

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**March 5, 2009
Atlanta, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Robert Jones, Chairman
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Bill Masee
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Sheriff Carlton Powell
Mr. Tommy Rouse
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.
Mr. Larry Wynn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Kris Nordholz

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Mr. Bill Acuff

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Brian Owens
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Ms. Diane Avery, Liaison from State Board of Pardons and Paroles
Mr. Derrick Schofield, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Becky East, Division Director of Administration Division
Mr. Danny Horne, Director of Chaplaincy Services
Ms. Patricia Smith, Executive Assistant
Mr. Mark Guzzi, Legal Services
Mr. Mark Waldron, Director of Planning and Analysis
Mr. Lewis Hauck, Office of Investigations & Compliance
Mr. Jerry Watson, Georgia Correctional Industries

VISITORS:

Mr. Jim Scott, citizen

Mr. Dave Pratt, SSG

Mr. Fran Mangiani, SSG

Mr. Brandon Hembree, Massey and Bowers

Mr. Jimmy Perkins, friend of Mr. Jim Whitehead

Chairman Robert E. Jones welcomed everyone to the March meeting of the Board of Corrections. He requested Chaplain Danny Horne to open the meeting with prayer. Following the invocation, Chairman Jones requested all visitors to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Brian Owens added that one of the benefits with having General Donald at the Parole Board is having Ms. Diane Avery attend the monthly Board meetings. Commissioner explained that Ms. Avery has agreed to take on extra duties and responsibilities by attending the Board meetings and report back to the Parole Board. Also, Ms. Avery will report to Commissioner Owens on the monthly Parole Board meetings. If there are any issues in common to be worked out, Ms. Avery will assist both agencies as the liaison.

Chairman Jones requested approval of the March Agenda. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Jim Whitehead, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Jones requested approval of the Minutes of the February meeting. Mr. Jim Whitehead made the motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Rob Jones called on Commissioner Brian Owens for his report, with explaining that the format is going to change. Chairman stated that Commissioner requested that each meeting focus on a different area of the Department's operations; so, Commissioner's report will be shorter, and then he will turn it over to other folks within the Department to brief on certain areas of importance. Chairman stated this is the time of year the legislators are in session, there are budget talks and there are legislative issues.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens began with stating it is the intent in that in over this twelve-month period, staff will have exposed the Board members to all areas of the organization. One month there may be a focus on probation, one month focus on facilities, focus on food and farm, medical, or whatever the case may be. Over a twelve-month cycle the Board will have the opportunity to learn and ask questions about all operations of the Department of Corrections. In order to accomplish that, Commissioner Owens decided to make his presentations a bit briefer

and then turn it over to subject matter experts within the Department. Commissioner Owens requested if members of the Board have particular areas of interest to be highlighted at Board meetings, to let him know and the experts will attend the meeting to address those issues.

Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog; stating there is no powerpoint slide but will present this verbally to the members. The offender population, those in actual physical custody, is 57,466. That is an increase of 918 from last month. The jail backlog count is 2,450, which is down 853 from last month. The probation population is 156,016, which is up by 3,328 in one month. Commissioner Owens stated he will be talking shortly about what has happened with the probation population, which has exploded.

With a powerpoint slide, Upcoming Events, Commissioner Owens reported that the Quarterly Awards ceremonies are being reinstated. This will be to recognize some central office staff, and will be held on March 17th. The Georgia Probation Association will be holding its Mid-Winter Conference on March 18th. This is a Probation Association expense; no state funds are involved in this event.

Commissioner Owens stated that not too long ago, Commissioner Irvin of Department of Agriculture saw that many horses across state were abandoned and abused. Now, with the help of female inmates at Pulaski State Prison, there is a partnership of local veterinary services of feeding and care of those abused horses. The Department donated a place to house those horses and the female inmates to rehabilitate those horses under the tutelage of a technical college of State of Georgia. The college will issue certificates upon completion of the training; this is a win-win partnership. A ribbon cutting ceremony of the program will be held on March 26th at Pulaski State Prison.

Commissioner Owens stated the April events include a tour of Tift Campus. He reported that the first building will receive a Certificate of Occupancy in April. In June, the Certificates of Occupancy will be received for the dormitories; so those buildings will be coming on line very quickly in the next two-three months. The training operations will commence at the campus in the fall of this year. Commissioner Owens stated there is the anticipation of the full move to Tift Campus of October, 2010.

On April 16th, Mr. Wayne Dasher and Sheriff Cecil Nobles will host the Law Enforcement function in Glennville. Commissioner Owens stated that Board of Pardons and Paroles will also be joining the Board of Corrections there.

Commissioner Owens reported the May Board meeting will be GoToMeeting.

Showing a video of a news report of a recapture, Commissioner Owens explained that back in October there was the escape from Hays State Prison. Commissioner Owens was pleased to announce that Inmate Johnny Mack Brown and Inmate Tweedel have been recaptured. Inmate Brown was recaptured in November, and Inmate Tweedel was recaptured a week ago.

Commissioner Owens pointed out that one gentleman in the video, who escorted Inmate Tweedel, is the son of Mr. Jerry Watson. Mr. Jason Watson has been a fugitive agent for the Department many years. Commissioner Owens also pointed out Mr. Ricky Myrick, another gentleman in the video. Mr. Myrick leads that fugitive task squad. These guys have been on this day and night to get Inmate Tweedel back.

Commissioner Owens stated there is an Execution of Robert Newland scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00 p.m. Inmate Newland was convicted in 1986 of Murder, Aggravated Assault, and Attempted Rape.

Commissioner Owens reported that there is a handout in each Board notebook. This particular handout is from the PEW report. The report takes a look nationwide at correctional trends. Nationally, the number used to be that 1 in 32 adults were under correctional supervision; now, nationally that number has dropped to 1 in 31 adults. Georgia, unfortunately, still leads the nation. The previous report was 1 in 15 adults in Georgia; today, the number is 1 in 13 adult Georgians who are either in prison or jail, or on probation or parole. Commissioner Owens stated that is a staggering number in Georgia. With this particular handout, it reflects that Georgia has the fourth highest incarceration rate in the nation; behind Washington D.C., Louisiana, Mississippi. Georgia has the total number per capita probationers in the United States, which is putting a lot of stress on Department's probation operations. Commissioner Owens stated in the next two to three months, he will give an update on what plans are for probation operations. Commissioner Owens stated it is staggering what has happened to the community correctional population.

Commissioner Owens stated Ms. Becky East, Division Director of Administration Division, will give an update on the budget. Then, Ms. Patricia Smith will give an update on the legislation.

With a powerpoint slide, Ms. Becky East began with stating that she is giving an overview for the Board members to have a good idea of where the Department is on the budget this year. First, with talking about the FY 09 budget, this is the current fiscal year budget which started last July and runs through June 30th. The original appropriation of state funds was \$1.1 billion. The original Amended 09, Governor's original Recommendations, was a reduction of over \$160 million. Ms. East stated the Department's portion of that reduction is \$71 million. She pointed out that is shown further down on the slide that refers to statewide changes, and, those are the pay raise deferral and the state health benefit plan rate adjustments. The Governor's revised Recommendation also remained at \$71 million. What that basically tells is that Governor Perdue held public safety and law enforcement agencies harmless in the next round of budget reductions. Ms. East stated that right now House Bill 118 has passed in the House and is currently with the Senate. The number has changed a little bit; they actually went back in and added back with a net for Department of Corrections to end up with a bit more money. Ms. East stated that brought the reduction down to \$66 million in State Funds.

Ms. East went over the highlights of the statewide changes of pay raise and employer portion of the health care. She stated that the Department took a unique approach to this reduction; put some strategic reductions in place, ones that are long term. The Department approached it as a reduction-in-force or attrition. Ms. East stated that what that means is the Department was able to use the high turnover rate and lose positions through attrition over the fiscal year, instead of actually sending people home. With the closing of facilities, the Department was able to move those positions to surrounding facilities and actually keep people on board. Ms. East stated the Department was pleased to say it was successful in the way it approached the reductions. That reduction is going to come to about \$52.7 million just in Personal Services for this fiscal year alone.

Commissioner Owens added that this approach was to take a strategic approach, a long term approach not to furlough, not to take temporary measures. The Department's approach was for Fiscal Year 2010 to maintain these budget reductions, which will be for a full year. With converting the diversion centers to day reporting centers, there is a savings of about \$500,000 plus a limited need for staff. The Department shut down some old facilities and moved that staff to existing staff that had a lapse factor. The Department re-missioned nine prisons because there were too many Close security prisons and the population needs were for Medium security prisons. Those operations were downsized; converted Close security to Medium in order to run with less people. After the Department did that, it took a look at the staffing levels within institutions, through Mr. George Smith, who looked at the positions in the prisons. In meeting with those wardens, they advocated on what they thought the prisons ought to be staffed at; and then, as a team, modified those needs. Commissioner Owens stated through these processes, putting the small facilities under the big facilities, giving wardens authority to run the big facilities and the small facilities, the Department was able to permanently eliminate 1272 positions into an annual savings to Georgia taxpayers of \$52,700,000. This will be an ongoing savings with reduction in Personal Services by doing these steps. Commissioner Owens stated this is the right thing to do, whether it is a budget reduction or not. It just so happens this was started in 2006, and, all came together this year at a time when necessary to take huge reductions. Commissioner Owens stated this is a permanent reduction to the operation of the Department of Corrections. Chairman Rob Jones commented that with better management and use of the staffing assets in the facilities, the Department has saved \$52 million per year without having to let anybody go; this is great work. Mr. Roger Waldrop questioned if the Department had balanced yet or gone below; wherein, Commissioner Owens responded that the Department has gone slightly below. The attrition rate has dropped considerably; and, typically runs 26% to 27% turnover rate among the correctional staff. The good news is that now through managing that process, the hiring can start back up. Commissioner Owens stated the Department will start hiring at Hays State Prison, Macon State Prison, Georgia State Prison; those being Close and high level security institutions. Commissioner Owens stated that the Department is looking at four furloughs for non-security staff and two furlough days for all staff. He stated that the Department is waiting on the FY 09 Amended budget to be signed; if FY 09 Amended budget is signed, the Department might be able to defer the first furlough day. But Commissioner Owens

stated he wants to see the signed budget first. In response to what a furlough day generate, Commissioner Owens stated it is \$2.5 million a day. In response to how many buildings will be vacant because of going from the smaller to the larger facilities, Commissioner Owens stated that a rough estimate is it will be one major prison and five small facilities. Arrangements will be made with local governments to use those buildings as county camps or county jails. For example, there is a facility in southwest Georgia, a very economically depressed area, that will be leased at a far lower rate to that local government. The only major facility that will be empty will be a state prison, which can be used for something else.

Ms. East continued with her report by stating that other reductions to point out are security overtime reduction; that plays into the method that the Department used with attrition; moving staff into areas and reducing the need for overtime. There were delays relating to construction of fasttrack units that are coming on line this year. Also, with the private partners there is the PPI reduction.

With the next slide, Ms. East referred to FY 10. The General Assembly has now started to address the FY 10 budget, so the Department expects some changes to come about on the budget. The original budget stands at \$1.1 billion, then the original Recommendation from Governor Perdue was to reduce by \$73.9 million. The Governor has since come out with a revised Recommendation, and it is to reduce the Department's budget by \$183 million. The majority of that is a fund source swap. What the Governor's staff is doing is putting almost \$100 million of federal stabilization stimulus dollars in the prison budget. Basically, they will take out the same amount and put in the federal money; it is just a fund source swap. Ms. East stated everything else has remained the same; the Department annualized the number for the facility closures at \$39 million. These are the same reductions taken in FY 09 because the Department is taking a strategic long term approach. Ms. East stated there is not anything new here; it is the same budget as FY 09 and it is that the cuts are annualized now. Ms. East completed her report and responded to several questions. In response to a question of restrictions on the federal dollars, Ms. East explained this is actually public safety related dollars; \$140 million is what Georgia received and that stimulus money was placed in Department of Public Safety, Department of Juvenile Justice, GBI, and Department of Corrections, and, there are no restrictions. In response to a question of what impact will this have for the coming years, Ms. East stated in the future she expected they will replace state funds when the federal stimulus package runs out.

Commissioner Owens added that the key point is the Department continues to open fast tracks. The Department continues to moving forward to open six fast tracks in the next five months. This will be 1,024 beds coming on line. The reason the Department continues to open up fasttracks and shut down old facilities is that the Department can operate a 256-bed fast track facility with about 20 to 25 staff, whereas a standalone 200-bed facility requires 60 to 65 staff. Commissioner stated that is part of the strategic realignment of the Department to save Personal Services.

Ms. Patricia Smith, Executive Assistant to Commissioner, began with stating she wanted to give a brief legislative update on the Department's bills. She stated that so far this year, all six of the Department's bills have been introduced and they have passed through committee. As an update, Ms. Smith began describing each one.

The Probation Options Management bill, Senate Bill 24 is sponsored by Senate Johnny Grant, passed through the Senate on February 10th, has now moved to the House, and has been read the second time by the House Non-Civil Judiciary. Ms. Smith explained the Probation Options Management bill authorizes the Department to impose sanctions for probation violations on offenders without having to take them back to court. Commissioner Owens added that right now if a probationer violates the conditions of the probation, an arrest warrant is done and the probationer is put in local jail. Some counties are quick to get the probationer through the revocation hearings; other counties may languish for weeks. What this legislation allows the Department to do is if a judge sentences under this bill, then if the probationer violates the conditions of the probation, the Department can put the probationer into custody, the Department can sanction the probationer, and the court never sees the probationer because the judge has given permission to do that. The average time of this process is about seven days; from the time of arrest until the time the probationer goes to a state facility or is adjudicated otherwise. Commissioner Owens stated this is a jail savings bill, and, the advantage to the Department is that it can apply swift and certain sanctions and not have to wait months. Commissioner Owens stated this was the authority under Department four years ago but had a sunset provision of last year. This is a bill going back through the General Assembly.

Senate Bill 193, which is sponsored by Senator Johnny Grant, is the Seven Deadly Sins bill. What this bill does is allow some seven deadly sins inmates be eligible for placement in a transitional center or work release program within the last year of their incarceration. This bill has passed in Senate Institutions and Property Committee. Mr. Jim Whitehead added that he thinks the legislators think it is a good bill and the Senate is in favor of it. There are real good people working on this; this gives an option to moving that along. This will help alleviate some expense of some cases where a person is in his last year and gives a way to move him into a transitional center where that person can have a job and pay back expenses to the state; this is a good program. Of course, that person has to have a squeaky clean record while in prison but it is a way of having a cost reduction to Department of Corrections. Mr. Whitehead stated he and Commissioner Owens and Mr. Bob Plemons had met with some Senators, who are in favor of this bill. In response to a question of employment for transitional centers, Commissioner Owens stated in some areas there is not a big drop; still at 85% to 90% employment in the transitional centers. There may be exception in rural areas.

Ms. Smith reported on the Probation Detention Center in that this bill has two parts to it. It is to limit the length of stay in a probation detention center and to allow credit for time served in confinement while awaiting to go into a probation detention center. This bill has been presented to both Senate and the House. It passed out of the Senate Institutions and Property Committee

and the House passed a substitute bill which removed the cap altogether. However, the House did leave the credit for time served component on the bill. This bill has been on the Rules Committee calendar for consideration.

The Imposition of Fees on Day Reporting Centers bill will allow the Department to add a portion of the costs on those participants who are in the day reporting center, and, it will help expand day reporting centers statewide. This particular bill did pass out of the House Institutions and Property Committee on February 25th. Ms. Smith stated that this passed in the Rules Committee this morning.

Ms. Smith reported on House Bill 350, which is the Medicaid bill. This bill will cap the amount that hospitals can charge the Department for emergent care for inmates. This bill is being sponsored by Representative Chuck Martin, and, a committee substitute did pass out of Health and Human Services Committee.

On the Inmate Prescription Co-Pay bill, it will allow the Department to pass a portion of the costs of providing pharmaceutical to non-indigent inmates, who do not suffer from chronic illnesses. This bill is being sponsored by Representative Barbara Massey Reece, and, it passed out of House Institutions and Property Committee. This bill is on the Rules Committee calendar for consideration.

Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr. requested to speak to an issue. In addressing the Board members, Mr. Whitehead stated that he was a politician and may still be. Nobody wants to let somebody go into election time and say 'he is soft on crime.' What politicians have done is have looked folks in the eye and said 'this is not ordinary times and you need to stand up for what is right; you need to support sheriffs and support judges and give them some way of helping with this system.' Mr. Whitehead stated there is the budget crisis, as shown by Ms. East. A lot of legislators are responding and is seen with this issue here. Mr. Whitehead stated we are not asking the legislators to be soft on crime, but asking them that if they are putting a budget on the Department of Corrections with the correctional system, then they should stand up for what is right. The Department of Corrections is not trying to turn anybody out, not trying to do anything with the laws to hurt the citizens of Georgia. At the same time, let the Department show ways to make a difference, ways to save taxpayers money in the State of Georgia; it is a great time to do it because everybody knows what is going on right now on the budget. Mr. Whitehead stated that he has been able to say to some of the Senators to get in there together; let's have guts enough to stand up for what is right. Mr. Whitehead stated it is a big issue with Sheriffs and Judges and this needs to be done. He stated that if the Board member has a Senator or House member and wants Mr. Whitehead to talk to that legislator to please let him know. Mr. Whitehead will tell the legislators where they need to be with their guts in this program. Chairman Rob Jones thanked Mr. Whitehead. It is a real act of political courage for Senator Grant to sponsor this legislation regarding the Seven Deadly Sins. Under current law, folks who committed one of those deadly sins are in for ten years in a hard prison bed. Under the law, as

soon as they finish the ten years, those inmates hit the street and are not traced by a probation officer; they are out under no supervision. The inmate goes immediately from secure facility to the public streets; no way for them to transition. Chairman Jones continued with stating stated this is a recipe for failure. With this Senate Bill 193 that Senator Grant has sponsored, it will allow a way for inmates to begin to get a feel for doing something else rather than being in prison. This program does a tremendous amount to protect the public. Chairman Jones stated it would be easy for any opponent running against someone, who supports this legislation, to say that the legislator is soft on crime and run a campaign on that. It is fortunate that Senator Grant is supporting that, and, Chairman Jones encouraged all Board members to talk to their Senators and Representatives and let them know how important this is.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated he is worried about the sick inmates; that is where money could be saved. For the inmates who are incapacitated, some family members would be glad to take their inmate back home. Mr. Dasher questioned if the Department is doing anything on that issue. Commissioner Owens responded that over the years, the Department has been working with the Board of Pardons and Paroles because they have the authority to grant medical reprieves under certain conditions. In days past, the Department might get one out of ten released; right now, it is at the point where every two who are referred, one is being reprieved. Commissioner Owens stated that about 50% of the referrals are getting a medical reprieve. He stated that he expects this will get even better as moving forward. Last week, the Department met with the Parole Board, which is done once a quarter, to put the issues on the table, talk about them, and come up with solutions.

Mr. Dasher questioned how often is an inmate, with a Life sentence, considered for parole; after being denied after the first consideration. Ms. Diane Avery, Board of Pardons and Paroles, responded that inmates are reviewed either every three years or every seven years. Board Attorney Joe Drolet added that it depends when the inmate went in; it will vary at times when the inmate is eligible for parole; it used to be every three years and now it is every eight years. The review for consideration is tied to the type of crime, how long the inmate has been in, and when the inmate was sentenced. Commissioner Owens requested Ms. Avery provide a write-up for the Corrections Board members.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Rob Jones stated that Mr. Carl Franklin had a visit at Metro State Prison; then requested Mr. Franklin to bring his report.

Mr. Carl Franklin began with explaining Chairman Jones has asked Board members to go out and review prisons. Mr. Franklin stated he visited Metro State Prison, which is in his district. The prison is a female prison and is a Close Maximum security prison. The reason it is Maximum is because there is one female inmate, who is under Death sentence.

The location of Metro State Prison is south DeKalb County and has bed space for 1,055 inmates. However, it is under renovation and has 853 inmates there now. Mr. Franklin stated this is something he has been wanting to do for a long time, in terms of looking at the prison. He complimented Chairman Jones for coming up with this initiative. This enabled Mr. Franklin to see exactly what goes on in depth in a prison. The walk throughs in prisons are great; the briefings from different staff members are great also; but what Mr. Franklin has learned in the day and half that he spent at Metro State Prison is that a prison is a community within itself. Mr. Franklin stated there a lot of entities that go on there that a person cannot get into the depth of it by simply walking through.

Mr. Franklin stated he focused on three areas. One is operations, one is programs that are offered to inmates, and also interviews with inmates. Mr. Franklin shadowed Warden Kathy Seabolt for day and half; starting at 7:00 one morning and finishing about 5:30 that afternoon. Then he returned a few days later and spent a half day with Warden Seabolt. Mr. Franklin sat through Warden Seabolt's briefings, which are very important. These briefings are every day; these are important because they give the Warden an opportunity to find out what has happened during the night.

Mr. Franklin stated there are two areas that he focused on, and, that is intake of the inmates. Intake of the inmates includes the initial orientation, the physicals, the photos for ID's, and uniforms and shoes are issued at that time. He stated that at this point this is the scariest part for an inmate. Not only is it the scariest part, but he considers it the most humiliating part of the process; but of course, it is necessary. Mr. Franklin stated the reason he says humiliating is because that is when the inmate goes through the strip search and that is where they are sprayed down with solution and so forth. Mr. Franklin stated he observed the prisoners come in from the county off the bus. The look is in their eyes; like deer in headlights; they are scared to death. As soon as they get off the bus, the sergeant is barking out orientation orders to the inmates. The other important part of the penal system is the identification section. Mr. Franklin stated he considers that to be the heartbeat of an operation; the center of keeping track of all inmates. Correctional officers know exactly where those inmates are every minute, every second of the day, with a system to do the tracking.

Mr. Franklin stated the other area he focused on was vocational training. There are three programs that the prison is doing a great job; one program being the guide dog training program. Mr. Franklin stated that is the program to train dogs for the blind. It is a three-part program operated by Department of Corrections and the Guide Dog Foundation of New York and Middle Georgia Technical College. The role of the Department of Corrections is to house the dogs, and, the Guide Dog Foundation provides the puppies as well as pay for the food and veterinarian service. Middle Georgia Technical College provides the instructor and training of the inmates. There are twelve students to each class. The period of training is for fourteen months. Most of the inmates want to get into this program; it is in high demand and the requirements are that the inmate must have a high school diploma or GED and must have a good behavior record. The

rewards are great for the inmates in that upon completion, the inmates receive a veterinarian technical certificate along with college credits. Mr. Franklin stated he has learned that in a six-year period inmates, who have gone through this program, have not returned to prison. Mr. Franklin stated the other class is the cosmetology class, and, many of the inmates have gone through this class and taken the Board certification test. Upon release from prison, the inmate is certified and can start work immediately. Mr. Franklin stated another program is the GED program. He talked to the instructor of that program, and, he thinks the instructor is very enthusiastic guy. The instructor stated the completion rate was 80% plus last year, which is the highest in the state in the prison system. In addition to that, the 80% exceeds the percentage of those outside the wire who take the test.

Mr. Franklin stated his last part of the visit involved interviews with inmates. He interviewed twelve inmates. Mr. Franklin asked those inmates about their crimes, about serving time in prison, and talked about what their plans were after release. In going back to what Mr. Whitehead said in terms of inmates being released from prison, when is enough enough. Mr. Franklin stated there are three individuals, who should be considered for parole. To talk about one inmate, she is in prison for Murder and has spent twenty-one years in prison and is 73 years-of-age. If this inmate is released, someone has promised they would give the inmate a job and that she would also receive social security. Mr. Franklin stated the question comes back, when is enough enough. He stated he would personally think that the Board of Pardons and Paroles might want to look at this person and be seriously considered.

Mr. Franklin stated that in summary he learned quite a bit at Metro State Prison. He stated he commends Warden Seabolt and her staff for doing a very good job. He stated he has been connected in government service for twenty-seven years, and, he stated he can say without a doubt that the Department of Corrections has a top-notch operation; not only here but also at Metro State Prison.

Chairman Rob Jones thanked Mr. Franklin for spending time on that visit. Mr. Franklin provided a great written report, and, a copy will be emailed to the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Rob Jones stated there are a number of things to address. The Board will later adjourn as Board of Corrections and re-adjourn as Board of Directors of Georgia Correctional Industries Administration to address some correctional industries issues.

Chairman Jones stated an email will go to all the Board members with the Guidelines about per diem and expense submission. This is the one that the Board came up with in 2005, and, it is a statutory requirement that the Board shall be paid a particular per diem and mileage rate. Chairman Jones encouraged the Board members to look at the policy and submit expenses as

necessary. As discussed previously with Commissioner Owens, it is helpful to have Board members go into facilities and do visits like Mr. Franklin did. Chairman Jones stated it helps the Department and helps as a Board to perform their duties of oversight of the Department. He wants to be sure that all Board members will submit expenses as the statute specifically requires.

The April meeting will be held in Glennville, in conjunction with the Law Enforcement Appreciation Supper. This will be a meeting between Board of Corrections, Board of Public Safety, and Board of Pardons and Paroles. Mr. Ellis Wood is Vice Chairman of the Board of Public Safety and is coordinating the day. Mr. Wood has spoken with Governor Perdue and Governor would like to attend. The meeting will be held on the day of the Law Enforcement Supper on April 16 at a location in Reidsville. Board members are encouraged to drive in that morning, and, will be assisted to get to the location of the joint Board meeting. All details will be provided in the next couple of weeks. Tours of Georgia State Prison or the Farm will be offered for everyone. Chairman Jones encouraged the Board to take the two days of their time to head down there; to try and get there for the opportunity to get to know the fellow Board members. There are several facilities down that way and a Food and Farm operation for Board members to visit. Sheriff Carlton Powell requested that quick tours be done at Georgia State Prison and also the Food and Farm operation; it is so impressive. Commissioner Owens stated it will be set up so Board members can do one or the other or both tours on Friday morning. Chairman Dasher stated there is one cabin that has twelve rooms available; he wanted to know the names of those who would like to stay at the cabin. Chairman Jones stated the April Board meeting will be short, but there will be a number of opportunities to learn the things needed to learn while there.

Mr. Roger Waldrop asked for a moment to comment about Mr. Whitehead's approach with Senators. Mr. Waldrop stated he hopes it works in the House of Representatives as well. This Department is modernizing in tune with the nation. There is a premium in that for the citizens of Georgia. Although it appears that people are being turned loose, the Department is spending money to train them before turning them out. Mr. Waldrop stated that to him that is another point that this Department is showing other departments across the nation it is much more modernistic. Mr. Whitehead added that if any Board member has a Senate member or House member for him to talk to, then call Mr. Whitehead and he will be glad to make the call. Mr. Whitehead stated it has a great ulterior motive down the road and it is a good thing.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion for the Board of Corrections to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr. All members affirmatively voted approval.

Chairman Rob Jones began with stating this is another statutory obligation that the Board has, and, that is to stand as the Board of Directors of Georgia Correctional Industries. Chairman Jones called on Mr. Mark Guzzi.

Mr. Mark Guzzi, Acting General Counsel, began with stating the Board members are being guided as Georgia Correctional Industries Administration this morning to carry out one of the powers that granted to that Administration. That is the power to turn over surplus that GCI generates over to the State Treasury. In order to make that occur, the Board has to vote on whether and how much money to declare a surplus for the transfer to general funds.

Mr. Jerry Watson, Director of Georgia Correctional Industries, explained that Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) is the spokesperson for the Governor. OPB has asked for the surplus of \$5 million. Mr. Watson has the check with him today to turn over to OPB. In response to questions, Mr. Watson responded that leaves about \$7 million for operations. It takes about \$150,000 a month to operate. In response to a question of downsizing, Mr. Watson responded that GCI will continue to operate, try to cut expenses. In response to a question of staffing, Mr. Watson stated they have readjusted with staff; taking some salesmen off the road and put them in open positions in factories. Commissioner Owens added that he supports this. The Department has taken a hard look at the finances; even though it is hard to turn over \$5 million to State Treasury, it is the right thing to do. It does not directly benefit the Department of Corrections. Commissioner Owens stated he recommends that this Board support the dividend go back to the taxpayers of Georgia. Chairman Jones questioned if any money that GCI makes is required to go back to the State Treasury and does not go to the Department? Mr. Guzzi responded that the money that is made by GCI stays with GCI, unless the Board determines that there is a surplus to turn over to the State Treasury. The other part is that no money from GCI comes into the Department of Corrections. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to transfer the \$5 million from Georgia Correctional Industries to the State Treasury, which was seconded by Sheriff Cecil Nobles, and voted approval by the Board members. Chairman Jones stated the Board wishes luck to Mr. Watson for GCI's important mission; the Board fully supports what GCI is doing and appreciates his hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Robert E. Jones, Chairman

James L. Whitehead, Sr., Secretary

Laura Jones, Board Liaison