

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

September 5, 2013

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Mayes, Chairman
Mr. Bill Acuff
Mr. Lee Anderson
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. J. M. "Bob" Plemons
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Rocio D. Woody

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Jerry Willis

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Rebecca Dobras, Attorney General's Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Brian Owens, Commissioner
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Gary Bell, Operations Manager, Facility Operations
Ms. Becky East, Administration Division Director
Mr. Danny Horne, Chaplain
Mr. Rick Jacobs, Facility Deputy Director
Mr. Robert E. Jones, General Counsel
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison
Mr. Mike Kraft, Director of Probation Operations
Mr. John Laurence, Investigations Unit
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant
Mr. Jay Sanders, Special Assistant, Probation Operations
Mr. Randy Tillman, Director of Facilities Operations

VISITORS:

Ms. Kathryn Hamoudah, Southern Center for Human Rights
Sheriff James Woodruff, Troup County
Mr. Johnny McCurry, Retired DOC Employee

Chairman John Mayes called the September meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi-Green, recorded the minutes. Chairman Mayes asked Chaplain Danny Horne to give the invocation. Chairman Mayes led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed new board members: Lee Anderson, J.M. "Bob" Plemons, and Alton Russell. In addition, Chairman Mayes welcomed all visitors.

Chairman Mayes confirmed Mr. Jerry Willis was connected via conference call and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

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

Chairman Mayes presented the June Minutes to the Board for approval. Ms. Rose Williams made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Bruce Hudson, and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens began his report by discussing the Upcoming Events for September, October and November 2013. Significantly mentioned were the Firearms Simulator Purchase/Partnership Event in Forsyth, the CERT Finals, and the Wardens vs. Probation Chiefs Pistol Competition at the Georgia Diagnostic & Classification Prison Firearms Range.

Next, Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 221. The total number of probationers waiting for placement is 402. Thus, the total number of inmates in the state-wide jail system is 623. Commissioner Owens stated the Sheriff's count is at 2,294; both counts are correct.

Commissioner Owens then asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Special Assistant for Probation Operations, to give a Criminal Justice Reform update. Mr. Sanders discussed how Criminal Justice Reform Legislation (HB 1176 and HB 349) has had some positive effects. Mr. Sanders explained how the decrease of the county jail population, the decrease of county jail inmates awaiting trial and the decrease of the jail backlog has been a direct result of this legislation. Additionally, the legislation has virtually eliminated the probation detention centers backlog. Mr. Sanders also discussed topics such as: the Jail Capacity vs. Inmate Population; Supporting Accountability Courts with Community Based Treatment Options; Day Reporting Center Lites (DRC-L); Performance Incentive Credits (PIC); Medical Reprieves; E-Portal – Submission of Prison Bound Packets; Standardized Sentences/Dispositions; Probation Initiatives; and Reentry Efforts.

Next, Mr. Mike Kraft, Director of Probation Operations, presented on the Savannah Joint Task Force. A short video clip of the media coverage on the Savannah Joint Task Force operation was shown. Mr. Kraft stated that GDC has conducted Joint Task Force Operations throughout Georgia since 2010. The Joint Task Force Operation is a collaborative effort supplying GDC resources to support law enforcement in the community to enhance public safety.

The Joint Task Force Operation was held in Savannah due to increased criminal activity in the city of Savannah. Some of the agencies that participated were the Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department, Savannah Probation Office, Southeast Probation Tactical Squad, Coastal State Prison Facility Tactical Squad, Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles, Chatham County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Prior to the Joint Task Force Operation in Savannah, Joint Task Force Operations were conducted in Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Columbus and Gwinnett County.

During the operation, teams conducted warrant services to include probation and parole search, VOP's, outstanding city & state warrants, and sex offender compliance checks which included computer and cell phone searches on identified sex offenders within Chatham County. In addition, there were general compliance checks on high risk offenders and juveniles. There were a total of 38 arrests and 40 additional arrests during the vetting process. Mr. Kraft stated the overall operation was successful.

Subsequently, Mr. Rick Jacobs, Facility Deputy Director gave an update on the Level 5 Prison Hardening Process. Mr. Jacobs began his presentation by explaining the definition of a Level 5 prison. Mr. Jacobs then described the type of inmate populations that are housed at a Level 5 prison as very problematic and violent, inmates. Additionally, Mr. Jacobs discussed efforts made to enhance staff protection and the overall infrastructure development and modifications. To conclude, Mr. Jacobs discussed a timeline to continue the Level 5 Prison Hardening Process at other Level 5 facilities.

