

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

November 2, 2023

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. J.C. "Spud" Bowen
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Thomas Culpepper
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie – Chairman
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.

CONFERENCE CALLS:

Ms. Janelle King

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bruce Carlisle
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Sheriff Gary Gullede
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office – Absent
Ms. Amy Radley – Attorney General's Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Mr. Peter Adams, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Ms. Lori Benoit, Deputy Director of Office of Public Affairs
Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering and Construction Services
Mr. James DiPietro, Deputy Training Director
Mr. Jeremy Dhuivette, Fleet Services
Ms. Komola Edwards, (new) Director of Human Resources
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Dr. Medeana Hinson, Manager of Education Programs
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Dr. Jennifer Irvin, Education Supervisor
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
Ms. Catherine Price
Ms. Janine Robinson, Director of Fleet Operations
Mr. Henry Rutherford III, Director of OIT
Mr. Stan Shepard, Director of Facilities Operations
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Thomas Thompson, Fleet Services
Mr. Chris Tiller, Director of GCI
Mr. Joel Toliver, OIT
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Charles Vinson, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director, Office of Professional Standards

VISITORS:

Mr. Greg Nolan, Audit Chair
Mr. Spencer Shelton, Son of Ms. Andrea Shelton
Ms. Carol Thomas, ACA Team Member

First, Chairman Larry Haynie 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 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 Ms. Janelle King was connected via conference call.

Chairman Haynie presented the November 2, 2023 Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Haynie presented the October 5, 2023 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. J. C. “Spud” Bowen. The Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Oliver introduced the American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation audit team that was on campus this week conducting audits of Central Office and the Training Academy. The ACA Audit Chair spoke along with a few other individuals regarding the work they do nationally. Commissioner Oliver then expressed the agency still has employee gains consistently for the last eight (8) months.

Commissioner Oliver and Mr. Jay Sanders then presented an award and a voluntary ID card to Ms. Andrea Shelton, former Board Member, District Five. Commissioner Oliver thanked Ms. Shelton for her many years of service on the Board and a photo was taken of the award and ID presentation.

Commissioner Oliver expressed that Mr. Wayne Dasher, Vice Chairman of the Board was not in attendance today, and that he has resigned from the Board. Commissioner Oliver thanked Mr. Dasher for his nineteen (19) years of service on the Board.

Then, Commissioner Oliver expressed that many of the Executive staff will be out at the ACA Conference in January 2024, so he asked Chairman Haynie and the Board to consider canceling or changing the date of that board meeting, since there is a conflict for most. Chairman Haynie agreed and stated they would address the 2024 Board Calendar dates in his Chairman’s Report.

Commissioner Oliver then asked Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director of the Office of Professional Standards, to give a brief Contraband Update.

Mr. Wolfe began by providing an overview of Interdiction Operations at Hancock State Prison. Some of the highlights discussed were canine deployment to contraband drop on August 26th, contraband seized, types of contrabands, shakedowns, visitation checks, surveillance detail, civilian arrests, Hancock State Prison operation schedule of events, seized contraband totals, contraband introduction at Calhoun State Prison, and the Georgia Department of Corrections partnership with the Calhoun County Sheriff’s Office.

To close, Mr. Wolfe discussed the Southeast Joint Narcotics Investigation, the North Region FBI Assist, the Southeast Region Telfair County Assist, drones, Top 6 Facilities with sightings and recoveries, Calendar Year 2023 drone detection and recovery, canine operations, canine searches, Fiscal Year 2024 Canine Contraband Totals, Fiscal Year 2024 Canine Arrests, Civilian Arrests, Staff Arrests, and charges.

This concluded the report of Mr. Wolfe.

Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services Division, to give an Inmate Services Division Update. Mr. Sanders then introduced Dr. Medeana Hinson, Director of Library Services, to do a presentation on Library Services.

Dr. Hinson began by discussing donations, stating that donations are received from groups/book clubs, retirement homes, high schools and colleges, service projects/book drives, public libraries, and individuals.

Dr. Hinson also discussed book needs such as Fiction by popular authors, Westerns, and Self-Help (Entrepreneurship, Construction and Trades, Addiction and Recovery). Dr. Hinson discussed processing, and additional services such as Law Library, ACA Compliance, and ADA Services Facility Initiatives.

