



# BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

**Blair County Prison Board Meeting of March 16, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.**

**At the Blair County Prison**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Commissioner Erb, Controller A.C Stickel,  
President Judge Elizabeth Doyle, Sheriff  
James Ott, District Attorney Pete Weeks

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

Commissioner Laura Burke, Commissioner  
Amy Webster

**Quorum:** Present

**Non-Board Members in Attendance:**

Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden  
Shaun Edmundson, Deputy Warden Jim  
Eckard, Deputy Warden Jay Whitesel,  
Corrections Officer Beth Salomie,  
Corrections Officer Carrie Bruce, Carol  
Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community  
Watchdog), Nathan Scavoni, Scott Barger,  
David Kessling

**Primecare Representatives in  
Attendance:** NONE

**AFSCME Representatives in  
Attendance:** NONE

**Prison Society Members in Attendance:**  
Ernest Fuller, Kathy Rhodes

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

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**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 Controller Stickel.

**Call for Public Comment on Prison Board Items:** Controller Stickel called for public comment on Prison items. Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror, requested an update on the Prison Feasibility Study.

**Approval of Minutes from February 16, 2023 Meeting:** A motion was made by Sheriff Ott and seconded by Commissioner Erb to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2023 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Recognition of BCP Employee:** Warden Tate stated in honor of International Women's Day she wanted to recognize 2 female Corrections Officers: Beth Salomie (Central Booking Officer) and Carrie Bruce (Upper Control Officer). They both have 20+ years' service with the Prison. They trained Warden Tate when she started as a Corrections Officer.

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They came into this profession at a time when Corrections Officers were predominantly male.

Warden Tate stated both can do, have done, and will do any job within the Prison. They both go above and beyond for the Prison. She thanked both of them for their service.

Controller Stickel stated the Board is thankful and grateful for their service.

**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 Shaun Edmundson stated: The Peerstar Re-entry Program had 5 participants. The Salvation Army presentation had 0 participants. Women's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 11 participants. Men's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 9 participants. Reformers Unanimous had 36 participants. Women's Parenting had 13 participants. Men's Parenting had 24 participants. The Good Will Re-entry Program had 4 participants. The GED Preparation Program has 8 female and 14 male participants. The Work Release Program has 2 participants.

**Warden's Report:** Warden Tate provided the Warden's Report which will be kept on file with the 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 a couple of the staff were out on COVID-19 Protocol, but would be returning by the beginning of the next week. There were currently no quarantines within any housing units.

**Prison Sub-Committees:** Commissioner Erb updated the Prison Board on the Re-Entry Coalition. They had a 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Planning Meeting on March 2, 2023. Mindy Rickabaugh, Good Will Re-Entry, gave a presentation. The Coalition worked on a draft for the re-entry process. Deputy Warden Edmundson stated the Coalition seems to be strengthening with more agency participation, round-table discussion, and feedback. They will meet again on April 6, 2023 and May 4, 2023.

Controller Stickel stated the Commissioners' Office is engaged with the Prison Feasibility Study. The results of the study will be reviewed and discussed when available.

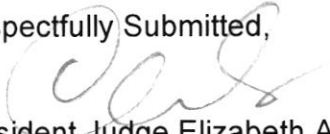
**Financial Report:** Controller Stickel provided a report for February 2023 which will be kept on file with the minutes.

Meeting of March 16, 2023 continued. . .

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the board, Controller Stickel adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E. Doyle', is written over the text 'Respectfully Submitted,'.

President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle  
Secretary