



# BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

c/o Blair County Controller, 423 Allegheny St., Ste 141 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

## Blair County Prison Board Meeting of June 17, 2021 at 8:30 AM In Commissioners' Public Meeting Room

### Board Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Bruce Erb, Commissioner Burke, Commissioner Amy Webster, Controller A.C. Stickel, District Attorney Pete Weeks

### Board Members not in Attendance:

President Judge Elizabeth Doyle, Sheriff James Ott

**Quorum:** Present

### Non-Board Members in Attendance:

Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Eckerd, Deputy Warden Whitesel, Lieutenant Shaun Edmundson, Chief Deputy Sheriff Christopher Tatar<sup>1</sup>

**Primecare Representatives in Attendance:** NONE

**AFSCME Representatives in Attendance:** NONE

**Prison Society Members in Attendance:** NONE

**Media in Attendance:** Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror

---

**Call to Order:** Controller Stickel called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** Led by Controller Stickel.

The roll was called by Tracy Mosel-Miller.

**Call for Public Comment on Prison Board Items:** Controller Stickel called for public comment on Prison items. Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror, stated the inmate count (280) is the highest it has been since November. Why the increase, and how is the Prison handling it?

**Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2021 Meeting:** A motion was made by Commissioner Erb and seconded by Commissioner Webster to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2021 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Recognition of BCP Employee:** Warden Tate acknowledged and thanked Lieutenant Shaun Edmundson for his dedication. He "taken on" whatever has been "thrown" at him. In the absence of Deputy Warden McMahon, the duties of Deputy Warden of Facility Services were "sprung" on him; and he just asked: "What do you need me to do?" This is his response to everything. There has been nothing he has been asked to do that he has not "jumped" into

---

<sup>1</sup> The Chief Deputy Sheriff is a voting member of the board in the absence of Sheriff Ott.

Meeting of June 17, 2021 continued. . .

110%. Warden Tate stated: "He has taken security office duties to another level." That has aided the Prison in contraband cases. She wanted to personally thank him for doing whatever needs done. Chairman Stickel thanked Lieutenant Edmundson for his dedication.

**Inmate Population Report:** Warden Tate provided an updated Inmate Population Report which will be kept on file with the minutes. Warden Tate stated that in increase in the population is because of "the world opening back up after COVID-19". The Prison had to make some adjustments regarding initial quarantines. We do not have the space to do 7-day quarantines. We are doing 48-hour quarantines. Testing each inmate twice, and testing for symptoms. At the present time, everything is ok. Controller Stickel asked Warden Tate how juveniles are housed if convicted as adults. Warden Tate stated they are treated as a juvenile and are separated from general population. Inmates ages 18-21 are treated as "Young Offenders". Controller Stickel made a call for questions, and there were none.

**Inmate Services Report:** Deputy Warden Whitesel reviewed the Inmate Services Report which will be kept on file with the minutes. Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings have 8 participants. Women's Parenting has 14 participants. Men's Parenting has 13 participants. Reformers Unanimous has 18 participants. Controller Stickel stated the Work Release Program has not opened, but there are inmates working at local cemeteries. Warden Tate stated there has been 5-7 inmates going to a few locations. Mr. Tom Bradley has been very generous in getting new equipment. The inmates are currently working at Fairview Cemetery, the Conservatory Property, the Hollidaysburg Library, and a small all-veteran's cemetery on Catfish. Controller Stickel made a call for questions, and there were none.

**Warden's Report:** Warden Tate provided the Warden's Report which will be kept on file with minutes.

**Staffing Update:** Deputy Warden Eckard provided a Staffing Report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

**COVID-19 Update:** Warden Tate stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine clinic was held 6/11/2021. 3 inmates, 3 staff members, and 4 County employees received their first shot. Tyrone Pharmacy is committed to coming back every month. Warden Tate wants to continue to offer this service as long as Tyrone Pharmacy is willing to come.

**Prison Expansion Committee:** Warden Tate has been answering follow-up questions with R.L. Kimball, Architect and providing them additional data. Warden Tate and R.L. Kimball, Architect are trying to be very thorough to complete plans that benefit the needs of the County.

Meeting of June 17, 2021 continued. . .

**Prison Sub Committee Discussion:** Controller Stickel stated Commissioner Burke suggested to have Sub Committees to help the Prison with situations/issues. Controller Stickel asked Warden Tate her opinion of Sub Committees. She thought it was a fantastic idea, and stated she would like it to also be project based. Controller Stickel wants to review what the Committee would "look like" and present it at the next meeting.

**Chairman's Report:** No report at this time.

**Financial Report:** Controller Stickel provided a report for May 2021 which will be kept on file with the minutes. He made a call for questions, and there were none.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the board, Controller Stickel adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle  
Secretary