

**BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**  
**September 5, 2019**  
**Forsyth, Georgia**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Duke Blackburn  
Mr. Chris Clark  
Mr. Mike Coggins  
Mr. Wayne Dasher  
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.  
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard  
Mr. Donnie Pope  
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse  
Mr. Alton Russell-Chairman  
Ms. Andrea Shelton  
Mr. W. D. Strickland  
Ms. Rose Williams  
Mr. Jerry Willis  
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

**CONFERENCE CALL:**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Carl Franklin  
Sheriff Roger Garrison  
Mr. Larry Haynie  
Mr. John Mayes

**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. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Professional Standards  
Mr. Matthew Conner, Deputy Warden - Colquitt County  
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of OPD  
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs  
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Billy Howell, Warden of - Colquitt County  
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison  
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards  
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Director of GCI  
Mr. Tyler Powell, Fire Chief  
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards  
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

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

Ms. Amy Bradley, Attorney General's Office

**VISITORS:**

Senator Matt Brass, District 28  
Mrs. Alicia Conner, Wife of Matt Conner  
Sheriff Lenn Wood, Coweta County

First, Chairman Alton Russell called to order the September 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. Ester Fleming Jr., Board Member, District 4 and Sheriff Donnie Pope, Board Member, District 10, to the Board meeting.

Chairman Russell presented the September 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 June Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. W. D. Strickland made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Sheriff Stacy Jarrard. 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.

Mr. Watson began by discussing the Annual Fiscal Year 2020 and the Fiscal Year 2021 request. Mr. Watson’s presentation included the Annual Fiscal Year 2020 as passed appropriations. Some of the highlights were the Fiscal Year 2020 agency specific changes, such as the health program workload adjustment, administration program, and the offender management program. Added to that, the Fiscal Year 2020 statewide changes were discussed. Last of all, Mr. Watson discussed the Fiscal Year 2020 bonds, appropriation by program, breakdown by program, budget by category and the budget submission. This concluded Mr. Watson’s report.

Afterwards, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Health Services, to give an Office of Health Services update. Mr. Sauls began his presentation with the Office of Health Services responsibilities. Items in his discussion included the priorities for mental health treatments, the actions taken by GDC to improve mental healthcare, suicide prevention and a prison official’s duty to protect an inmate from harm. To end, Mr. Sauls discussed general factors that precipitate suicides in prison, the common factors of suicides at GDC, mental health diagnosis for male and female offenders, expediting referrals and eliminating “transfer-gaps,” performing 15-minute checks especially in restrictive housing, increased “meaningful contacts” establishing suicide prevention committees, and the suicide prevention hotline. This concluded Mr. Sauls’s report.

To follow, Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division, presented a Heat Precautions overview. Mr. Myrick’s brief presentation consisted of discussing several climate-controlled areas such as the infirmaries/medical units, education/program areas, medical area, intake area, dining hall and transport vehicles. Mr. Myrick also spoke on preparing for extreme heat and outside details. This concluded Mr. Myrick’s report.

Then, Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, presented a Comprehensive Wellness Program update. Some of the highlights mentioned were overall physical health, examples of physical activity, nutrition and dietary health, healthy snack options, quarterly nutritional information communication, staff dining healthy options and the healthy snack of the month club. Additionally, Ms. Hogan discussed some success stories, mental health, staff wellness room, family day for staff, employee counseling, telephonic coaching pathway, peer mentor groups and suicide prevention. To conclude, Ms. Hogan discussed feminine health, lactation stations, feminine hygiene products, environmental health, clean air campaign, workplace cleanliness, financial and preventative health, retirement advisement, biometric screenings and immunizations. This concluded Ms. Hogan’s report.

Thereafter, Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Lori Benoit, Manager of Public Affairs, to introduce the "Profiles in Corrections" short video on the position of Chief of Security.

Afterwards, Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, presented a "Beyond the Call" employee recognition award. Mr. Myrick stated he would be presenting the award to Fire Chief Tyler Powell of Montgomery State Prison.

Mr. Myrick stated that Chief Powell was being recognized for assisting the First Responders with rescuing a young man that had fallen into the Oconee river and broken his leg. The young man had been swinging from a rope tied 50-75 feet in the air. Chief Powell and other volunteers help to set up a landing zone on scene to speed up the transport process for the First Responders. The quick actions of Chief Powell and the others saved the life of this young man. Chief Powell went above and beyond by risking his life to help rescue this individual.

A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

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. Matthew Conner, Deputy Warden of Colquitt 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. Conner.

Ms. Williams stated that the Facilities Committee received Mr. Conner's 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. Conner and Mr. Conner thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Chairman Russell continued with Old or New Business by asking Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel, to present a property resolution. The resolution was for a Johnson State Prison Department of Juvenile Justice/ Georgia Department of Corrections Transfer Request.

Ms. Ammons briefly stated that the property was transferred from the Department of Corrections custody to the Department of Children and Youth Services by Executive Order, now known as the Department of Juvenile Justice, in May 1996. The property was re-occupied by the Department of Corrections in 2002, and has been in use by the Department of Corrections since that time. Due to an administrative oversight, however, the property was never properly conveyed back to the Department of Corrections from the Department of Juvenile Justice and this resolution is intended to rectify this administrative oversight.

Chairman Russell asked for a motion to approve the property resolution. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Tommy Rouse and Ms. Rocio Woody. The resolution was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

To close, Chairman Russell reminded the Board that there will be Annual Training on October 3<sup>rd</sup> for all board members. Plus, Chairman Russell stated that he would like to make a motion to draft a board resolution for Ms. June Wood, who recently resigned from the Board.

Mr. Jerry Willis made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, and the motion was voted approved by the Board as presented.

To close, Chairman Russell reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on October 3rd, in Forsyth.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Alton Russell, Chairman

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Duke Blackburn, Secretary

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Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison