

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
June 3, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Larry Wynn, Chairman
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. Kevin Tanner
Sheriff Carlton Powell
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Robert E. Jones
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy Rouse
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chief George Potter
Mr. Justin Wiedeman

PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE PHONE:

Mr. Bill Acuff
Sheriff Cecil Nobles

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
Mr. Mark Guzzi, Legal Services
Chaplain Danny Horne
Mr. Larry Latimer, Director of Engineering and Construction
Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations
Warden Rick Jacobs, Hays State Prison
Mr. John Lyons, Hays State Prison
Chief Probation Officer Scot Mullis, Oconee Judicial Circuit
Officer George Trexler, Brunswick Probation Office
Mr. Cedric Taylor, Manager of Special Operations
Chief Probation Officer Sharon Cashin
Probation Officer Brittany Young

Probation Officer Ben Racoff
Probation Officer Steven Lewis

VISITORS:

Mr. Al Murray, State Board of Pardons and Paroles
Mr. Terry Barnard, State Board of Pardons and Paroles
Ms. Diane Avery, State Board of Pardons and Paroles
Mr. Lewis Massey, Massey & Bowers
Ms. Sarah Pierson, Georgia Department of Law
Mr. Dave Pratt, Southern Strategy Group
Mr. Clويد Shuler, Vice President of GEO Group
Ms. Sara Totonchi, Southern Center for Human Rights
Ms. Kathryn Hammondah, Southern Center for Human Rights
Mr. Scott McDaniel, Prison Health Services
Ms. Becky Pinney, Prison Health Services
Mr. John Clayton, Piedmont Public Affairs
Mr. Sam Gonzalez
Ms. Sharonda McDonald
Ms. Juanita Parker
Mr. Ed Weir
Ms. Laura Weir
Ms. Suzanne Hobship
Mr. Jim Lee Scott
Mr. Steve Caldwell

Chairman Larry Wynn called to order the Board of Corrections June Board Meeting. Chairman Wynn welcomed everyone and asked Chaplain Danny Horne to bring the invocation. Chairman Wynn began with calling on Commissioner Owens to recognize members of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Commissioner Brian Owens stated there are two new Parole Board members attending the meeting today. Commissioner introduced Mr. Al Murray, former Commissioner who brings three decades worth of experience in juvenile justice and adult corrections from Kansas, Tennessee, and Georgia. The two most notable accomplishments is that Mr. Murray is the Juvenile Justice Commissioner that got the state out from under federal mandates last year after being under federal control for eleven years. Mr. Murray has been named to the Parole Board by Governor Perdue. Mr. Murray will bring great wealth in knowledge to the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. Mr. Murray responded that he is extremely pleased to be on the Parole Board; has enjoyed a wonderful career to date in juvenile justice. Mr. Murray stated he has good

things to contribute to the Board and looks forward to working there and look forward to continued service.

Commissioner Brian Owens introduced Mr. Terry Barnard. Mr. Barnard was Representative Barnard and Chairman Barnard; the committee chair of State Institutions and Property for the last six years. Commissioner Owens stated there has not been a piece of legislation that affects the Department of Corrections that Mr. Barnard's hands have not touched at some point. Mr. Barnard came from the banking industry and had almost sixteen years in General Assembly. Commissioner Owens stated there is nobody more knowledgeable about the Department of Corrections in the General Assembly than Mr. Terry Barnard. Mr. Barnard responded that he looks forward to working together.

Chairman Wynn welcomed all guests and staff this morning; requesting everyone to introduce themselves to the Board.

Chairman Larry Wynn stated there are a special group of people to recognize and honor this morning. The group is our probation officers, who do an excellent job. After calling the probation officers up front, Chairman Wynn thanked each of them for their professionalism, hard work and dedication. The Board Members showed appreciation by reading the Governor's Proclamation to the Probation Officers. Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations, introduced Mr. Ben Racoff, who works in the Marietta Probation Office; Chief Probation Officer Sharon Cashin, the chief at the Lawrenceville Probation Office; Officer Brittany Young from Cobb Judicial Circuit; Mr. Steven Lewis, a Probation Officer III at the Clayton Circuit. Mr. Cooper stated these are four fine staff representing all the fine probation officers and staff of Probation Operations.

Chairman Wynn then called on Ms. Laura Jones for presentation of a plaque from the Board of Corrections. Ms. Jones thanked the Board Members for this recognition.

Chairman Larry Wynn asked for a motion to approve the June Agenda. Mr. Jim Whitehead made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Bruce Hudson, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Larry Wynn requested approval of the May Minutes. Mr. Rob Jones motioned approval of the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Kevin Tanner, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Wynn then called on Commissioner Brian Owens to present his report.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens stated he is bringing a typical agenda, talking about Upcoming Events, a brief on Jail Backlog, and then bringing the Operational Update from three staff members.

