



BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

Blair County Prison Board Meeting of March 18, 2021 at 8:30 AM

By Conference Call

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Board Members not in Attendance:

Sheriff James Ott

Quorum: Present

Non-Board Members in Attendance:

Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Eckerd, Deputy Warden McMahon, Deputy Warden Whitesel, Officer Donald Carles

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.

Controller Stickel explained the ground rules for today's teleconference. Only voting members of the Prison Board may leave their telephones unmuted during the entire meeting, but we would request each avoids excess noise from your location. All other participants should mute their telephones until called upon to speak. Public participants may speak only during the designated public comment period near the beginning of the meeting and must keep their phones muted during the rest of the meeting. Each person needs to avoid interrupting the person speaking. Each speaker **MUST** state his/her name before talking each time he/she speaks so others will know who is speaking and to ensure minutes will be accurate.

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: Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror) stated interest in an update on the status of the prison staff and inmates receiving COVID-19 vaccines.

Approval of Minutes from February 18, 2021 Meeting: A motion was made by Commissioner Erb and seconded by Judge Doyle to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2021 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Recognition of BCP Employee: Warden Tate thanked Officer Donald Carles for his service to the County. He started his career at the prison in August 1989. He is the first-shift Central Control Operator. He is the "eyes and ears" of the entire prison when he is on that post. They appreciate him working such a difficult position. Controller Stickel also thanked Don for his dedication.

Meeting of March 18, 2021 continued. . .

Inmate Population Report: Warden Tate provided an updated Inmate Population Report which will be kept on file with the minutes. Controller Stickel made a call for questions, and there was none.

Inmate Services Report: Deputy Warden McMahon reviewed the Inmate Services Report which will be kept on file with the minutes. Controller Stickel made a call for questions. Commissioner Erb, on behalf of Blair Health Choices, stated an interest in getting our Case Manager, Chris Frantz, back to face-to-face contact in the prison. She will have her second COVID-19 vaccination on April 10, 2021. Will it be possible to resume her face-to-face contact in the prison starting April 26, 2021? Warden Tate was in contact with Chris and told her that was fine.

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

Warden Tate added a few Miscellaneous Items that finalized after the report was sent.

Body scanner is now in use for new commitments, inmates that leave and return to the prison, and any inmate suspected of having contraband on their person.

Guardian Inmate Tracking System: Wi-Fi is installed, Guardian will be coming on March 29, 2021 to certify the training, and all the equipment needed is on-site. After the training, they will review policies and best practices on using the equipment effectively. Warden Tate anticipates to have this "up and running" the beginning of April.

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

COVID-19 Update: Warden Tate stated there are no issues with COVID-19 among staff or inmates. Initial quarantine has been moved from 14 days to 10 days based on population increase. She is not sure how long they will be able to sustain 10 days. The next move will be to 7 days. After that, harder decisions will face the Prison. Warden Tate had no response on the COVID-19 vaccine request. The list was submitted over a month ago. The Department of Health keeps changing things. Primecare is trying to get some vaccines for staff and inmates. Warden Tate will keep the Prison Board updated on the progress.

Prison Expansion Committee: The committee has not been able to meet due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the next few weeks, Controller Stickel is going to schedule a meeting with some of the team to start reviewing options and moving forward.

Prison Operation Continuity Report: Chairman Stickel stated things are closer to normal than they have been in the last year. Things are moving in the right direction. Interviewing candidates for the Kitchen Manager continues, hoping this will be finalized soon.

Meeting of March 18, 2021 continued. . .

Chairman's Report: Controller Stickel stated the Prison will be working with volunteers for religious services, working with the Prison Board for in person meetings, and increasing the number of visits for inmates.

Financial Report: Controller Stickel provided a report for February 2021 which will be kept on file with the minutes. He made a call for questions. Commissioner Erb asked if the Non-Staff Medical figure includes Prime Care monthly invoice. The annual budget for this item is 76.8% used. Controller Stickel will research and confirm.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, Controller Stickel adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. by conference call.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E. Doyle', written in black ink.

President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle
Secretary