



BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

Blair County Prison Board Meeting of February 17, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. In Commissioners' Public Meeting Room

Board Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Bruce Erb, Commissioner Laura Burke, President Judge Elizabeth Doyle, Controller A.C. Stickel, Commissioner Amy Webster, Sheriff James Ott, District Attorney Pete Weeks

Board Members not in Attendance:

NONE

Quorum: Present

Non-Board Members in Attendance:

Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Shaun Edmundson, Deputy Warden Jim Eckard, Deputy Warden Jay Whitesel, Lieutenant Cory Yedlosky, Allison Senkevich, Carol Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog)

Primecare Representatives in Attendance: NONE

AFSCME Representatives in Attendance: Dave Carey

Prison Society Members in Attendance: Curtis Fuller

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

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, asked the Board to discuss the safety and security improvements. She also asked about plans for the return of Prison Programs, including Work-Release.

Dave Carey, AFSCME Representative, there has been protocol in place for handling inmates going to Central Court and new procedures have been implemented. He questioned why promotions above Sargent are from outside County employees, and why County is not utilizing Male and Female Correction Officers with 15-20 years' experience to assist at Central Court. Dave requested to be a part of the safety and security implementation.

Meeting of February 17, 2022 continued. . .

Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2022 Meeting: A motion was made by Commissioner Erb and seconded by Commissioner Webster to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2022 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Recognition of BCP Employee: Warden Tate introduced Cory Yedlosky to the Blair County Prison Board. He was hired as a 2nd Shift Lieutenant. Warden Tate is happy to have him as part of the staff.

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 Whitsel stated C-Prep Program has not restarted. Alcoholics Anonymous was not held in February due to COVID-19 Protocol. Men's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 2 participants. Reformers Unanimous has decided to not come into the Prison at the current time due to COVID-19 concerns. Women's Parenting had 33 participants. Men's Parenting had 14 participants.

District Attorney Weeks asked Warden Tate what is the timeline for the Work-Release program to restart. Warden Tate stated she has reached out to surrounding counties to see what their COVID-19 protocol has been. They have more modern facilities and have the ability to separate the work-release inmates. Her major concern is starting the program and shutting it down because of the current inability to separate those inmates. Warden Tate questioned is the inmate's job going to be in jeopardy if allowed to work for a week then told they need to quarantine for 14 days.

Warden Tate stated she was not sure how to make it work with 295 inmates and where to place the inmates that will be going out on Work Release.

District Attorney Weeks stated he would not oppose a Monday-Friday Work Release and serving sentences Saturday and Sunday for inmates that would qualify. This would provide a benefit to the inmate and the Prison. Warden Tate will have the Deputy Warden discuss this with District Attorney Weeks.

President Judge Doyle stated the Work Release Program is rehabilitative for the inmates.

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 currently 1 female inmate with COVID-19. She had it upon commitment. No staff under COVID-19 protocol.

Prison Expansion Committee: Chairman Stickel stated they had another meeting with R.L. Kimball, Architect. The Expansion Committee has asked R.L. Kimball, Architect to sharpen their pencils and present more options.

Meeting of February 17, 2022 continued. . .

Financial Report: Controller Stickel provided a report for January 2022 which will be kept on file with the minutes.

The Prison Board Meeting recessed at 8:50 a.m.

The Prison Board Members, Warden Tate, and Katherine Swigart entered the Executive Session.

The Prison Board Meeting reconvened at 9:20 a.m.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, Controller Stickel adjourned the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Blair County Prison

Respectfully Submitted,


President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle
Secretary