Following Mr. Jacobs presentation, Mr. Gary Bell, Operations Manager for Facility Operations, presented on Facilities Rapid ID Deployment and Through Body Scanner. Mr. Bell began his report by stating the Rapid ID device is linked to jails and participating agencies throughout the

GBI server and it contains a central fingerprint database and index. Mr. Bell explained that several reasons for the use of the device are to accurately identify someone that is attempting to gain entrance into our facilities, to check Probation or Parole sex offenders that have active warrants, to verify individuals prior to release from facilities, to reduce contraband, and operate a safer and more secure facility.

Mr. Bell also presented on the Through Body Scanner device. The Through Body Scanner is a low dosage x-ray scanner that is compliant with FDA Regulations and with the American International Standard for Radiation Safety for Personnel Security Screening Systems using X-Ray. During the presentation, Mr. Bell explained that the scanner would detect the presence of contraband attempting to be brought into our facilities.

Last to present, Ms. Becky East, Director of Administration Division, gave a Procurement Update on high value, high profile procurements currently underway within the department. Ms. East discussed the process for the Inmate Telephone System, Inmate Commissary, Offender Services (Financial Services/Kiosks), Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT), Mental Health/Integrated Treatment Facility Services and Dental Health Services. In conclusion, Ms. East asked Board Attorney Joseph Drolet to reiterate the guidelines for the department employees and board members during the RFP process.

This concluded Commissioner Owens' report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mayes began his report by asking the board to vote on changing the location of the October meeting from State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth to the Georgia Correctional Industries Headquarters in Decatur. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Roger Garrison, and was voted approved by the Board.

A short video clip from Glennville's WTOC Channel 11 News was shown of Mr. Wayne Dasher receiving recognition as "hometown hero" for his continuous active community participation in the City of Glennville.

Chairman Mayes continued with Old or New Business stating that Mr. Robert E. Jones, General Counsel of Legal Services, would present three (3) property resolutions.

Mr. Jones began his report by stating that the first resolution is the State Offices South at Tift College Railroad Avenue Revocable License Agreement Request Easement for the City of Forsyth. The City of Forsyth has a need for a permanent easement within the property of State Offices South at Tift College for their project to enhance and improve Railroad Avenue.

The second resolution is the Rutledge State Prison Guard Towers Demolition Request. This request is to demolish four (4) guard towers that have no salvageable equipment of value and are in poor condition. The estimated repair and remodel cost for these guard towers far exceeds the cost to demolish the towers.

The third resolution is the Joe Kennedy Farm One-Acre Land Surplus for Toombs County Recycling Center. The Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that it can accommodate the request from Toombs County to surplus approximately one acre of land for use as a county recycling center without causing harm to the operations of the Joe Kennedy Farm.

The Board voted on all three property resolutions with one vote. Mr. Roger Garrison made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Duke Blackburn and Mr. Wayne Dasher, and the property resolutions were voted approved by the Board.

Mr. Duke Blackburn stated that he would like to rename the LaGrange Transitional Center to the Charles D. Hudson, Sr. Transitional Center in honor of Mr. Hudson's service to the Board of Corrections and to the city of LaGrange. Mr. Blackburn also stated he would like to have a small ceremony and invite Mr. Hudson's family to the dedication. Mr. Duke Blackburn made the

motion to approve this request, which was then seconded by Mr. Bruce Hudson, and was then voted approved by the Board.

To end, Mr. Wayne Dasher, chair of the Nominations Committee, stated the Committee would like to recommend to the Board to consider keeping the elected officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary) for a term of two years instead of a one year. Mr. Dasher stated it takes the officers a while to get acclimated to their new positions and that by the time they are acclimated in their roles, they have to relinquish their seats to another board member.

There was no discussion; therefore, Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Roger Garrison, and was voted approved by the Board.

The members of the Board will thus forth reelect the same individuals that are currently serving as the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary for the same position they hold for the next upcoming year; therefore, serving two year terms.

There being no further business, Chairman Mayes reminded the Board that the next Board meeting is October 3rd at the Georgia Correctional Industries Headquarters in Decatur.

The meeting was adjourned.

John Mayes, Chairman

Carl L. Franklin, Secretary

Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison