

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

October 3, 2019

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Mike Coggins
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Ms. Lori Benoit, Manager of Public Affairs
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Barry Cammack, Farm Operations Manager
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Leotis Dixon, Correctional Officer
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of OPD
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Director of GCI
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. James Rogers, Statewide Farm Director
Mr. David Smith, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Chris Tiller, Director of GCI
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Chris Walker, Director of Strategic, Planning & Management
Mr. Jermaine White, Warden of Washington State Prison

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office

VISITORS:

Ms. Dawn Atchison-Citizen

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

Chairman Alton Russell then asked Dr. Steven Turner 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 welcomed Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr., Board Member, At Large, to the Board meeting.

Chairman Russell presented the October Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. W. D. Strickland. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Russell also presented the September Minutes to the Board for approval. Sheriff Roger Garrison made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. 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. 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 Leotis Dixon of Washington State Prison.

Mr. Myrick stated that Officer Dixon is currently assigned as an Outside Detail Officer and he is being recognized for interdicting a significant amount of contraband from entering the facility. Officer Dixon understands the importance of his Correctional Officer duties and shows integrity in accomplishing the mission of the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC). We applaud Officer Dixon, for his commitment to the GDC and his fortitude to excel.

A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

Afterwards, Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director of Georgia Correctional Industries, presented a Georgia Correctional Industries (GCI) “Beyond the Call” employee recognition award.

Mr. Tiller stated that he would be presenting the award to Mr. Barry Cammack, who is currently assigned as the Farm Operations Manager. Mr. Cammack took over the vegetable production at the farm at Rogers State Prison (SP). The farm operations at Rogers SP has faced multiple challenges in recent years, with vegetable production yield declining due to weather and insects. Since taking on his new role, Mr. Cammack has more than met expectations in this area and exceeded production goals for fresh vegetables. He is a true asset to GCI and its agribusiness operations. We appreciate Mr. Cammack’s efforts and commend him on a job well done with fresh vegetables.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs, to introduce and present the “Beyond the Walls” article and short video on Ms. SHEMEAKE SIMMS. Ms. Heath briefly discussed how Ms. Simms utilized the programs available to her and she signed up for the Parenting Class and Children’s Center at Lee Arrendale State Prison. The program taught her how to work on becoming a better individual, utilizing co-parenting skills with the caregiver, interacting with her child at visitation, and sharing parenting experiences and advice with the other offenders and the teacher in the class.

Thereafter, Ms. Heath showed the short video on Ms. Simms.

This concluded the Commissioner’s Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Alton Russell began the “Chairman’s Report” by discussing the November board meeting. Essentially, Chairman Russell asked that the Board consider moving the Thursday, November 7th board meeting to Wednesday, November 6th. There was some discussion by Sheriff Roger Garrison as to why the meeting day was being changed. Chairman Russell advised that he wants to attend this offsite, since he is the Chairman and he was the individual who suggested moving the November meeting to Jackson initially.

Following the brief discussion, Chairman Alton Russell asked for a motion to approve the meeting date change. Ms. Andrea Shelton made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. W. D. Strickland. Sheriff Roger Garrison opposed the motion, but with a vote of thirteen board members supporting and one board member opposing, the motion was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Without delay, Chairman Russell reiterated that the November board meeting would be on Wednesday, November 6th in Jackson, Georgia.

Chairman Russell continued with Old or New Business by asking the Board to vote on three honorary resolutions for former board members, Ms. June Wood, Mr. Carl Franklin and Ms. Rocio Woody.

Chairman Russell asked for a motion to approve the resolutions. Ms. Andrea Shelton made a motion to approve the resolutions, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. The resolutions were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

To close, Chairman Russell stated that the Board's Annual Training will be postponed until January or February 2020, so that all new members appointed could receive training.

In addition, Chairman Russell reminded the Board that the Nominations Committee will meet in November to discuss any possible nominees for the Executive Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary) positions.

Lastly, Chairman Russell asked the Board if any members opposed going from using booklets at each meeting to using repurposed tablets and becoming digital. All board members agreed with the change and therefore, no vote was needed to proceed with the change.

To close, Chairman Russell reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on Wednesday, November 6th in Jackson, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alton Russell, Chairman

Duke Blackburn, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison