



# BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

**Blair County Prison Board Meeting of June 16, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.**

**At the Blair County Prison**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

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

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

Commissioner Laura Burke

**Quorum:** Present

**Non-Board Members in Attendance:**

Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden James Eckard, Deputy Warden Jay Whitesel, Jen Benett; LPN, Officer Jeff Plazek (Maintenance), Officer Tom Yoder (Hygiene), Allison Senkevich, Carol Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog)

**Primecare Representatives in Attendance:** NONE

**AFSCME Representatives in Attendance:** NONE

**Prison Society Members in Attendance:** NONE

**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, requested the juvenile inmate population be included in the Inmate Population Report.

**Update on Inmates working in local cemeteries:** Commissioner Webster received an update from Tom Bradley, a citizen, who coordinates with Warden Tate and the Prison Staff to arrange for laborers to provide lawn maintenance in local cemeteries. Tom reported that Donald Lagesse and his crew worked throughout May to mow grass and cut down weeds in Oakridge Cemetery. During the month of June, they will focus on Fairview Cemetery. They will continue to maintain the cemeteries throughout the summer and the fall. Mr. Bradley stated the participants display an excellent work ethic; and their progress is outstanding. The Board is thankful for the dedication of the inmate workers, Warden Tate and her Staff, and Mr. Bradley. The program is a great opportunity for inmates to participate in a great public service for the community.

Meeting of June 16, 2022 continued. . .

**Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2022 Meeting:** A motion was made by Sheriff Ott and seconded by District Attorney Weeks to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2022 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Recognition of BCP Employee:** Warden Tate stated the latest state inspection was the best she has seen in the 17 years she has been employed at the Prison. She wanted to express her appreciation to three employees that made it possible. Officer Jeff Plazek oversees the maintenance of the Prison. His knowledge of the building would never be replaced. He is very patient and has given his best effort to get things accomplished. Warden Tate appreciates his dedication. Jen Benett, LPN oversees the daily operations of the Medical Department. The Medical Department is one area the State Inspectors focus on. This department is accountable for all medical supplies and medications. Warden Tate wanted to thank Nurse Benett for helping the Prison achieve what has been achieved. Nurse Benett was a huge part of Primecare receiving their accreditation. Officer Tom Yoder oversees the Hygiene Crew (the inmate crew that cleans the Prison). This is an all day, everyday task. The State Inspectors also focus on cleaning supplies and equipment. Every ounce of cleaning fluid and piece of equipment needs to be accounted for. Officer Yoder showed great leadership; and this area is more organized than it has ever been. Warden Tate expressed her appreciation for his leadership.

Warden Tate wanted to thank all three employees for leading in their areas on a daily basis.

Chairman Stickel stated how much their dedication is appreciated.

**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 4 female participants and 21 male participants. Women's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 7 participants. Men's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 7 participants. Reformers Unanimous had 15 participants. Women's Parenting had 18 participants. Men's Parenting had 7 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 the Female Unit (K-Block) just finished a 10-day quarantine, but currently no inmates or staff are under COVID-19 protocol.

**Prison Expansion Committee:** Chairman Stickel had no report at this time.

**Prison Sub-Committees:** Chairman Stickel provided the Sub-Committees Functions and Members Report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

Meeting of June 16, 2022 continued. . .

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

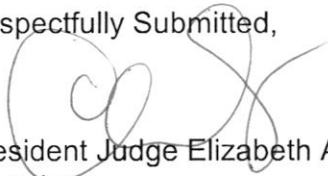
Sheriff Ott stated the Blair County Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial Foundation Inc. is hosting the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Service. The service will take place in front of the Blair County Courthouse on Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Sheriff Ott also stated Blair County is hosting the Pennsylvania Sheriff's Association Conference from July 13 - 15, 2022.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the board, Controller Stickel adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Elizabeth A. Doyle', written over a circular stamp or seal.

President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle  
Secretary