

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**May 2, 2013
Rome, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Mayes, Chairman
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Tommy M. Rouse
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bill Acuff

CONFERENCE CALL:

Sheriff Roger Garrison

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Brian Owens, Commissioner
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Gary Bell, Probation Operations
Mr. Jeff Chandler, Warden Floyd County
Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations
Ms. Becky East, Administration Division Director
Mr. Rachad Hollis, Office of Public Affairs
Mr. Robert E. Jones, General Counsel
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison
Mr. Mike Kraft, Probation Operations
Mr. John Laurence, Investigations Unit
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Investigations Unit
Ms. Jessica Sloan, Floyd County
Mr. Randy Tillman, Director of Facilities Operations
Mr. Mike Weaver, Chaplain
Ms. Bethany Whetzel, Office of Legal Services

VISITORS:

Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Mr. Chuck Hufstetler, State Senator District 52
Ms. Joy Lukachick, Times Free Press
Mr. Noah Simon, Floyd County
Mr. Jeremy Stewart, Rome News-Tribune
Ms. Kathryn Hamoudah, Southern Center for Human Rights

Chairman John Mayes called the May meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 11:31 a.m. and Board Liaison Simone Juhmi-Green recorded the minutes. Chairman Mayes asked Chaplain Mike Weaver to give the invocation.

Chairman Mayes led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed all visitors. Chairman Mayes welcomed and introduced new Board Member Mr. Duke Blackburn. Mr. Blackburn resides in Coweta County and is currently assigned to the Third Congressional District.

Chairman Mayes confirmed Sheriff Roger Garrison was connected via conference call, and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business. Chairman Mayes asked Assistant County Manager, Mr. Noah Simon to say a few words. Mr. Simon welcomed all members to Floyd County. In addition, Chairman Mayes asked State Senator Chuck Hufstetler to say a few words and welcome all guests to Rome as well.

Chairman John Mayes announced that today's meeting will be short. Yesterday, the Board members held a Work Session at 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., which was positive; discussion was held on Effective Boards.

Chairman Mayes presented to the Board the May Agenda for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, and was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Mayes presented to the Board the April Minutes for approval. Mr. Jerry Willis and Mr. Carl Franklin made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Bruce Hudson, and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mayes began his report by expressing that the Board would approve all business transactions first, then proceed to the general topics of the Board meeting.

Chairman Mayes requested approval of a resolution to honor and celebrate the retirement of Mr. Bob Plemons, Assistant Director of Engineering and Construction Services for his distinguished service to the Georgia Department of Corrections. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Tommy Rouse and voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Mayes asked Ms. Becky East to present a bond resolution with five bond issues inside one bond package. The first bond is a five year, two million dollar bond for repairs and sustainment statewide. The second bond is a five year 1.5 million dollar bond for facility repairs and to purchase equipment statewide. The third bond is a twenty year, 6.9 million dollar bond for facility renovations, security, upgrades and improvements statewide. The fourth bond is a 15 year, 4.5 million dollar bond for energy performance contracting. The fifth bond is a 5 year, 3.5 million dollar bond for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Department.

The Board voted on all five bond issues with one vote. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, and the bond resolution was voted approved by the Board.

Next, Mr. Robert E. Jones presented four property resolutions. The first resolution is the Bostick State Prison Property Surplus Request. The Georgia Department of Corrections has ceased operations on the property, has no intent to use the property in the future, and is willing to surplus and relinquish custody of the property to the State Properties Commission for appropriate disposition.

The second resolution is the Coastal State Prison Property Transfer and Revocable License Agreement. The Georgia Department of Transportation has requested to widen County Road 9 - Gulfstream Road at Robert B. Miller Road. This property includes a parcel that is located on the Georgia Department of Corrections' Coastal State Prison property.

The third resolution is the Georgia State Prison - Stanley Farms Property Exchange Request. This transfer involves approximately 220 acres of the Department's land in Reidsville in exchange for Stanley Farm's offer of \$276,000.00 and an additional parcel of land which is more useable for cultivation by the Department.

The last resolution involves conveyance of what was known as the Pelham Pre Release Center (PRC). This property is no longer utilized by the Department and we are simply asking for the Board's permission to advise the State Properties Commission that the Department has no further need of this property and we agree with the conveyance of this property.

The Board voted on all four property resolutions with one vote. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis, and the property resolutions were voted approved by the Board.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens began his report by thanking Chairman Mayes and Warden Chandler for their hospitality for assisting with the Board convening in Rome. Commissioner Owens stated that Mr. Stan Cooper will be retiring from the Department and he asked Mr. Cooper to announce who was chosen as his replacement. Mr. Cooper announced that Mr. Michael Kraft would assume the position as Director of Probation Operations. Mr. Cooper gave a brief overview of Mr. Kraft's career. Mr. Kraft addressed the Board and thanked the Board, the Commissioner and the Department for the opportunity.

Commissioner Owens stated that we did not have a projector and that the European Prison Project presentation will be presented next month. Commissioner Owens discussed the Upcoming Events for May, June and July 2013. Significantly mentioned were Mr. Bob Plemons Retirement Reception, GDC's Family Day, Mr. Stan Cooper's Retirement, the Georgia Prison Wardens Association Conference and the GDC Annual Awards Ceremony.

Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 895. The Probation Awaiting count is at 513; the total count is 1408 state inmates in the jail system across the state. Commissioner Owens stated that the Sheriff's count is at 3,003; both counts are correct. Commissioner Owens added that the Criminal Justice Reform Legislation and other factors have contributed to our prison population being steady which is good. Commissioner Owens added that he would not be surprised if the prison population goes down in the next five years due to Criminal Justice Reform.

Commissioner Owens asked Mr. Gregory Dozier to brief the Board regarding the swapping of mission for the Probation Detention Center. Mr. Dozier stated that as part of reducing the jail back log, we have changed the mission of the Whitworth facility from a male facility to a female facility. Changing the mission allowed us to take the female backlog which was about 400 to about 7. We are also planning to change a male PDC to a female PDC in the near future. We have reduced the backlog which we pay the local counties for, down to a very manageable level. But, we still have a backlog of about 200 to 300 PDC beds. The Department does not reimburse the County facility for those beds. We have about 300 empty beds in the male PDC so if we move all the ones in one PDC into those empty beds it will free up a facility for the near 300 females that are in that backlog in the local jails that we are not paying for.

To conclude Commissioner Owens' report he thanked State Senator Chuck Hufstetler for all his work in assisting with the Governor's Budget Recommendations. This concluded Commissioner Owens' report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT CONT'

Chairman Mayes then reminded the Board that the next meeting would be June 6th in Forsyth. In addition, Chairman Mayes asked if the Board would like to cancel the July and August meetings. After some discussion, the Board members agreed to cancel the July and August meetings unless there is official business that must be voted on. Chairman Mayes asked for a motion. Mr. Carl Franklin made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, and the canceling of the July and August Board meetings was voted approved by the Board.

To conclude, Chairman Mayes circulated a get well card for Chief George Potter and asked that all members see Board Liaison Simone Juhmi-Green to update their contact information.

Commissioner Owens stated that he received phones call from several Board members regarding their status on the Board. Commissioner Owens stated Mr. Ashley Paulk will be resigning due to his business and his business requirements in South Georgia. In addition, Chief George Potter has been ill and also wishes to resign from the Board. Furthermore, Mr. Roger Waldrop notified the Governor's Office that he withdraws his request to be reappointed to the Board. So, those three colleagues will no longer be serving on the Board of Corrections.

To conclude the meeting, Chairman Mayes thanked Mr. Wayne Dasher for his hospitality last month in April at the Joint Board meeting in Glennville. Then Mr. Dasher and Commissioner Owens gave a brief overview of the events in April such as the Military Job Fair and the 26th

Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Cookout. Both Commissioner Owens and Mr. Dasher thanked the Members of the Board for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

John Mayes, Chairman

Carl L. Franklin, Secretary

Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison