

## **BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

**May 3, 2018**

**Forsyth, Georgia**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Duke Blackburn  
Mr. Chris Clark  
Mr. Mac Collins  
Mr. Wayne Dasher  
Mr. Carl Franklin  
Mr. Larry Haynie  
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard  
Mr. John Mayes  
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse  
Mr. Alton Russell  
Mr. W. D. Strickland  
Ms. Rose Williams

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Mike Coggins  
Sheriff Roger Garrison  
Ms. Andrea Shelton  
Mr. Jerry Willis, Chairman  
Ms. June Wood  
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

### **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Commissioner  
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Chief of Staff  
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel  
Ms. Tamala Brown, Warden, Montgomery State Prison  
Mr. Chase Hallman, Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Office of Public Affairs  
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison  
Ms. Danielle Lee, Human Resources Tech, Montgomery State Prison  
Mr. Johnny Miller, Office of Professional Standards  
Mr. Clay Nix, Director Office of Professional Standards  
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director, Georgia Correctional Industries  
Mr. David Smith, Interim Director of Engineering & Construction Services  
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director, Georgia Correctional Industries  
Ms. Lakethia Tolen, Engraving Plant Manager  
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

### **VISITORS:**

Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin  
Mr. Mark Morris, Department of Community Supervision  
Mr. David Pratt, GEO

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

Vice Chairman Russell then asked Dr. Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Vice 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.

To begin, Vice Chairman Russell presented the May Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Secretary Larry Haynie and Ms. Rose Williams. The Agenda was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Vice Chairman Russell also presented the April Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. John Mayes made the motion to approve, which was also seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. The Minutes were then voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier began his report by stating that the Agency is coming up on the annual time of reflecting on the loss of our two officers, Sergeant Christopher Monica and Sergeant Curtis Billue. We had the opportunity to attend the Baldwin State Prison's "Georgia Law Enforcement Moving Memorial Wall" ceremony and the ceremony was a pure and touching experience. Commissioner Dozier thanked the board members who attended in support of the families and he expressed that the goal for the Agency is to not have any names be added to the wall.

In addition, Commissioner Dozier mentioned that on Saturday, April 28, 2018, he was honored to attend and be the Keynote Speaker for the 27th Annual Georgia Police Memorial Ride at the Atlanta Expo Center. Plus, the Governor's Public Safety Memorial Ceremony and GDC's Memorial Wall Ceremony will be held on May 22, 2018, which will also honor fallen officers.

Commissioner Dozier then discussed that he asked Mr. Stan Cooper, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, to help with a pilot with our court system. Essentially, Mr. Cooper will be assisting the Augusta Judicial Circuit in implementing teleconference hearings. Commissioner Dozier explained that 14,000 to 16,000 offenders a year are transported for first appearance hearings, habeas hearings and hearings that are more administrative than complex. We hope to be able to reduce the number of hearings, which will help our agency, our sheriffs and our courts with transportation cost, time and security issues.

Commissioner Dozier continued by stating that last Monday, he spent the day in Washington D.C. serving on a panel that the FCC had commissioned to review contraband cellphone issues. The meeting was by CTIA, which is the organization that represents the telephone carriers and although it was not an FCC meeting, there was FCC present. Commissioner Dozier explained that he is excited that the carriers were finally at the table to discuss managed access and some possible solutions. Commissioner Dozier expressed that he was proud to represent the Georgia Department of Corrections as well as the other entities on the panel.

Last of all, Commissioner Dozier stated that he is very proud to announce that Metro Reentry Facility has offenders and the facility looked good.

Next, Commissioner Dozier gave a brief summary of the Commissioner's dashboard, which is a three-page overview highlighting key areas within the Agency.

Afterwards, Commissioner Dozier asked Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, to present the "Beyond the Call" employee recognition award to Ms. Danielle Lee, Human Resources Technician at Montgomery State Prison. Mr. Myrick stated that Ms. Lee was being honored for assisting her coworker that needed emergency care. The employee lost consciousness, and was not breathing, but still had a pulse, and Ms. Lee began chest compressions until the employee took a breath on her own. Ms. Lee remained calm and provided care until medical staff arrived at the scene. Mr. Myrick presented Ms. Lee with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier. A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

Next, Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director of Georgia Correctional Industries, presented the "Georgia Correctional Industries Beyond the Call" employee recognition award to Ms. Lakethia Tolen, Engraving Plant Manager.

Mr. Tiller stated that Ms. Tolen is instrumental in training residents in the Engraving Department. Ms. Tolen manages the operation of engraving equipment to include design

software programs, picture framing, trophy and award assembly. Additionally, Ms. Tolen has high standards for customer service and quality products. She pays very close attention to the quality of the residents' craftsmanship and most importantly display excellent customer service skills on a daily basis. Mr. Tiller stated that Ms. Tolen is a true asset to the Georgia Correctional Industries and he presented her with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier. A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

To follow, Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier asked Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance Division, to give a brief Annual Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 budget update and closeout. Mr. Poitevint began by stating that 2018 was a modest year for the agency and there has been many years previously, that we had to decrease the budget and that this was not the case currently.

To begin, Mr. Poitevint discussed that House Bill 683 was the amended Fiscal Year 2018 budget that gets the Agency through the end of this current fiscal year, ending June 30, 2018.

In total we received \$4.3 million in additional funds in the amended budget. Plus, the agency specific funds, we received \$3 million. This was a direct appropriation for huge infrastructure that we have throughout the state that we are constantly having to repair or renovate any number of items and issues. Also, they did put \$3 million in our budget to help us bridge at the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, there was \$1.3 million in statewide changes. This is basically pass-through funds. These changes are common with all state agencies. They are associated with insurance premiums and our merit system assessments which are basically human resource support charges that go back to the Department of Administrative Services, but in total \$4.39 million in the amended budget.

With the additional of the \$4.3 million we received, our annual operating budget as of the end of March 2018, when the Governor signed this bill, we have \$1,196,218,522 in total in our annual operating budget. Also, not surprisingly State Prisons constitute over fifty percent of the budget. Plus, Health Services which is \$238,227,673 is associated with health care and the last highest has to do with private prisons.

For Fiscal Year 2019, which will start on July 1<sup>st</sup>, of 2018, in aggregate we received \$10.8 million in new funds. As far as the agency specific changes in the upcoming budget, that was \$8.6 million. The majority of that was associated with the annualized operating budget for Metro State Prison. Annualize operating expenses for Metro Re-Entry Facility was \$5,008,101.

Plus, an additional \$1.2 million that was reclassified from another program will effectively give us \$12.5 annual operating budget for Metro Reentry moving forward. Additionally, our private prison partners were appropriated \$4,388,500 in new monies and those funds will be targeted specifically for their correctional officer salaries going into the Fiscal Year 2019 year. Then you will see there was an elimination of one-time educational expenses (hardware and other equipment that we bought already), so there was a reduction of \$734,323 which gave us a net of \$8.6 million in new state funds for agency specific activities.

Mr. Poitevint continued by discussing the Statewide Changes such as the Teacher's Retirement System employer contribution rate increase, DOAS Risk Management premiums, merit system assessments and the total increase for the Fiscal Year 2019 budget being \$10,877,901. To conclude, Mr. Poitevint mentioned that Governor Nathan Deal signed the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriation bill and that there will be a \$2,500,000 board resolution for the 20-year bond for facility major improvements and renovations.

Thereafter, Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel, Office of Legal Services, to give a brief Legislation update. Ms. Ammons began by stating that the board members could find before them, spreadsheets with the latest updates of bills that were recently signed by Governor Nathan Deal. These are bills that were track over the legislation session, but there was not a lot of legislation that directly impact the Georgia Department of Corrections' operational changes.

Ms. Ammons discussed the following bills:

- House Bill 135 - which added our K-9 Handlers and our investigators to statutory language that deals with eligibility of a credit for work that's already done in local communities and law enforcement. Plus, Ms. Ammons mentioned that there are some bills that are reflected in the list that are basically changes to criminal law, which there will be a nominal impact and we will start receiving offenders who have conviction for these offenses among the other things that we are already handling.
- House Bill 673 - (the cellphone bill) Beginning in July 2018, it will not be legal in Georgia to have your cellphone in your hand, while you are driving. There is an exception for law-enforcement officers who are needing to use their phones; as part of their official duties; but, even for law enforcement officers who are not on duty and everyone else, basically getting on your cellphone while you are driving, is not going to be permissible. Ms. Ammons added that there is some language in the bill regarding a one-touch answering button being permissible; but, you cannot have your phone in your hand.
- Senate Bill 407 - which is the Criminal Justice Reform Council legislation. Ms. Ammons mentioned that the only operational piece that is impactful to GDC is that it directs us to partner with the Department of Community Health to work on identifying offenders who may be eligible for Medicaid upon their release and as they are approaching their time for being release. This will help in doing the paperwork that is required, so that upon release, there will be a smooth transition of an offender's medical care.

In conclusion, Ms. Ammons stated that it has not been an impactful year legislatively.

Following such, Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards, introduced Mr. Chase Hallman, Assistant Special Agent in Charge. Mr. Hallman presented an Intelligence Driven Investigations Overview. In his presentation, Mr. Hallman discussed that the Digital Forensics Unit is comprised of four Georgia Department of Corrections personnel and fourteen Guarded Exchange GEX Contractors.

In addition, Mr. Hallman stated that some of the objectives of the Digital Forensics Unit are to streamline cellular forensics processing with focused intelligence extraction, predictive contraband interdiction and disruption of criminal organizations operating within the Georgia Department of Corrections, wireless containment system intelligence and the identification/monitoring of high risk groups and individuals. Mr. Hallman concluded his presentation with discussing the cell lab data work flow, the wireless containment system and showing a few case examples.

Ms. Joan Heath, Director of the Office of Public Affairs, introduced the May "Beyond the Walls" article and short video which features, Mr. Shannondore Sims, who, was released to a Transitional Center where he began working and saving up to build a life outside of the prison system. Mr. Sims was later able to score several jobs, including the one that he has currently held for two years at McLane Southeast. In addition, Mr. Sims works with the Athens-Clarke County Police Department teaching Community Relations classes to cadets and he serves as their Chaplain. Mr. Sims is now a car detailing business owner and he explained in the video how he was able to take his experiences and contribute to the well-being of others.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Vice Chairman Alton Russell began the 'Chairman's Report' by stating that he did not have any items to report, so he moved directly into Old or New Business.

The Board members approved an honorary resolution for Mr. Steve Upton, Director of Facilities Operations. Vice Chairman Russell added that the resolution will be presented to Mr. Upton on May 30<sup>th</sup>, at his retirement from the State of Georgia.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve the resolution, which was then seconded by Mr. Tommy Rouse, and the resolution was voted approved by the Board.

Vice Chairman Russell continued by asking Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner, Administration and Finance Division, to present a bond resolution for the 2018 Issuance of the State of Georgia General Obligation Bond totaling \$2,500,000. The bond is specifically appropriated for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Department of Corrections by means of the acquisition, construction, development, extension, enlargement, or improvement of land, waters, property, highways, buildings, structures and equipment or facilities.

Vice Chairman Russell asked for a motion to approve the bond resolution. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Rose Williams and the bond resolution was voted approved by the Board as presented.

To conclude the meeting, Vice Chairman Russell gave an update on Chairman Willis, thanked Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier for the gifts at the April board meeting, thanked Wayne Dasher for hosting the April board meeting and Vice Chairman Russell read a card from Board member Rose Williams.

Vice Chairman Russell reminded the board members that the next Board meeting will be on June 7th at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia. In addition, he stated that the July and August board meetings are cancelled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jerry Willis, Chairman

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Larry Haynie, Secretary

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Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison