

BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

Blair County Prison Board Meeting of May 19, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

In the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room

Board Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Laura Burke, Controller A.C. Stickel, President Judge Elizabeth Doyle, Chief Deputy Sheriff Chris Tatar

Board Members not in Attendance:

Commissioner Bruce Erb, Commissioner Amy Webster, Sheriff James Ott, District Attorney Pete Weeks

Quorum: Present

Non-Board Members in Attendance:

Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Shaun Edmundson, Deputy Warden Jay Whitesel, Bryan King (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog)

Primecare Representatives in Attendance: NONE

AFSCME Representatives in Attendance NONE

Prison Society Members in Attendance: Dr. Ed Grab

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

Chairman Stickel announced there was an executive session held May 6, 2022 at 1:15 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. Those in attendance: Board Members, Chief Clerk Nicole Hemminger, Human Resources Director Katherine Swigart, and Attorney Warner.

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 she would like to know where the Prison Board stands on the security camera issue. She asked "do they think there should be a 3rd bid or put the money aside for the future?"

Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2022 Meeting: A motion was made by President Judge Doyle and seconded by Commissioner Burke to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2022 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Meeting of May 19, 2022 continued...

Recognition of BCP Employee: Warden Tate commended the entire staff of the Prison. She stated everyone stepped-up to have the building ready for state inspection. They did a tremendous job getting the building in the best possible condition. Warden Tate stated the state inspectors (the same two that have been doing the inspection for quite a while) even commented on the building and the overall morale of the staff.

Warden Tate also appreciated the County Maintenance Department assisting with lastminute repairs.

Chairman Stickel asked Warden Tate to extend the Board's gratitude to the staff. He also stated the Board is grateful for her leadership.

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

Inmate Services Report: Deputy Warden Jay Whitesel stated: The Peerstar Re-entry Program has 22 female participants and 11 male participants. Women's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 6 participants. Men's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 3 participants. Reformers Unanimous had 17 participants. Women's Parenting had 18 participants. Men's Parenting had 20 participants.

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

Warden Tate provided the following details on the state inspection: The inspection was Tuesday, May 17, 2022. The inspectors identified four items that needed addressed. Two of the items involved updating paperwork. The remaining two items were maintenance issues that have been resolved. Correction action plans (along with photos) were submitted by 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 18, 2022. The official inspection report should be received late next week.

Warden Tate stated this had been the best state inspection in recent history.

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

COVID-19 Update: Warden Tate stated there are no inmates or staff under COVID-19 protocol.

Prison Expansion Committee: Chairman Stickel stated they are still awaiting the results on the feasibility study.

Prison Sub-Committees: Chairman Stickel stated several months ago Commissioner Burke recommended forming sub-committees. The Board is forming four additional sub-committees: Human Resources Committee, Security Committee, Inmate Services Committee, and the Finance Committee. Chairman Stickel has asked each member of the Board to volunteer to serve on two of the committees to give additional guidance and direction to the staff.

Meeting of May 19, 2022 continued. . .

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

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, June 16, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Blair County Prison.

Respectfully Submitted,

President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle Secretary