistant
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Jack Williams, Office of Health Services

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Teachers Retirement System of Georgia
Mr. Joe Hood, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
Mr. Jay Sanders, Director of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support & Reentry
Ms. Stephanie Dozier, Wife of Gregory C. Dozier
Mr. Dave Pratt, Southern Strategy Group
Mr. Bill Smith, Cherokee Sheriff's Office
Dr. John Speir, Principle & Co-Founder of Applied Research Services, Inc.

Chairman Rose Williams called the November meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Williams asked Volunteer Services Coordinator Charles Jackson to deliver the invocation.

Chairman Rose Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance and recognized new board member Christopher Clark to the meeting. Chairman Williams acknowledged all visitors and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Williams stated that it is an honor for the board to be able to approve Governor Nathan Deal's appointment of Chief of Staff Gregory C. Dozier to the position of Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. John Mayes, and the motion to approve Chief of Staff Gregory C. Dozier to the position of Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections was voted approved by the Board.

Afterwards, Chairman Williams congratulated Chief of Staff Gregory C. Dozier, and stated that his appointment would be effective on December 1st, after being sworn-in at the board meeting. Chief of Staff Dozier thanked Governor Nathan Deal, the board members, several staff members and his family. In addition, Chief of Staff Dozier announced the following leadership promotions within the agency:

- Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Operations Division, to Chief of Staff, effective December 1st
- Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards, to Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Operations Division, effective December 1st
- Mr. Jay Sanders, Director of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support & Reentry, to Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services Division, effective November 15th

Afterwards, Vice Chairman Jerry Willis presented Mr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, former Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services, with a resolution on behalf of the Board of Corrections.

To follow, Chairman Rose Williams presented the November Agenda to the Board for approval. Secretary 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 October Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith, and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Homer Bryson began his report by reflecting on his position as Commissioner of the agency. In addition, Commissioner Bryson mentioned the four-page overview that was in the Board member's booklets, highlighting key areas within the agency. Plus, Commissioner Bryson briefly discussed the increasing of the inmate population, inmate classification, and the Georgia Correctional Industries audit that will be finalized shortly.

Immediately following, Commissioner Bryson called on his assistant, Mr. Stan Cooper, to introduce Dr. John C. Speir, Principle & Co-Founder of Applied Research Services, Inc., to present the Next Generation Assessment Update. Mr. Cooper stated that Dr. Speir and his staff developed a risk needs assessment instrument for offenders and this assessment instrument impacts several facets of what we do in the criminal justice system. Furthermore, many of Georgia's courts have begun to utilize many parts of this assessment instrument to help them make better decisions on sentencing, developing programs, and assigning individuals to programs. Mr. Cooper then called upon Dr. Speir to present. Some of the highlights mentioned were the naming of the risk needs assessment instrument, how individuals are classified, diagnostics, other risk factors, levels of classification, moving from paper to an automated system that pulls information from several databases, and system monitoring.

Next, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented Ms. Emma Geckler, Captain of the Centralized Transportation Unit, Southeast Region, with 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 Ms. Rocio Woody, Chair of the Health Services Committee, to give a presentation. Ms. Woody introduced and called upon Assistant Commissioner, Randy Sauls, to give a medical presentation update for the Health Services Committee.

Assistant Commissioner Sauls began his presentation by showing the organizational chart for the Office of Health Services. Plus, Assistant Commissioner Sauls discussed some of the responsibilities, objectives and duties of the Office of Health Services and the healthcare delivery model and provider contracts. Additional highlights included Augusta State Medical Prison's dental unit, Georgia State Prison's mobile unit, Atlanta Medical Center, medical management functions, demographics, population trends, and the Office of Health Services Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year Comparisons. Finally, Assistant Commissioner Sauls discussed chronic medical conditions, the requirements for a physical medical reprieve, five year trends, emerging trends in Correctional Healthcare, and opportunities for improving care management.

Next, Chairman Williams proceeded to move into Regular Session to approve the appointment of Mr. Clifford Kennedy – Deputy Warden of Effingham County. Chairman Williams called upon Mr. Duke Blackburn, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on the appointment.

Mr. Blackburn stated that the Facilities Committee received the board packet for Mr. Kennedy and after review of his report, the committee unanimously recommends appointment approval for Mr. Kennedy to the position of Deputy Warden at Effingham County.

Mr. Duke Blackburn made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Sheriff Roger Garrison, Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith, and Ms. Rocio Woody. Then, the motion was voted approved by the Board as presented. Chairman Williams congratulated Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Kennedy thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Next, Sheriff Roger Garrison, Chair of the Nominations Committee, stated that the Nominations Committee met and is in agreement to nominate Vice Chairman Jerry Willis as the Chairman, Secretary Alton Russell as Vice Chairman, and Mr. Larry Haynie as Secretary for the 2017 Nominations of Officers. Sheriff Garrison added that this recommendation will be done at the December board meeting.

To follow, Chairman Williams continued with Old or New Business by presenting an honorary resolution that was drafted for Commissioner Homer Bryson. Chairman Williams stated that the Board will honor Commissioner Bryson for his leadership and guidance by presenting this resolution to him at the December board meeting.

Chairman Williams asked for the motion of approval. Vice Chairman Jerry Willis made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher and the resolution was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams continued by asking Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel, to present a property resolution for Baldwin State Prison/SolAmerica, Incorporated Easement.

Ms. Ammons briefly described the property and stated that SolAmerica Energy, an alternative energy generating utility, has a need for a permanent utility easement for the construction and operation of a transmission line connecting a solar electricity generating facility adjacent to the prison property with the electrical distribution system. The Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that it can accommodate the easement request without causing harm to the operations of the Baldwin State Prison and, therefore, is willing to grant the request of SolAmerica Energy for a permanent utility easement.

Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve the property resolution. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith, and the property resolution was voted approved by the Board as presented.

To conclude the meeting, Chairman Williams reminded the board members that the Education/Programs & Recidivism Committee will do their presentation in December. In addition, the next board meeting will be on December 1, 2016 at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rose Williams, Chairman

Alton Russell, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison