



# BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

## Blair County Prison Board Meeting of November 19, 2020 at 8:30 AM By Conference Call

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Commissioner Bruce Erb, Commissioner Amy Webster, Controller A.C. Stickel, District Attorney Peter Weeks, Sheriff James Ott

### **Board Members not in Attendance:**

President Judge Elizabeth Doyle, Commissioner Laura Burke

**Quorum:** Present

### **Non-Board Members in Attendance:**

Nicole Hemminger, Deputy Warden James McMahon, Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Eckerd, Deputy Warden Whitesel, Tracy Mosel-Miller

**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 8:33 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:** Dr. Peter Grab, on behalf of the PA Prison Society, had several praises: improvement of the content of the law library, the computer being operational, and the prisoners are praising the food being served. He expressed his concern of the inmate's lack of access to counselors. This is a chronic problem due to high turnover because of low salary levels. This is an important position because it is the inmates' only link to the outside; and they assist with their re-entrance into society.

Meeting of November 19, 2020 continued. . .

**Approval of Minutes from October 15, 2020 Meeting:** A motion was made by Commissioner Erb and seconded by Commissioner Webster to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2020 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Recognition of BCP Employee:** Warden Tate recognized and thanked all county workers for helping navigate this difficult time. Everyone they reached out to was helpful in some capacity, even with just words of encouragement.

**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 of Facility Services McMahon reviewed the Inmate Services Report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

**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 an increase of COVID-19. She has 16 (15 Full-Time and 1 Part-Time) Corrections Officers self-quarantining, and 4 Corrections Officers out with non-COVID-19 issues. There is an increase in the inmate population showing symptoms and needing COVID-19 testing. All but 3 housing units are on quarantine. They are repurposing the gymnasium to become the first quarantine unit. The showers have already been installed. The make-shift office needs to be built. Warden Tate stated they have a good supply of PPE as of 11/19/2020.

**Prison Expansion Committee:** The committee needs further discussion, and needs to visit sites, but unable to due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Chairman's Report:** No report at this time

**Financial Report:** Controller Stickel provided a report for October 2020 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 8:57 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday December 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. by conference call.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle  
Secretary