Dr. Hinson closed with discussing the Annual Data Fiscal Year 2023, donations, interlibrary loan, circulation, law library requests, and individuals using the law library.

This concluded the report of Dr. Hinson.

Commissioner Oliver next asked Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research, to give a Population Update. Some of the highlights from Mr. Hogan's presentation were discussing Inmate Population by Month, pre-pandemic levels, Comparison – December 2019 versus September 2023, Facility Population Breakdown, Inmate Security Level, Inmate Breakdown, Facility Type and Physical Utilization.

This concluded the report of Mr. Hogan.

Commissioner Oliver asked Ms. Janine Robinson, Director of Administrative Support Division, Fleet Operations and Risk Management, to present a Fleet Operations Update. Ms. Robinson stated that she had two current employees that wanted to share their story of transition from being incarcerated to being employed with the Georgia Department of Corrections. Both individuals shared their stories, and this concluded the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Under the Chairman's Report, Chairman Haynie asked Mr. Duke Blackburn, Chairman of the Nominations Committee to give an update of the Nomination of Officers for 2024.

Mr. Blackburn stated that the Committee would like to hold off until the December 7, 2023 board meeting to make formal recommendations. In addition, Mr. Blackburn recommended that the Nomination Committee request sheet for new officers should be given out in the month of October each year, and formal full recommendations/nominations only be done in December of each year.

Next Chairman Haynie discussed the 2024 Board Calendar dates. Chairman Haynie expressed that he would like the Board to consider the following:

- Cancelling the January 4, 2024 board meeting
- Making the April 4, 2024 board meeting a "To Be Determined" location
- Cancelling the July and August board meetings
- Making the October 3, 2024 board meeting a "To Be Determined" location
- Keeping the remainder of board meetings for the year to Forsyth, Georgia

Chairman Haynie then asked for a motion to approve these changes. Sheriff Stacy Jarrard made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Alton Russell. The changes to the 2024 board calendar were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Under Old or New Business, Chairman Haynie asked Ms. Janine Robinson, Director of Administrative Support Division, Fleet Operations and Risk Management, to present the approval of employment for five (5) Automotive Academy Graduates.

Ms. Robinson began by stating that GDC Fleet Operations respectfully recommends hiring Mr. Jordan Burnette, Mr. Jeremiah Crews, Mr. Timothy Ransom, Mr. Justin Shaner, and Mr. Christopher Wofford. All five (5) individuals have completed the Automotive and I-CAR Paint/Body Academy and have exhibited an excellent work ethic, professionalism, and the desire for a successful future.

The specific job duties for these individuals, as defined by Standard Occupational Classification Manual, will include the following:

49-3023: Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles.

51-9124 Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders
Set up, operate, or tend spraying or rolling machines to coat or paint any of a wide variety of products, including glassware, cloth, ceramics, metal, plastic, paper, or wood, with lacquer, silver, copper, rubber, varnish, glaze, enamel, oil, or rust-proofing materials. Includes painters of transportation vehicles such as painters in auto body repair facilities.

49-3021 Automotive Body and Related Repairers
Repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames.

49-3022 Automotive Glass Installers and Repairers
Replace or repair broken windshields and window glass in motor vehicles.

51-4121 Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers
Use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand-soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

Ms. Robinson stated all five individuals have shown commitment and dedication to safe vehicle repairs, and knowledge of GDC's Fleet policies and procedures. They are all self-starters and eagerly accept additional job responsibilities and have shown great initiative and dedication to self-improvement. They have demonstrated impeccable commitment to making GDC's vehicles presentable and road worthy.

After that, Chairman Haynie asked for a motion to approve the employment of Mr. Jordan Burnette, Mr. Jeremiah Crews, Mr. Timothy Ransom, Mr. Justin Shaner, and Mr. Christopher Wofford.

Ms. Andrea Shelton made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Lou Solis Jr. Ms. Janelle King opposed with no discussion; however, since the rest of the Board approved, the vote to approve all five individuals' employment were voted "approved" by the Board.

To close, Mr. J.C. "Spud" Bowen expressed heartfelt sympathies to Officer Robert Clark's family and stated how well run the funeral service was. Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources, gave a brief update on Officer Clark's family to date.

Chairman Haynie reminded the Board about the upcoming Board Holiday Luncheon and he reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on December 7, 2023, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia.

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

Larry Haynie, Chairman

Ester Fleming Jr., Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison