

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

June 4, 2015

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Mr. William S. Acuff
Ms. Sonja R. Allen-Smith
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl L. Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. J. M. "Bob" Plemons
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Lee Anderson
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. Jerry Willis

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Assistant Commissioner
Dr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public & Intergovernmental Affairs
Mr. Terry Edge, FOM of County Facilities
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Data Analyst
Mr. Rick Jacobs, Director of Facilities Operations
Mr. Robert L. Jones, County Warden
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of OIC
Mr. Mike Riley, Investigations Unit
Mr. Nicholas Spates, Tech Service
Ms. Vonnie Stewart, Executive Assistant
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Alan Watson, Budget Director
Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of GCI
Mr. Otis Wilson, Deputy Warden of Carroll County

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Layla Franklin, Granddaughter of Carl Franklin

Chairman Rose Williams called the June meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Williams asked Chaplain Steven Turner to give the invocation. Chairman Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance, recognized all guests and visitors and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, were ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Williams presented the June Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams presented the May Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Homer Bryson began his report by discussing the Upcoming Events for June, July and August. Significantly mentioned were the Corrections Family Day in Milledgeville, the funeral for former GCI Executive Director, Mr. Jerry Watson, the GDC Annual Awards in Forsyth, the NOBTS Graduation and the Welding Program Graduation on June 18th.

Subsequently, Commissioner Bryson continued his report by asking Assistant Commissioner, Chief of Staff, Mr. Gregory C. Dozier to introduce GDC's newly appointed General Counsel, Ms. Jennifer Ammons.

Mr. Dozier stated I am very pleased to announce the newest addition to our team, Ms. Jennifer Greene Ammons, who will represent our agency as General Counsel. Ms. Ammons will be joining us from her most recent position with the firm of Head, Thomas, Webb & Willis, LLC in Atlanta, Georgia, where she served as a Senior Associate representing individuals charged with serious criminal offenses and traffic law violations, particularly DUI defense. Her past experience includes serving as General Counsel at both Georgia Department of Driver Services and Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety, and Assistant District Attorney with the Covington District Attorney's Office. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Studies from the University of Georgia and a Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law, and was named to *Georgia Trend Magazine's* "Legal Elite" in 2010.

Next, Mr. Dozier presented on visiting Angola State Prison with Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner, Chief of Operations. In their presentation, Mr. Dozier and Mr. Ward displayed a few pictures of the facility and its grounds, which consists of 18,000 acres surrounded by natural boundaries (Mississippi River and the Tunica Hills). Both Assistant Commissioners continued speaking about the overall presence and entry of the compound from the time you enter stating that it consists over 6,000 inmates – with approximately 4,500 lifers. There are an estimated six separate camps (prisons) on the grounds. The community of 200 homes, a post office, a mayor, quarters for CO's, and a ferry to also includes the Prison View Golf Course, Food and Farm Operations (row crops, cattle, fishing, fresh freeze operation), Museum, Housing for Inmates Under Death Sentence, K-9 Program with (100+ Dogs) and the Angola Rodeo.

Moreover, Assistant Commissioners Dozier and Ward continued their presentation by discussing the mission and the philosophy of Louisiana State Penitentiary. Additionally, there was an overview about Education and Vocational Programming such as NOBTS (New Orleans Baptist Theology Seminary), Literacy, ABE, GED, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Horticulture and Welding. To conclude the presentation, there were discussions on Automotive Technology, Collision Repair, Print Ed Certification, Heating and Air Conditioning, Electrical, Industrial Painting and Eye Glass Repair. Assistant Commissioners Dozier and Ward closed their presentations by expressing viewpoints of the "Angola Magic" noting several plausible notions such as:

- Reward v. Punishment
- Combination of Lifers and Short-term Reentry Inmates
- NOBTS / Inmate Led Programming
- Inmate Clubs / Charity Work
- Financial Incentives

This concluded the report on Angola State Prison.

Thereafter, Mr. Dozier submitted Commissioner Bryson's Proposed New Commissioner's Report for the Board of Corrections. A one-sheet document was distributed with the following outline:

- A. Upcoming Events Calendar
- B. One-Page Snapshot (Dashboard) of Relevant Monthly Data
- C. Inmate Services Update
- D. Facilities Update
- E. Introduce Warden for Presentation
- F. Warden / Facility Overview
- G. Employee Recognition

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Williams proceeded to move into Regular Session to approve a County Deputy Warden. Chairman Williams called upon Mr. Alton Russell, Chairman of the Operations Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on the candidate.

Mr. Russell stated that the Operations Committee received a board packet for Mr. Otis Wilson of Carroll County Correctional Institution. The Operations Committee has reviewed Mr. Wilson's report and the Committee unanimously recommends appointment approval of Mr. Wilson as the Deputy Warden of Carroll County. Mr. Russell made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Sheriff Roger Garrison, and was then voted approved by the Board. Chairman Williams congratulated Mr. Wilson on his appointment and asked if he would like to say a few words to the Board. Mr. Wilson thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Afterwards, Chairman Williams asked the Board if they would like to cancel the July and August board meetings for the summer months. After some discussion, the Board agreed to cancel the July and August meetings unless there is official business that must be voted upon. Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Tommy Rouse made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. John Mayes and Mr. Alton Russell, and the canceling of the July and August board meetings was voted approved by the Board. Therefore, the next board meeting will be September 3rd in Forsyth, Georgia.

Chairman Williams gave the final update on the scholarship fund for the Georgia Prison Warden's Association (GPWA) stating the scholarship was given out at the Awards Ceremony Banquet at Lake Lanier Islands Resort to Ms. Elizabeth Wilkes, daughter of Warden William Danforth, Warden of Telfair State Prison.

Next, Chairman Williams requested that Mr. Duke Blackburn, Chair of the Operations (Facilities) Committee, give their Committee's presentation. The Committee presented a facilities overview on operational capacity, facility operational utilization, inmate on inmate assaults, inmate on staff assaults, vacant positions, cell phone confiscation, the hardening of level 4 & 5 facilities and future planning for facilities. This concluded the Operations (Facilities) Committee presentation.

Chairman Williams continued asking for any Old or New Business. Chairman Williams asked the Board for a motion to approve a resolution honoring the Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week, which is nationally recognized from July 12-18, 2015. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tommy Rouse and voted approved by the Board.

To conclude the meeting, there were some announcements. Chairman Williams announced that Mr. Rick Jacobs, Director of Facilities Operations has accepted another position at the State Board of Pardons & Paroles. At that moment, Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to draft an honorary resolution for Mr. Jacobs, which was seconded by Mr. Tommy Rouse and Mr. J.M. "Bob" Plemons and was voted approved by the Board. Therefore, the resolution will be drafted and presented at a future Board of Corrections meeting. Mr. Jacobs thanked the Board.

Chairman Williams reminded the members the next Committee to present will be the Education Committee. In addition, the Board will take an official photo at the next meeting on September 3rd at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rose Williams, Chairman

Alton Russell, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison