

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**March 4, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr., Vice Chairman
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. Robert E. Jones
Mr. John Mayes
Chief George Potter
Mr. Tommy Rouse
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Mr. Justin Wiedeman
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bill Acuff
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Mr. Larry Wynn

PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE PHONE:

Sheriff Carlton Powell

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Brian Owens
Assistant Commissioner Derrick Schofield
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Ms. Becky East, Division Director of Administration Division
Mr. Harris Hodges
Mr. Michael Nail, Division Director of Corrections Division
Mr. David Roussel, Office of Investigations and Compliance
Mr. Mark Guzzi, Legal Services
Mr. Adam Baswell, Executive Assistant
Chaplain Danny Horne
Mr. Joe Baden, Statewide Coordinator

VISITORS:

Mr. Brandon Hembree, Massey & Bowers

Mr. David Pratt, GEO Group

Mr. Jim Lee Scott, citizen

Ms. Sanqueonetta Dover, Dover Staffing

Vice-Chairman Jim Whitehead called to order the Board of Corrections meeting of 4th of March, 2010. Vice-Chairman stated the meeting will proceed and called on Chaplain Danny Horne for the invocation. Vice-Chairman Whitehead stated there are more than ten Board members present and Sheriff Carlton Powell is connected by conference call, which will give a quorum for this meeting. Vice-Chairman welcomed visitors and requested they introduce themselves.

Vice-Chairman Whitehead requested if there were any additions or deletions to the Minutes of the February meeting. Hearing none, Vice-Chairman called for a motion for approval, which was given by Mr. Roger Waldrop, seconded by Chief George Potter, and voted approval by the Board.

Vice-Chairman Whitehead requested a motion to accept the March Agenda. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Rob Jones, and voted approval by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Whitehead called on Commissioner Brian Owens to present his report.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Owens began his Commissioner's Report with a powerpoint presentation. The agenda includes Upcoming Events, Jail Backlog, and a Commissioner's Update. Commissioner Owens stated he plans on being brief; will ask Ms. Becky East to do a quick update on the budget; will ask Mr. Michael Nail to give a brief update on House Bill 1030 which is the merger bill; and will ask Mr. Joe Baden to give an overview about Transitional Centers.

With a slide on Upcoming Events, Commissioner Owens reported that on March 17-19 the Probation Association will hold their conference in Helen, Georgia. The next Board meeting in April will be held in Mr. Dasher's hometown. In the upcoming months, it will be a fairly routine schedule.

With the slide showing Jail Backlog, Commissioner Owens stated the count sits at about 2,000, but stated that Mr. Nail indicated this morning it is actually 1,963. Commissioner Owens

reported the Sheriffs' count is 5,011. The total backlog, which includes probationers waiting to get sentenced, is 3,018. The Department is still working hard, even with budget reductions, to try get keep those inmates out of those county jails the best the Department can.

Commissioner Owens stated he wanted to thank several Board members who helped this past month. Commissioner Owens thanked Mr. Wayne Dasher for being at Johnson State Prison for the Change of Responsibility Ceremony. Commissioner stated it is always good to have a Board member present when rotating wardens. Commissioner Owens thanked Mr. Roger Waldrop for attending the Hays State Prison Change of Responsibility Ceremony and speaking there. Commissioner thanked Mr. Justin Wiedeman, who has been working with Ms. East and procurement officers, with looking at the current process and procedures and offering his professional assistance. Commissioner Owens reported that Mr. Larry Wynn hosted Commissioner and Mr. Harris Hodges at Hebron Baptist Church last month. Commissioner Owens stated it is a magnificent place; that church is heavily involved in that community; the sanctuary seats 4,000; there is a baseball field, a basketball court, gymnasium, and classrooms.

Commissioner Owens reported that the numbers are dwindling with a total of 139 staff members on active duty in the military. The 48th Brigade number is coming down. The Brigade is due to rotate back home in pieces throughout the Spring. Commissioner stated the Department is happy to get those colleagues back.

