



BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

Blair County Prison Board Meeting of January 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. In the Commissioner's Public Meeting Room

Board Members in Attendance:

Commissioner David Kessler,
Commissioner Laura Burke, Controller
A.C. Stickel, Commissioner Amy Webster,
Sheriff James Ott, District Attorney Peter
Weeks, President Judge Wade Kagarise

Non-Board Members in Attendance:

Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Jay
Whitesel, Deputy Warden Cory Yedlosky,
Carol Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg
Community Watchdog)

Board Members not in Attendance:

NONE

Primecare Representatives in Attendance: NONE

AFSCME Representatives in Attendance: NONE

Quorum: Present

Prison Society Members in Attendance: Kathy Rhodes

Media in Attendance: Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror

Call to Order: Controller Stickel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Moment of Silent Reflection: Led by Controller Stickel.

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

The roll was called by Controller Stickel.

Call for Public Comment on Prison Board Items: Controller Stickel called for public comment on Prison items. There were no comments at this time.

Approval of Minutes from December 21, 2023 Meeting: A motion was made by Controller Stickel and seconded by Commissioner Webster to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2023 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Election of Officers: Chairman Stickel stated that he was honored to have served as chairman of the prison board for the last four years and was grateful for the things we have accomplished while facing countless trials and obstacles. He further stated with challenges that lie ahead it could be helpful to have a commissioner as chairman. He further stated, that he will remain committed to the success of the prison.

Controller Stickel nominated Commissioner David Kessler as chairman, Commissioner Webster seconded the nomination and it was unanimously carried.

Meeting of January 18, 2024 continued. . .

Commissioner Kessler nominated Commissioner Amy Webster as vice chairman. Controller Stickel seconded the nomination and it was unanimously carried.

Commissioner Kessler nominated Controller A.C. Stickel as secretary, Commissioner Webster second the nomination and it was unanimously carried.

Recognition of BCP Employee: Warden Tate thanked all officers preparing for the state inspection.

Inmate Population Report: Warden Tate provided an updated Inmate Population Report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

Inmate Services Report: Warden Tate stated: The Peerstar Re-entry Program had 5 participants. The Salvation Army presentation had 4 participants. Women's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 12 participants. Men's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 2 participants. Reformers Unanimous had 18 participants. Women's Parenting had 15 participants. Men's Parenting had 15 participants. The Good Will Re-entry Program had 3 participants. The GED Preparation Program has 4 female and 9 male participants. The Work Release Program had 1 female and 5 male participants. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) had 2 female and 25 male participants.

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

The Encartle Contract: Warden Tate requested the Prison Board vote to recommend submitting a third Encartle contract amendment to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. This agreement would allow Encartle to install a secure Wi-Fi system throughout the prison. Additionally, they will provide tablets for use by inmates. There is no cost to the county for the installation or tablets. Use of the tablets will generate additional revenue for the county. After lengthy discussion about security concerns, Sheriff Ott moved to submit the Encartle contract to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Kessler second the motion. It passed with a vote of six to one. District Attorney Weeks was the only dissenting vote.

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

COVID-19 Update: Warden Tate stated there were no COVID-19 issues with staff or inmates.

Prison Sub-Committees: No sub-committee reports presented at this time.


Financial Report: Controller Stickel provided a report for December 2023 which will be kept on file with the minutes.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kessler adjourned the meeting.

Meeting of January 18, 2024 continued. . .

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "August C. Stickel IV". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

August C. Stickel IV
Chairperson