



BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

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

By Conference Call

Board Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Bruce Erb, Commissioner Amy Webster, Controller A.C. Stickel, President Judge Elizabeth Doyle,

Board Members not in Attendance:

Commissioner Laura Burke, Sheriff James Ott, District Attorney Peter Weeks,

Quorum: Present

Non-Board Members in Attendance:

Nicole Hemminger, Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Eckerd, Deputy Warden McMahon, Deputy Warden Whitesel, Timothy Johnston, Shaun Edmundson, Katelyn Hoover

Primecare Representatives in Attendance: NONE

AFSCME Representatives in Attendance: NONE

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 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 an interest in a COVID-19 Report: the conditions at the jail and use of facilities.

Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2021 Meeting: A motion was made by Commissioner Erb and seconded by Commissioner Webster to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2021 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Recognition of BCP Employee: Warden Tate thanked Lieutenant Timothy Johnston and Lieutenant Shaun Edmundson for their diligent work on gathering and reviewing intel that led to intercepting contraband items. They were heavily involved in getting the body scanner. She commended them for keeping "the building as secure as can be".

Meeting of February 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, and there was 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 there is 1 female inmate that has tested positive. New inmates are being tested 3 times upon commitment: Day 1, Day 10, and Day 14. She has 2 staff members off due to COVID-19 protocol. They have resumed inmate visitations. They are following the Modified Visit Schedule implemented when COVID-19 first appeared. Each inmate is allowed 1 scheduled in-person visit every 2 weeks. Haircuts resumed. The gymnasium is opened. Alternative Education started again. They are hoping to have the Kids First program opened in March. The staff and Kathy Rhodes from the Prison Society are working on ideas for religious visits. Some inmates (around 20) and staff members (around 40) are interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccination, but are still waiting like all in the 1B category.

Prison Expansion Committee: The committee needs further discussion, and needs to visit sites, but unable to due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chairman Stickel stated Commissioner Webster presented information for a small grant. The amount would purchase some equipment needed.

Prison Operation Continuity Report: Chairman Stickel stated the prison is very fortunate COVID-19 numbers drastically improved from where they were.

Chairman's Report: Interviewing candidates for the Kitchen Manager continues.

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

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, Controller Stickel adjourned the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. by conference call.

Respectfully Submitted,



President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle
Secretary