

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

November 6, 2019

Jackson, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Donnie Pope
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell-Chairman
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Mike Coggins
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. Jerry Willis

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of OPD
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Hillary Laster, Correctional Officer, Valdosta State Prison
Mr. Charles Mims, DWS, Valdosta State Prison
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Director of GCI
Mr. Robert Jeffrey "Jeff" Richards, Warden of Carroll County Prison
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Michael Sapp, Chaplain
Mr. David Smith, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Chris Tiller, Director of GCI
Mr. Chris Walker, Director of Strategic, Planning & Management
Mr. Dexter Walker, Office of Information Technology

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office

VISITORS:

None

First, Chairman Alton Russell called to order the November meeting for the Board of Corrections ("the Board") at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

Chairman Russell then asked Mr. Michael Sapp to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Russell led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and then recognized all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Next, Chairman Russell asked Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Information Technology to give the Board members brief instructions on how to use the Apple iPad, 5th generation tablets. Mr. Brown showed the Board basics items such as how to turn on/off the tablets, scroll through the pages, magnify and make documents larger and find different items within the files.

Chairman Russell presented the November 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 Russell also presented the October Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Minutes were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Timothy C. Ward began his report by discussing the dashboard, which is a three-page overview highlighting key areas within the Agency.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance Division, to present a Budget Update overview.

Mr. Watson began by discussing the Annual Fiscal Year 2020 and the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request. Mr. Watson’s presentation included the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations in the following areas; state prisons, probation detention centers, transitional centers, administration, offender administration, jail subsidy, health, food and farm and private prisons.

Mr. Watson then discussed the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) Annual Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021 Request. Some of the items discussed were Technology (Timekeeping Solutions and Virtual Courts), Business Process Improvements (Administration Consolidation, Centurion Contract, Education, Telecommunications, Discretionary), Facilities (Albany Transition Center, Metro Reentry Operating) and Revenue (Fee Offsets).

This concluded Mr. Watson’s report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, to present a “Beyond the Call” employee recognition award. Mr. Myrick stated that he would be presenting the award to Correctional Officer Hillary Laster of Valdosta State Prison.

Mr. Myrick stated Officer Laster is being recognized for using her training to deescalate an attempted offender assault while escorting another offender. Officer Laster showed tremendous courage while handling a challenging situation. She remained calm and made a quick decision to resolve the situation. Mr. Myrick went on to say that the Agency is thankful for Officer Laster’s service to Valdosta State Prison.

A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

Afterwards, Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs, to introduce and present the Real Time/ Real Life short video on Pulaski State Prison and Georgia Correctional Industries creating 500 backpacks.

This concluded the Commissioner’s Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Alton Russell began the “Chairman’s Report” by moving into Regular Session to approve the appointment of Mr. Robert Jeffrey “Jeff” Richards, Sr., Warden of Carroll County Correctional Facility.

Chairman Russell called upon Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman of the Facilities Committee,

to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on Mr. Richards.

Ms. Williams stated that the Facilities Committee received Mr. Richards' board packet, and after reviewing his report, the Committee unanimously recommends appointment approval for him.

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

Following such, Chairman Russell asked Board member Ms. Rose Williams to discuss the 2019 Nomination of Officers, in the absence of the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Sheriff Roger Garrison.

Ms. Williams stated that the Nominations Committee met, but since there were limited members that attended the meeting, the Committee chose to let the nominations be discussed at the December Committee meeting, once Sheriff Garrison returns. Ms. Williams stated that the recommendations and nominations will be done at the December board meeting.

Chairman Russell continued with Old or New Business. There were none, so Chairman Russell continued with the following announcements:

- The 2020 Board calendar is posted with the upcoming dates;
- The Board of Corrections Holiday Luncheon will be on December 5th following the board meeting;
- We will honor former Board members Carl Franklin and Rocio Woody with resolutions at the December board meeting; and
- Last of all, Chairman Russell reminded the Board that they would tour the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison today following the board meeting.

To close, Chairman Russell reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on December 5th in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alton Russell, Chairman

Duke Blackburn, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison