



# BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

## Blair County Prison Board Meeting of October 9, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

### In the Commissioner's Public Meeting Room

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Commissioner David Kessling, Commissioner Amy Webster, Controller A.C. Stickel, District Attorney Peter Weeks, President Judge Wade Kagarise

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

Commissioner Laura Burke, Sheriff James Ott

**Quorum:** Present

**Media in Attendance:** Carol A.

Dannenberg: Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog, Ann Meritts: Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog

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

Matthew Hale, Deputy Shaun Edmundson, Deputy Cory Yedlosky, Officer Shannon Booker, Kyle Brashear, Melena Koegler, Alicia Triacave, Angela Wagner

**Primecare Representatives in Attendance:**

NONE

**AFSCME Representatives in Attendance:**

Frank Bailey (via zoom)

**Prison Society Members in Attendance:**

Bob DuPont

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Kessling called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Moment of Silent Prayer:** Led by Commissioner Kessling.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** Led by Commissioner Kessling.

The roll was called by Commissioner Kessling.

**Call for Public Comment on Prison Board Items:** There was none.

**Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2025 Meeting:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Controller Stickel to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2025 Prison Board Meetings. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Recognition of BCP Employee:** Warden Hale recognized Officer Shannon Booker. It was my first week on and there was a new contract with a vendor for food services side. Officer Booker oversees kitchen services with the new vendor. It is apparent as soon as she walks in the door she has done a fantastic job with the responsibility she has been given to help oversee the integration with . We would like to take this opportunity this morning to thank her for her for doing a fantastic job within her position in the facility.

The board also thanks Officer Booker for her services at the Prison.

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

**Inmate Services Report:** Deputy Warden Edmundson provided an updated Inmate Population Report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

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

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

**Controller Stickel:** It was a rigorous interview process for the Warden. We were not planning for this like you could plan for a retirement, but through the diligent hiring process I believe we not only have the best Warden possible but also the best team possible with our two Deputy Wardens. Very excited to see, as they have already shown, cohesiveness, experience, and leadership to that will take us in, not great condition, they will move forward in the circumstances that we have to keep moving on to better things. I believe, I cannot speak for the whole board, but I believe we have strong unanimous support from this board providing full, within reason, financial and budgetary strength sufficient for personal support.

**Commissioner Kessling:** I would like to thank, from the Prison Board, Deputy Shaun Edmundson and Deputy Cory Yedlosky. Not having a Warden in place has made you gentlemen face a lot of things and done well. Our population seems to be increasing with no idea why that is. We had a kitchen manager abruptly resign while we were looking at getting food services. Emergency services were going to cost the County over ninety thousand dollars a month just until we could get food services up. Instead both Deputy Wardens mobilized their staff and managed the ordering, preparation, and delivery of food and saving the County thousands of dollars by stepping up to the plate and continuing to do that. I want to recognize both of you and thank both of you because what you've done is remarkable.

**Commissioner Webster:** I think you did an exceptional job holding things together for that last couple of months. It has been such a challenge for you not only to step up but far exceed what I think most people could do. I am exceptionally happy you have come together and collaborated so well. I hope and pray that it continues and we are really looking forward to a great future of our administration and staff at the Prison. We continue working on finding a place for a new one, it goes well than if falls off, but we'll keep working on that. Thank you very much all.

**District Attorney Weeks:** I look forward to continuing working with Deputy Warden Edmundson and Yedlosky and now Warden Hale. I know things have been crazy for the last three or four months and there will definitely be a learning process, but I would invite you guys to stop up sometime. We had been talking in the past about meeting with Court about what role should or should not be played by consoler Wilt in terms of the inmates. Also if you will recall, though this will be new for Warden Hale, I had suggested that Prison Board authorize 20 electronic monitoring bracelets so we can have some flexibility on lowering this inmate population. I would like to talk again about that with the three of you and to get that back in front of the Prison Board since it had been over a year since I had last requested this seemingly easy way to identify to potentially lessening of the burden of the population in a way that keeps the community safe as well as continue to explore work release, which I believe is down to one or zero inmates currently. I look forward to working with all of you, thank you.

**President Judge Kagarise:** I want to echo some of the same things. Some of the things District Attorney Weeks said are some of the things we have on the horizon. It is really important for Prison leadership, Court, and the District Attorney's office to communicate on a regular basis. I reached out to that Warden yesterday and today about doing that on a regular basis. There are so many issues that communication could benefit. In making systems and

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processes better for both of us if we have communication. Knowing we were going to get a new warden I didn't want to fall through with scheduling a meeting with a pro-say inmate, that is a big issue. Of course the populations is a big issue as well. Still address electric monitoring, work release, and just efficient transport of inmates back and forth to Court. We have had a lot of instances recently where they have been a break down in communication between the Court, Sheriff's office, and the Prison. Can't get a transport, can't have a hearing, things that we shouldn't be doing to be moving things along. I reached out to eh Warden the other day because the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is doing a behavior health summit. It's a regional thing in half a dozen counties coming up on October 21st. It will try to address some of the mental health issues of some of our criminal justice population including people in the prison. That is a big issue I think everyone in the State Court system is working on. We are permitted to send a team to that so if anyone on the Prison Board who is interested. Attorney Weeks is planning to go, I'm planning to go or send somebody, parole and probation will be in attendance. I hope for someone of leadership there from your Prison to be a part of our team. There will be the ability for remote participation as well. People will be there from the CDC. I am hoping it will be productive. I am looking forward to that continued relationship. The population right now is relatively consistent within a few inmates the past year, I think. It probably going to go up over the next couple months, I think. We are at three judges but when we're up to five, six, or seven when we get into January that is a major factor. I think, parole and probation office, and funding them in that office as well as we are picking up some more people there as well so that will help. I think with that communication we can advocate for those issues and move into a productive year.

**Adjournment:** There being no further public business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kessling made the motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Controller Stickel. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:50a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday November 13, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Public Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



August C. Stickel IV  
Chairperson