

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**August 5, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Larry Wynn, Chairman
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. Kevin Tanner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chief George Potter
Mr. Carl Franklin
Dr. Henrie Treadwell

PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE PHONE/'GOTOMEETING':

Mr. Bill Acuff
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Sheriff Carlton Powell
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy Rouse
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Mr. Justin Wiedeman
Ms. Rose Williams

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Brian Owens
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Mr. Rob Jones, General Counsel
Chaplain Danny Horne
Ms. Becky East, Administration Division
Mr. Larry Latimer, Director of Engineering and Construction
Mr. Lewis Hauck, Office of Investigations and Compliance
Mr. Tim Williams, Operations Planning and Training Division

VISITORS:

Mr. Jim Lee Scott
Mr. Bruce Bowers, Massey & Bowers
Mr. Dave Pratt, Southern Strategy Group
Ms. Kathryn Hammondah, Southern Center for Human Rights

Mr. John Clayton, Piedmont Public Affairs

Mr. Alan Hayes, Piedmont Public Affairs

Chairman Larry Wynn called to order the August Board Meeting. Chairman Wynn began with holding a Roll Call to acknowledge those connected by telephone. He welcomed everyone and asked Chaplain Danny Horne to bring the invocation. Chairman Wynn welcomed all guests and staff this morning; requesting everyone to introduce themselves to the Board.

Chairman Wynn announced there is a new Board member, Dr. Henri Treadwell, who will attend the next Board meeting.

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

Chairman Larry Wynn requested approval of the June Minutes. Mr. Kevin Tanner motioned approval of the Minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, 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 that before he began the formal report, he brought a couple of personnel announcements. Commissioner Owens stated that Mr. Michael Nail has left the Department of Corrections and is now the Executive Director of State Board of Pardons and Paroles. Mr. Nail is responsible for the day-to-day operations of not only the clemency part of the Board, but also the field operations part of the Board. Commissioner Owens stated that for the last three days, there has been a joint Chiefs meeting of Parole Chiefs and Probation Chiefs. This afternoon there will be a report from this joint meeting.

Commissioner Owens stated that Mr. Rob Jones has accepted the offer to be General Counsel for the Department of Corrections. The Department is very happy to have somebody with Rob's legal background and Board of Corrections background. Mr. Jones is a great addition to the team.

Commissioner Owens began his report, saying this is the familiar format with the Upcoming Events, Jail Backlog, and Operational Update.

With looking at Upcoming Events, Commissioner Owens stated that standing out among the events is the Probation Association Conference on August 19th and 20th of this month at Jekyll Island. In September, the Department begins the planning for FY 11 Amended and FY 12 budget; however, this has already started. Commissioner Owens explained that Ms. Becky East will give an update today. Commissioner Owens pointed out October, where the highlight is the transition to Tift College. Commissioner stated that Mr. Larry Latimer is in charge of that project, which is coming in on time and on budget.

With the Jail Backlog slide, Commissioner Owens stated the total backlog is 3,933. The number of 3,100 is the backlog, with 800 in probation backlog. The Sheriffs' count is 6,000. Commissioner Owens stated this is about as high as the Department has been for a while. The good news is that Mr. Latimer is also in charge of fasttrack construction, which will give the Department another 1,024 beds. Commissioner Owens stated that also the Department awarded the expansion to Coffee and Wheeler prisons, the CCA partners, for provisional beds. There are about 400 beds to fill. The Department is looking to bring on line somewhere around 1,300 – 1,400 beds in the next three to twelve months to help alleviate that backlog problem.

With the next slide, Commissioner Owens stated the update on private prisons is as reported; the General Assembly appropriated funds to expand the beds at Coffee and Wheeler private prisons and the Department is in the process of loading those beds. Commissioner stated that the Department has signed a contract with GEO to build a private prison in Milledgeville. This will be a 1,500 bed private prison and will take approximately eighteen months to bring that prison on line, which will help give more capacity. The Department continues to talk with Correctional Corporations of America (CCA) for a facility in Jenkins County.

Commissioner Owens stated it is 57 days until the official relocation begins on October 1st. At some point, hopefully in November or December, a Board meeting can be held at Forsyth. The Department will show off the great work the inmates, along with the contractors have done on that campus.

Commissioner Owens stated he wanted to report on one thing that occurred; it is important for Board members to know. Commissioner stated that a week ago, a 17-year old and a 19-year old were shot up at Gordon County, and, a woman was kidnapped. The Sheriff's department asked for assistance from K-9 handlers to find the perpetrator who kidnapped the woman. The Police Department and Sheriff's Department found the woman, who had been killed and left on railroad tracks. Later, what happened was that the Sheriff's Deputy and K-9 handler had tracked the suspect down. The K-9 handler told the suspect, who was hiding behind a log, to show his hands. The suspect came up, but with a gun. The K-9 handler and the Deputy Sheriff unloaded on the suspect, who is now in critical condition in a hospital. Commissioner Owens stated he tells this to remind everybody that our business is a life-and-death business; not only in probation operations but in prison operations. The Department works real hard to make sure folks are trained to do exactly what they are trained to do. In this case, Mr. Heath Whitehead, the K-9

handler from Hays State Prison, performed his duties in an exemplary manner. The outcome of that situation was as good as was expected.

Commissioner Owens called on Ms. Becky East, Division Director of Administration Division, to give an update on what the plans are and what the directives are for the FY 11 budget and on the FY 12 to Governor's office.

Ms. Becky East explained the Department recently received the budget instructions for FY 11 and FY 12. With a powerpoint slide, Ms. East stated that for FY 11, the Department has been instructed to submit a plan by September 1st to plans for a 4%, 6%, and 8% reductions. As the Office of Planning and Budget did last year, they have implemented a cash allotment reduction at 4%, which means they went ahead and instituted a 4% reduction for FY 11 Amended. The FY 12 instructions call for the Department to submit three plans, for a 6%, 8%, and 10% reductions. Ms. East stated the Department is working on plans right now and must submit those by September 1.

With a second powerpoint slide, Ms. East stated this is a reminder of FY 10 and the funds started up, the total funds and state funds, and then the amount of net reduction. Ms. East stated to not be fooled by that net reduction amount; the Department actually took reduction in a larger amount and it is offset by the Department received some fasttrack enhancement money, some workers compensation money, and some other funding. Ms. East stated that the reductions are twice the amount shown on the slide. When looking at FY 11 with the reduction of \$14 million, the thing to remember is that the Department receiving ARRA funds in the amount of \$97 million. In FY 11, the Department received the backfill of \$12 million of state funds to reduce the ARRA funds to \$85 million. Ms. East stated the figure that the Board members see is the net reduction is reduced by the ARRA backfill and the private prison expansion beds coming on line. Commissioner Owens added that what is important for everybody on the Board to know is that this year's funding cycle, which began July 1 and will end June 30, 2011, is essentially propped up by \$85 million in federal funds. On July 1, 2011 that \$85 million goes away. The Department starts this fiscal year having to plan for an \$85 million deficit, in addition to the 4% reduction being required to take. Commissioner Owens stated this is going to be an enormously challenging year, and, he will do his best to keep the Board members informed throughout the planning process.

Chairman Larry Wynn commented that he knows already, with the current budget, that the Department is pretty well bare bones. This is going to be extremely challenging to take the next cuts. Commissioner Owens responded that he doesn't think the Department can do this alone. Chairman Wynn offered if there is any way that the Board members can help the Department to please let them know.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Larry Wynn stated there are a couple of things to cover. First, there is a rule approval to bring to the attention of the Board members. Chairman Wynn read Rule 125-4-3-.04, which is being amended regarding meals. Chairman Wynn asked for a motion, which was given by Mr. Jim Whitehead, seconded by Mr. Kevin Tanner and voted approval by the Board members.

Chairman Wynn called on Mr. Larry Latimer to present a Board Resolution. Mr. Latimer stated there is a Board Resolution to request an executive order of the Governor to demolish the old L & M buildings at Georgia State Prison. Mr. Latimer explained that the old L & M buildings were built in early '60's, using a very old design construction. Its use came under some heavy scrutiny back when Judge Alaimo had court ruling over the prison; the third range of the building was abandoned because of intolerable heat conditions. The buildings had always been a difficult facility to manage from a security and safety standpoint; went through several iterations of trying to make renovations to improve, none of which made great impact on those concerns. In 2007, when the Georgia State Prison was remissioned, those two buildings were closed down. Mr. Latimer further explained that since that time, the Department salvaged equipment out of the building for use elsewhere in the state. The Department has priced a contractor to come in and to demolish the buildings. Even though the Department put in a couple of bond requests, but were not supported, the Department has not had opportunity to demolish the buildings. Last year, a contractor came to the Department because the change in marketplace for salvage made it much more attractive and the contractor gave a remarkable offer to bring those buildings down. The Department took a look at the situation as a whole; looking at the buildings as a security concern because it is difficult to monitor, in addition to standing in the way of future plans for that space on the compound. Mr. Latimer showed two exhibits, which are photos of Georgia State Prison and location of the two buildings. Those two buildings are in the center of the compound, which is ideal for new inmate housing units. Mr. Latimer stated the Department is coming to the Board to ask for approval of a resolution to demolish the old L & M buildings abandoned since 2007 and make room for future development. Chairman Wynn requested a motion to approve, which was given by Mr. Bruce Hudson and seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. Chairman Wynn asked for any discussion. Sheriff Carlton Powell asked if there is any historic value, wherein Commissioner Owens responded there is not. Mr. Wayne Dasher asked how long it will be before starting on the new building, wherein Commissioner Owens responded it will be a couple of years for a funding request at next year's General Assembly session. There being no further questions, the Board members voted approval of the motion. Chairman Wynn did a roll call to request approval to place the Board members' signatures on the resolution.

Chairman Wynn stated the last item of business is Committee Assignments. He stated that several Board members responded with committees to serve. Chairman Wynn stated that if a Board member has not put in a request, to please do so and send to Ms. Jones. There are vacancies and could use some Board members who are willing to serve in one of these vacant areas. Chairman Wynn stated if do not hear from the Board members to cover those vacancies, he will then contact the members for those assignments. Chairman stated that some members

have a passion to serve in different areas and would like to give the members an opportunity to do that.

Chairman Wynn asked if there is any Old or New Business. It was stated that the next Board meeting will be held in Atlanta on September 2nd.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Larry Wynn, Chairman

Tommy Rouse, Secretary

Laura Jones, Board Liaison