Commissioner Owens called on Ms. Becky East to come up and give an update on the Department's Appropriations and Budget. Ms. Becky East began with reminding the Board members that last month she presented the FY10 and FY11 Governor's recommendations for the Department's budget. Ms. East stated that since that report, the Amended Budget has passed both the House and the Senate. The House came up with a recommendation that reduced the Department's budget by \$37.8 million; a reduction of \$2 million more than Governor's Recommendation. The Senate version of reductions is about \$33.8 million, which restored some back to the Department. Ms. East stated that the Department is waiting on that bill to go to Conference Committee. Right now, the General Assembly is on a two-week recess, while working diligently with the Department these last two weeks on FY 11 budget. Ms. East stated the Department expects the revised revenue estimates to come out soon; the revenue estimates are the big topic right now. It is expected that the February estimates to be out soon. The legislators are talking about possible further reductions in the future. Ms. East stated she and Commissioner Owens have been engaged with the legislative committees from both House and Senate in talking about what further reductions the Department can or cannot do. Upon addressing questions, Commissioner Owens stated that he wanted to look at the big picture; when the General Assembly left last year, they cut the Department's FY 10 budget by \$70 million. With the Amended FY 10 budget there was another \$35 million. The total reduction for the Department in FY 10 is \$105 million. Commissioner Owens stated that when Ms. East states Governor's recommendation is \$1.3 million increase, that just means a decrease in the deficit. Commissioner Owens stated the strategy is to eliminate old and deficient facilities and

replace them with modern infrastructure which costs far less to operate. Between FY 10 and FY 11, the Department will have eliminated 2,130 state positions through attrition, which means sending no one home. The Department does have a plan with additional prison closures, which one prison is scheduled to close this fiscal year. Another one, Montgomery State Prison, is scheduled to close in late summer or mid fall. Mens State Prison is scheduled to close in January, 2011. Commissioner Owens stated there are three probation detention centers closing; the news will be released on this very shortly. The Department's human resources section already has positions for everybody. The Department will offer everybody, who works at either that prison or the probation detention center, a position in an adjacent facility. This has been done with all 1,500 positions so far and will be done with the next jobs. Commissioner Owens stated that for the Sheriffs' benefit, the Department is not losing capacity but replacing the old stuff with new stuff.

Commissioner Owens responded to a question about the private prison contract. He explained that Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) does the procurement for Department of Corrections. DOAS issued a Notice of Intent To Award, for a new 1,000 bed facility, to GEO Group to build in Milledgeville. The Department of Corrections is in discussions with GEO on final details before actually signing a contract.

Sheriff Roger Garrison stated he wanted to mention that he serves on Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit Fund Board. With a lot of these transfers and moves, some of these people are being moved to non-law enforcement positions and losing Peace Officers status. Sheriff Garrison wanted to make Commissioner aware of that. Sheriff Garrison stated the statute is very clearly defined; the person has to do the job description of performing law enforcement functions.

Commissioner Brian Owens called on Mr. Michael Nail, the Department's new Corrections Division Director, to talk about the progress of House Bill 1030, which is the merger of probation and parole.

Mr. Nail explained that House Bill 1030 seeks to transfer parole field supervision to the Department of Corrections. This bill passed unanimously out of the House State Institutions and Property Committee, and is now before the House Rules Committee. Mr. Nail updated the Board members with stating the Steering Group is made up of a collective group of agencies and representatives, who have vested interest in this bill and continue to meet every Tuesday. The seven sub-committees continue to make progress with meeting at least weekly. Every three weeks the sub-committees report out to the Steering Group. Mr. Nail reported that this past week, solid recommendations were given by the Training Committee, the Information Technology Committee, and the Human Resources Committee. Mr. Nail stated he is pleased to report that traction is being made through those committees, while doing parallel planning for this legislation. Mr. Nail stated that, additionally, the Department of Corrections sends out every week a communication to the entire Probation Operations staff member to keep them up to date

on the status of the bill, as well as status of what is taking place in the committees and in the Steering Group. Mr. Nail summarized that the Department tells what they know when they know it, and, staff are kept informed. Also, Commissioner Owens and Assistant Commissioner Schofield take opportunities to appear before staff members within Probation Operations to share what they know.

Commissioner Owens introduced Mr. Joe Baden, the Statewide Coordinator of Day Reporting Center and Transitional Centers. Mr. Baden thanked the Board and Commissioner Owens for allowing time to do the presentation and to discuss the critical mission that transitional centers serve within the Georgia Department of Corrections, and, to the State of Georgia as far as re-entry of offenders as they come back into communities.

Mr. Baden, with a powerpoint presentation, showed a list of reasons why offenders may need Transitional Centers. To put that into perspective, Mr. Baden stated the Georgia Department of Corrections annually releases about 20,000 offenders. 12,000 of those offenders are released on parole; 4,000 max out of prison and following up with probation supervision; and over 3,000 max out with no supervision at all. Mr. Baden explained that Transitional Centers provide re-entry by allowing long term offenders, those with life sentences and those incarcerated for a very long period of time, to transition back into the community. Mr. Baden asked to imagine being segregated from society and removed from family and incarcerated; and then suddenly thrust back into community to be responsible for yourself. For someone who has spent a long time in prison that can be quite an adjustment. Mr. Baden stated that is what a transitional center provides; a setting to gradually allow an offender to become more and more responsible for his/her behavior and become involved and become responsible.

Mr. Baden stated the next important reason is there are offenders in the prison who have no place to go. When offenders becomes incarcerated, oftentimes they have burned bridges with family members and have no residence plan to go back to. Some offenders have been incarcerated for so long that the family members are deceased. Some offenders have literally no place to parole or to release to, if maxing out. The Transitional Center allows that mode of re-entry for that offender to come out of prison and back into society again, to becoming employed and following the rules of becoming self-reliant and responsible. Mr. Baden continued with explaining that another reason the transitional centers are focused upon offenders being released from prison system is that they have a poor record of successful re-entry in the past. Those are where offenders have been released from prison and gotten back into trouble; where offenders have had a history of probation violations. The Department looks at those offenders and indicates those offenders need more structured release back into the community. Mr. Baden stated another important reason is there are a number of offenders who have no real work history. Statistics show that 51% offenders report they have never had an actual taxpaying job, where the offender reported to daily. That is one of the big goals of Transitional Centers; this can be a very important mission. The Department knows that employment is critical to reducing recidivism. Mr. Baden stated that transitional centers have been used most recently for parole violators;

those who have technical violations that need to be addressed but not re-institutionalized back into the prison system but just placed in a situation of more structure to get back on track with employment, sobriety, following the rules of Department of Corrections Transitional Center program, and then back on parole again.

Mr. Baden explained what Transitional Centers focus on. He explained that as he stated earlier, the most important thing the Transitional Center does is have the offender get and hold a job. For some folks they have no real experience in obtaining a job. The Transitional Centers work to get someone geared up and trained to interview for a job and to present themselves for employment and to go out and do the job search and do the interviewing and find a job. An important issue for offenders is keeping a job. Some offenders can get a job but they do not know how to deal with those frustrations of day-to-day activities of working with supervisors; and the difficulty of working with other employees. Mr. Baden stated job retention is an important aspect of the Transitional Centers.

Mr. Baden stated another aspect is residence planning. Offenders come to the Transitional Centers and eventually the offender leaves, so residence planning needs to be underway. There are Family Days held at the Transitional Centers; visitation is encouraged; passes allowed to visit and stay with family members during the day; or, the offender has to find a residence.

Mr. Baden indicated other important points: Reentry Skill Building, Money Management, and getting used to the idea of Supervision outside the correctional system. Just because an offender is released from the Transitional Center does not mean that the offender is not going to have supervision. Most offenders have either probation or parole as follow up. That is emphasized greatly to the offenders because the Department wants to see the success of those offenders to continue through their release.

Mr. Baden stated that one major stumbling block for most offenders is Substance Abuse and Addiction. During the time in Transitional Center, it is a real world test as to whether or not the offender can resist the temptation of being out there in the community, while having access to alcohol and drugs at employment or while on pass. There are offenders who stumble and who fail, but the Department's goal is to work with the offenders and teach them to cope with mechanisms in substance abuse programming, so the offenders can take those skills and use those skills while out on parole or probation.

Mr. Baden stated there is a huge reliance on Faith Based and Volunteer Services that is within the prison system. That bleeds over to the Transitional Centers. There is an abundance of full-time chaplains and volunteers who do a wonderful job at the Transitional Centers.

Mr. Baden, with the next powerpoint slide, stated that as he mentioned earlier, there are 20,000 offenders being released annually. There are 15 Transitional Centers with only 3,000 beds. Not everybody gets an opportunity to participate in the Transitional Center program.

Mr. Baden explained the latest recidivism rate in 2007 for a transitional offender, with a three-year reconviction rate, was 18.2%; for overall state prisoners the rate was about 28.5%. That is a solid 10% reduction in recidivism, or reconviction, rate over a three-year period. Mr. Baden explained that has been consistent for the last ten years; it has been 8% to 10% Transitional Centers consistently showing that improved recidivism rate.

Mr. Baden stated that 92% of Transitional Centers are referred by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. The reason for that is because it is often a pre-condition by the Parole Board. As the Parole Board looks at these offenders' history and files, they look at that person's employment background; that person's success on previous parole or probation; that person's housing or home environment potential upon release. Based upon all those things and their crime, the Parole Board makes a decision that this offender may be best served by graduated, structured release to a Transitional Center. Mr. Baden stated that is why so many are referrals from the Parole Board. The Department of Corrections can also refer offenders to the Transitional Center program.

Mr. Baden further explained that when the offenders become employed, they pay room and board fees. That fee is 30% of the net pay, capped at \$90. When the Department adds that up, the figure for this calendar year is approximately \$5 million. That \$5 million is returned to the State Treasury. That figure does not include taxes collected, social security taxes collected; that is just the straight room and board. Mr. Baden stated that, in addition, the Department collects from offenders the monies owed the Georgia Department of Corrections; whether from indigent postage, medical bills or fees; a number of areas the offender pays back what he/she may owe to the Department.

Mr. Baden stated the average time for an offender in a Transitional Center involves a two-phase program. When the offender comes to the Transitional Center, he/she is there for four weeks. This four weeks is called an orientation phase. The offenders go through a number of programs, they are assessed by the Classification Committee, their work skills are assessed, there are family meetings, and their needs for residential planning are assessed. If successfully complete the criteria in the orientation phase, the Classification Committee promotes the offender to Phase II. Phase II is the employment phase, where the offender seeks and obtains employment. Mr. Baden stated that at that point, the Department determines if that offender needs to save money to obtain a residence, or, does the offender have a family to assist with residency plan. For the offender who will have to be self-reliant, self-dependent, the Department will make sure the offender has a dependable job with an income source that will support him/her while under probation or parole.

Mr. Baden reported that the average cost for a Transitional Center offender is \$36 per day versus \$49 per day for a prison inmate.

Of the fifteen Transitional Centers, there are a total of 3,000 offenders with 481 employees dedicated for this mission. Thirteen Transitional Centers are pretty much stand-alone; two have

direct support from the prison facility. Every Transitional Center is a not stand-alone center in the sense that there is a host or parent facility that supervises that program.

Mr. Baden responded to a question of what centers are dedicated to one industry; wherein, there are two Transitional Centers dedicated to poultry industry. Mr. Baden added that the rest of the Transitional Centers are anything from food service, construction, skilled electricians, licensed plumbers; if it is a legitimate job where taxes are taken out, then it is a viable job for the Transitional Center. In response to a question of taking jobs away from the communities, Mr. Baden stated that he polled all the Transitional Center Superintendents about this question. Every Superintendent was asked that specific question of whether the Department is taking away jobs from the communities, and, not one center stated that was an indication at all for the community. Mr. Baden stated that, in fact, one center said that it is just the opposite; the employers are saying they wish the guys were there longer than the six to eight months. When the offender is released to their home community, it might not be at that transitional center. Not one center reported having any type of negative publicity or negative comments from the public that those offenders are taking wanted or needed jobs from the community. In responding to a question of percentage of offenders go through the Transitional Center, Mr. Baden stated there are 3,000 beds with turnover, there are about 4,800 to 5,000 offenders out of 20,000; less than 25%. In responding to a question of average population across the state in Transitional Centers and could it be increased, Mr. Baden stated at all times the number of offenders is 3,000; this has been significantly increased over the last couple of years in going from 1,500 to 3,000 beds. Mr. Baden stated there are a number of hurdles to increase the beds in that program; as useful as the program it could be to do that, it has to be strategically done. In response to a question of some idea of geographic distribution of the Transitional Centers, Mr. Baden stated they are almost everywhere there is a large city. The geographical areas of Transitional Centers range from Valdosta to north Georgia to Alto to Columbus to Augusta to Macon to Atlanta to Clayton; where there is a metropolitan area and there are employment opportunities, there is a transitional center. In response to a question of the hourly salary for inmates, Mr. Baden stated the Department is strict about the salary; that the offenders are not being taken advantage of because of their status. The Department wants the offender to be able to work, and at the same time be treated fairly and morally.

Mr. Roger Waldrop stated the Department needs to consider a doctrine on community relations as pushing forward, re-training, transitioning, and the recidivism rate. Mr. Waldrop questioned if the Department is operating on a policy or looked at a doctrine. Commissioner Owens stated the Department of Corrections has had Transitional Centers in the State of Georgia since 1970's, and, it is a pretty solid procedure; policy updates are done on an as-need basis. Mr. Waldrop questioned the \$36 per day; he thought it would have been less; is that enough bang for the buck. Commissioner Owens responded yes, with talking about 10% reduction in recidivism. Mr. Baden added that to have a 10% reduction in re-conviction rate with some of the hardest cases, that is outstanding. Commissioner Owens stated one final factor with taking a look at the math and seeing that 92% of the 5,000 that are released through transitional of parole, they put that as a pre-condition of parole; before being released, the offender has to go to a Transitional Center.

Mr. Waldrop stated he wanted to make a favorable comment to Commissioner Owens and staff on Transitional Centers, the attitude of the public in and around the centers is so positive. That is due to the relationship that staff do around the centers; that is good for the Department of Corrections; good public relations. Mr. Baden stated that every Transitional Center is involved with community service projects, not only immediately surrounding the center but within the entire city.

Ms. Rose Williams stated she has gone to several businesses and different vendors that have offered job opportunities for the inmates at Transitional Centers. They would rather have been able to hire an inmate than to hire someone from the community. They said they get better results from inmates who are working for them; the inmates are always on time and it is seldom they lay out sick. It goes back to the training that is given to the inmates before going to the Transitional Center, as well as when they get there, how the staff works with the inmates. Ms. Williams stated she appreciates that fact, as well, because they work hard with the inmates. There are two female Transitional Centers, one located at Metro Transitional Center and the other at Lee Arrendale Transitional Center. Ms. Williams stated there is a lot of work involved at the Transitional Centers, and, she appreciates all that staff are doing.

Vice-Chairman Jim Whitehead, Sr. stated he can, through experience, talk about this in a different light. Even prior to him being on Board of Corrections, he has worked three transitional offenders in his tire business. Mr. Whitehead stated his business does not have easy jobs. All three offenders came to the business with no skills, and, all three offenders learned. Mr. Whitehead stated he would have been glad to have hired them after that, although they wanted to go home. Mr. Whitehead stated he can tell folks the way this works. There is a bus stop right outside the tire store. At 7:30 in the morning, that center member was at the store right at the time he was supposed to go to work. Mr. Whitehead stated the offender would catch the bus right in front of the store and go straight back to the Transitional Center. It is not something where prisoners are out walking the streets. The offenders were paid the regular wages; the process was to send the wages to the Transitional Center; it is a complete control of this program. The three offenders worked very hard; they were so glad to have an opportunity to work outside. It does give the offenders a better quality of life; it does slowly bring them back in to today's society; it does give them the pride of earning a living and can go on from here to complete what they are doing and go back into society. Mr. Whitehead stated that from somebody who has experienced this, it is great. In response to a question, Mr. Whitehead stated offenders worked for a year. Mr. Whitehead stated he would have offered a job for the future, but all three offenders wanted to go back home. Mr. Whitehead stated that all his employees knew that these offenders came from the program, and, stated it did not make any difference to his employees. Every offender handled himself correctly, good, with a personality; that it was a great thing for them also to realize that they could go into a better life by doing this and they were prepared. Mr. Whitehead stated it was a great program for the tire business and is still open to doing that project.

Mr. Joe Baden stated it is a win/win for the offender, for the community, and for the Department of Corrections. All these offenders from a Transitional Center are getting out. The question is will the offender get out with just \$25 and a set of clothes; or, will the offender get out to prove they have some self-control, some independence, self-reliance, and has developed a savings and pay back the community at the same time to do the room and board and paying taxes.

In response to a question of tax credits for the employer, Mr. Baden stated there are tax credits that the employer can obtain and there is a major advantage with the Department of Labor. Commissioner Owens stated he thinks the tax credit is \$2,400. There is also bonding that the Transitional Center can obtain from the Department of Labor for the offenders. Mr. Baden stated this is a win/win for the employer on tax credit and free bonding. Mr. Wayne Dasher added that Congressman John Barrow came down specifically to tour Claxton Poultry and saw some of the offenders working there. There are 1,000 workers there, 100 of which are offenders throughout the plant. Claxton Poultry determined that rather than put the 100 in one area, they are scattered through the plant which works much better.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice-Chairman Jim Whitehead, Sr. stated that for the Chairman's Report, the members as a Board are all concerned and realize that not only the fact that there are budget cuts, but there is only so much that can be cut as far as the prison system is concerned. Mr. Whitehead stated that he is also concerned about the employees. Mr. Whitehead stated he has been taking advantage quite a bit lately in talking to some former colleagues in the House and Senate. Some are getting it; some are realizing that with the next move, if not careful will give the inmates the key and tell them to come and go as they please. Vice-Chairman stated that is not the way need to go. Mr. Whitehead stated there are three sheriffs on the Board, and, the sheriffs are very good spokesmen for what needs to be done with the legislators. Vice-Chairman Whitehead stated there are other people on this Board who are very close to legislators. He stated it is time to dedicate the Board to make efforts, and, to make sure that Senators and House members understand what is going on. Mr. Whitehead stated he understands how critical this situation can get if not careful. He asked Board members to be thinking of ways to talk to the legislators. Mr. Whitehead stated the legislators need to get involved and do the right thing. Vice-Chairman Whitehead requested that the Board be out in front trying to help Commissioner Owens and his staff with the problems that he has. Mr. Whitehead stated it is what the Board members need to be doing.

Commissioner Owens stated he appreciates Vice-Chairman saying that. The Department has been under scrutiny unlike ever before. Commissioner stated Mr. Whitehead's point is well taken. Commissioner Owens stated that when addressing the Appropriations Sub-committee, he was asked what if the revenue continues to decline and is asked to take a bigger reduction of the Department's budget, how would Commissioner and the Department respond. Commissioner stated that he commented that one of three things would have to happen; i.e., either the Parole

Board needs to release a lot more inmates; shut down a prison; or, do a total re-write of the criminal justice code. Or, the unthinkable that the Department pack them in and come under federal intervention.

Vice-Chairman Whitehead stated that through being on this Board, Vice-Chairman has seen there are a lot of people in prison who do not need to be there. To do that, there has to be people who have the intestinal fortitude to stand up and say, 'let's change it so the Parole Board can do some of these things and let's take the handcuffs off the judges.' Vice-Chairman stated it is going to be a long process; it will not happen overnight. Vice-Chairman Whitehead told the Board members they need to go to groups, such as to the Sheriffs Association, and to say 'enough is enough.' The inmates cannot be thrown in the county jails. He stated he has told the former commissioner that he is not interested in talking about what to do to help the prison system until the state pays the Sheriffs more to pay to take care of prisoners. It is costing \$43 a day to house prisoners in the county jails, and the state pays \$22 a day, then that is not a good thing.

Sheriff Roger Garrison stated that he still represents the victims; everybody who is in jail needs to be there. He stated he does not forget the victim.

Mr. Roger Waldrop stated we would all be remiss if we did not put somewhere at the top of the priorities, the correctional officers exposed to the hard core prisons and dormitories; to put a stop at anything where there danger is going to be. Commissioner Owens stated he hears Mr. Waldrop clearly.

Vice-Chairman Whitehead then called on Mr. Harris Hodges to come before the Board members. Vice-Chairman and Commissioner Owens presented a Board Resolution to Mr. Hodges, who is retiring the end of this month. Members of the Board gave their appreciation and accolades to Mr. Hodges.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Jim Whitehead asked if there was any Old or New Business. Mr. Wayne Dasher stated that he had passed around copies of the flyer for the Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Cookout. Mr. Dasher and Sheriff Cecil Nobles will co-host this event on April 15, 2010. Also, the Board meeting will be held at the community center in Glennville; this will be a joint Board meeting with Board of Public Safety. Mr. Dasher stated there are rooms available at the cabin for the Board members. The Department of Corrections will offer tours that afternoon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Larry Wynn, Chairman

Tommy Rouse, Secretary

Laura Jones, Board Liaison