With first looking at the Upcoming Events, one major event is the semi-annual Family Day. Commissioner Owens stated that twice a year, family members are invited to come and talk to wardens and senior staff. This is done to keep lines of communication open between the organization and stakeholders of the organization. Commissioner Owens pointed out Pre-Command, which is offered to up-and-coming Wardens and up-and-coming Chiefs. This is a week-training event to teach about leadership and take command of organization. Commissioner stated the Prison Wardens Conference will be held June 13-16.

Commissioner Owens pointed out July 19-22, wherein, the Department is partnering in a major supporting role for the National Law Enforcement Explorers Conference, with several thousand teenagers from all over United States who are interested in career law enforcement. Colonel Bill Hitchens, of Department of Public Safety, is chairing this event in the State of Georgia. The Department of Corrections has been asked to share in support operations for that event, which will be held at Georgia Tech. This will be several days of learning what professional law enforcement is all about; involving state, local, and federal levels; this being a federally sponsored event. The Department of Corrections is looking forward to supporting this effort.

For August, a major event will be the Probation Association Conference on 18-20 at Jekyll Island. The month of September will be a typical month, holding a Board meeting on 2nd.

With the next powerpoint slide, Commissioner Owens stated the current jail backlog sits at 3,100; that is the highest it has been in about year. This is in direct correlation with shutting down some facilities and opening up others. In July, the Department is funded to fully operationalize the 1,500 additional beds at Coffee and Wheeler Correctional facilities. There will be another 1,024 beds to open in the fasttracks. Commissioner Owens stated the Department is looking at over 2,000 beds opening up. Commissioner reported that Bostick State Prison has been closed. Men's State Prison will be closed in January; the Department will pick up that slack by opening four fasttrack buildings, with additional private prison beds.

Commissioner Owens stated an update of Headquarters Relocation will be given by Mr. Larry Latimer. In looking at the countdown 'clock' in the corner of the Board Room, it is at 120 countdown days until the move of all operations to Tift College. The Department is excited about that move. Commissioner stated a report will be given by Mr. Cedric Taylor on an event that had been held and will recognize some folks for their accomplishments in that event. Commissioner Owens stated that Mr. Stan Cooper will come up and talk about an award from National Governor's Association, at an event to talk about sentencing policies. The National Governor's Association is sponsoring that two-day conference, and, Georgia Department of Corrections has been invited to be a part of that conference.

Mr. Larry Latimer, Director of Engineering and Construction, began with reporting that the Department is excited about what is going on in Forsyth. With a powerpoint slide, Mr. Latimer stated it is an overhead aerial view of the project. Mr. Latimer stated he will give an orientation of what is in the aerial and tell about progress. Mr. Latimer pointed to I-75 which parallels the part of the campus that is seen from the interstate. Mr. Latimer continued with pointing to particular areas of the campus; i.e., three dormitories converted to cadet housing; a building used for defensive tactics; the Roberts Auditorium; Rutland Student Center Cafeteria; Hardin Library; all of which were opened and operated now by the Academy. Mr. Latimer invited the Board Members to come down and tour.

Mr. Latimer stated that now, the Department is working on another part of the site, which is headquarters at Tift College Campus. Mr. Latimer pointed to buildings, i.e., Upshaw Hall which is being converted to house the Operations, Planning and Training Division; Ponder Hall being converted for use by our Administration Division; the Admin Hall, which will be renamed, is being converted for use by Executive Offices and Corrections Division; Lies Dorm is being converted for offices for Investigative group and the Engineering group. Mr. Latimer then pointed to a small building called Guest House, which is where central office Training group will be located. Mr. Latimer pointed to the Fine Arts Building which will hold Campus Operations and Fire Services group.

Mr. Latimer continued with reporting about the construction. In pointing to the Upshaw Hall, it is sheet rocked up through fifth floor; prime painting is being done on the first and second floors right now; getting into the finishing stages on that building. Upshaw Hall is being done by Gilbane Construction. Inmate construction is doing the Admin Hall. Gilbane Construction and Inmate Construction are in a little bit of friendly competition to try and stay ahead of each other. Mr. Latimer stated that Ponder Hall is a bigger challenge as far as structural, because it is the oldest building and has the more structural difficulties. Construction is just now getting into framing in that building. Mechanical systems are going into that building, and, crews just finished putting on a new roof and new structure over the end of the building where the old structure had rotted away. Mr. Latimer stated that Lies Dorm is in the sheet rock stage and mechanical system will be put in. He stated that the Guest House is in the finishing stages; ready to prime paint in that building. The Department expects to bring the Guest House on in August and move in that portion of headquarters early; that will be initial occupancy at Tift. Shortly after that, the Fine Arts Building will be the next building completed and will be moving Fire Services and Campus Operations in. Then, in October there will be a lot of moving activity. The Department expects Admin Building to be ready; then the Lies Building, then Upshaw Building; and finally, the Ponder Hall. Mr. Latimer stated that all while that is happening, the Department will be working on major renovation of the sites for new parking.

Mr. Latimer stated it is an exciting project and would enjoy giving a tour to the Board members at any time.

Mr. Latimer responded to a question of whether there was any historical contact from local people to be concerned with. Mr. Latimer responded that the Department has had early contact with the state's Office of Historical Preservation, before beginning the project. They have been involved with this every step of the way. Mr. Latimer stated the older buildings, Ponder, Upshaw, Banks Stephens Hall are on the Historical Register. The old circle is on the Historical Register. The Department has been working very closely to preserve the history. As an example, on the back of Roberts Auditorium is a beautiful Grecian colonnade that looks out over part of the campus. Years ago the campus bricked that up. During demolition it was discovered that the columns were still inside. Construction crews took all the bricks down and restored that colonnade back to its original grandeur on that building. The Department wishes to preserve the historic campus.

Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations, began with reporting that the Department of Corrections had the distinct opportunity of being invited to bid to meet with the National Governor's Association on Best Practices. The PEW Center On The States will be hosting a forum this month and all the states had to apply to get the opportunity. The forum is about sitting down with four other states which are currently working on sentence reform and corrections policies. This will give a state the opportunity to work and pick the brains of folks who are already deeply engaged in this forum; the opportunity to participate in policy reform discussions, talk about current research and types of practices that are going on nationally for the team to bring back to Georgia. Mr. Cooper stated another thing to look at is IT issues currently going on that makes our business more efficient and effective. Mr. Cooper stated that when talking about the application process, a team was put together to work on the application with the Governor's office. As a result, Georgia was notified yesterday that it was selected as one of the five states to participate in the forum. Georgia's team will be represented by Ms. Misty Giles, who is Governor's Policy Advisor; Mr. Kenley Finlayson, with Office of Planning and Budget; Mr. Michael Nail, Division Director of Corrections Division, along with Mr. Cooper; also, Senator Johnny Grant and Representative Jay Neal. The judicial representatives will be Judge Arch McGarity and Judge Walter Matthews, who have been engaged in sentencing reform. Mr. Cooper stated this will be an exciting opportunity; the team will be able to look at what is happening nationally and come back with recommendations.

Mr. Cedric Taylor, Manager of Special Operations, began with reporting that, under the guidance of Commissioner Owens, it was decided to hold the First Annual Commissioner's Challenge. It was established that this will be ongoing, this will create teamwork and will raise the physical fitness standards across the board. The Challenge created a situation that young people who come into the Department, not just as officers in the prisons but also in probation and those areas, will want to be on a team like this. Commissioner Owens and the Special Operations put together a Commissioner's Challenge. The first preliminary, made up of all the tactical squads, all CERT probation teams, and one team made up of top ten individuals out of the 16 canine

units, began the challenge. From those teams, it came down to top twelve teams at the finale which was held at the new firing range at Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison.

Mr. Taylor explained that at the preliminary, the teams took the physical fitness test, took the policy and procedure test, and also did the firing range. Mr. Taylor stated that everything was done to capture things that officers have to do every day in the line-of-duty; it was all work related. From that came the top twelve teams at the finale. The finale included an obstacle course in a portion of the firing range where the officer had to come back and finish and shoot; then a leadership reaction course with a scenario to see how the officers would fare once faced with a situation and how they would work together as a team; and then finished up with a tug-of-war. From that, the team that won was a number two team from Hays State Prison. The prison had two tactical squads there, and, the prison's number two team was the one that won the overall Commissioner's Challenge. Mr. Taylor stated that another point to that is that Mr. Lyons, who led that number two team, is not the commander of that squad. The Commander of that squad was on military leave at the time, so Mr. Lyons stepped up and did an outstanding job to lead the number two team. Mr. Taylor then showed a video of portions of the Commissioner's Challenge. Mr. Taylor stated that from this event the morale is higher than it has ever been in the Department of Corrections.

Commissioner Owens asked Warden Rick Jacobs, Hays State Prison, and Mr. Stan Cooper, Probation Operations, to bring their representatives forward. Commissioner stated after all the regional competitions and then the one-day competition, it came down to a tie. The tie was between Probation CERT out of Southeast Probation office, and Hays Gold Tactical Squad. There had to be a tug-of-war to decide who would take the first trophy. Commissioner Owens explained that Mr. Cooper was in the front of the line pulling for probation team, and, Mr. Tim Ward was in the front of the line for the facility operations; it could be seen who won and who got dragged in the mud hole. Commissioner Owens stated it is a great team building event; this Challenge will be annualized to give teams a little friendly competition. Commissioner Owens stated that when the economy is down, nobody is getting pay raises. He thinks it is important to work hard and play hard every once in a while and to get some training for this event. Commissioner congratulated the guys for the great job they did and thanked Mr. Cedric Taylor for managing Special Operations.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Larry Wynn stated that at the beginning of the meeting he had failed to acknowledge two Board members, Mr. Bill Acuff and Sheriff Cecil Nobles, who joined the Board meeting today through conference phone.

Chairman Wynn called on Mr. Larry Latimer to present two property Resolutions. Mr. Latimer came forward and stated the two Resolutions are for land transactions.

Mr. Latimer explained the first Resolution is an easement requested by Butts County. With a photo on a foam board, Mr. Latimer pointed to a half acre on property located on Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison. He pointed to an area marked in red, which is property of Georgia Diagnostic prison; a triangle across the road and on the face of the road is a 20-foot wide easement that Butts County is requesting in order to add a new water line. Mr. Latimer stated he is requesting, by resolution, to approve the easement.

Mr. Latimer explained the second Resolution is that the Department is requesting permission to dispose of property the Department is not using. With a photo on a foam board, Mr. Latimer pointed to the old Larmore Probation Detention Center, which was transferred to the Department of Juvenile Justice. That property no longer belongs to the Department of Corrections. At the time of that transfer, Fulton County deeded 37.985 acres behind that Center to the Department of Corrections. Originally, Department of Corrections was going to build a Fulton County Probation Detention Center on those acres, but received opposition from local community. Therefore, about four years ago, those plans were abandoned and the property has been vacant since then. Mr. Latimer explained that the deed, with Fulton County, states that if the Department of Corrections does not use the property for that specific purpose, then the Department is required to surplus. Mr. Latimer requested permission to surplus those acres, and Fulton County will regain ownership of property once it is surplus.

Chairman Wynn called for a motion to approve the request from Butts County, which was given by Mr. Roger Waldrop. Sheriff Roger Garrison seconded said motion and the Board members voted approval.

Chairman Wynn called for a motion to approve the request to surplus the south Fulton County property, which was given by Mr. Kevin Tanner. Sheriff Carlton Powell seconded said motion and the Board members voted approval.

Chairman Larry Wynn called on Mr. Rob Jones for a report from Operations Committee. Mr. Jones stated the Operations Committee met this morning. There is a proposed Rule change to recommend for posting for consideration and for vote at the August Board meeting. Mr. Jones stated that Rule 125-4-3-.04 is that the Department's practice is that three days a week, Friday and Saturday and Sunday, in addition to legal state holidays, the warden at each facility can make a decision to feed two meals per day versus three meals per day. Mr. Jones explained that as a cost saving measure, the inmates receive the same caloric foods every day, same amount of food. The reason for the change is because the Department shifted to a four-day ten-hour schedule for most facility staff for the past couple of years. However, the Rule needs to be amended to include the Friday, Saturday, Sunday portion of that. Mr. Jones stated the Operations Committee is recommending to post the Rule change allowing the wardens to serve two meals a day on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Mr. Rob Jones brought an issue to the Board. He stated that that the Prison Wardens Association does great work for the state. One thing the Association does is have scholarships available annually. These are college scholarships used by employees of the Department, spouses, or their children. Mr. Jones stated it would be a great gesture from the Board of Corrections to have the Board contribute \$1,000 of personal funds pulled together. The Board could have a scholarship offered to employees of the Department, or their spouses, or their children on an annual basis. Mr. Jones requested the Board agree to create a Board scholarship and contribute \$1,000 per year to that effect. This could be administered and awarded by a committee under the Prison Wardens Association. Mr. Jones made the motion that the Board of Corrections create and adopt an annual scholarship that would be raised by the Board members from their own personal funds; which was seconded by Mr. Roger Waldrop. Discussion followed; with suggestion of amount of contribution per Board member; suggestion that Mr. Jones and Ms. Williams be contacts; suggestion of the date of beginning this scholarship. The Board members then voted approval of the motion.

Chairman Larry Wynn reported that last year the Board did not meet in July; many Board members were out of town because of the 4th of July. The first Thursday of July is on the 1st. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion that the Board members go to the emergency situation, that the Board of Corrections does not meet unless there is an emergency and the meeting could be done by phone. Ms. Rose Williams seconded said motion and the Board voted approval of the motion.

Chairman Wynn stated the next meeting will be held on August 5, 2010. It had been suggested that the meeting be done by GoToMeeting for that date. The concensus was that the meeting be held via computer, unless there is a pressing matter for the Board members to come to Atlanta.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Larry Wynn, Chairman

Tommy Rouse, Secretary

Laura Jones, Board Liaison