



# BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

## Blair County Prison Board Meeting of September 11, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. In the Commissioner's Public Meeting Room



Prison Board  
Minutes of 08-14-20

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

Commissioner Amy Webster, Commissioner Laura Burke, Controller A.C. Stickel, District Attorney Peter Weeks, Deputy-Sheriff R.J. Peo

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

Commissioner David Kessling, President Judge Wade Kagarise,

**Quorum:** Present

**Media in Attendance:** Rachel Foor - Altoona Mirror

**Non-Board Members in Attendance:** Acting Warden Shaun Edmundson, Kyle Brashear, Melena Koegler, Alicia Triacave, Angela Wagner

**Primecare Representatives in Attendance:** NONE

**AFSCME Representatives in Attendance:** NONE

**Prison Society Members in Attendance:** John D. Grove

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**Call to Order:** Commissioner Webster called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**Moment of Silent Reflection:** Led by Commissioner Webster.

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

The roll was called by Commissioner Webster.

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

**Announcement of Executive Sections:** Executive Sections were held July 10, July 15, July 16, September 2, and September 4 in person and July 28 and July 29 over Teams for Personnel matters and Warden interviews.

**Approval of Minutes from August 14, 2025 Meeting:** A motion was made by Controller Stickel and seconded by District Attorney Weeks to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2025 Prison Board Meetings. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Approval of revised job description for Warden, to be forwarded to the Salary Board:** A motion was made by Controller Stickel and seconded by Commissioner Burke to send the revised job description to Salary Board. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Appointment of Matthew Hale as Warden Effective October 6, 2025:** A motion was made by Controller Stickel and seconded by Commissioner Burke.

District Attorney Weeks: I had sent an email out to the members of this board. While I am in agreement in appointing of this position I am very frustrated that we had discussed a

procedure. That procedure was then not followed and abandoned. There was notice, at least to me I will not speak for other members, after carving out all the time for the executive sections Commissioner Webster read into the record that once could infer are interviews for the warden position. That after we should have assembled and made sure we had a consensus. On this issue it was not done. I'm not sure why it was not done because frankly it would have been a pretty short meeting after all of us had moved our schedules around to accommodate this. It's good to have a number of candidates applying for that position. The second thing I address in the email was my disappointment of addressing in house candidates together and that was not done either. I put those concerns in my email that I did not get a response or did not see a response. Again we are a Prison Board, all of us have one vote in this Prison Board. I recognize this is my role and it is a small role but I have one vote and none of us has two votes, so I would strongly encourage everyone that we should be doing all of these things as a group. We should be confirming consensus. If there are things and policies we discuss that should be on file. As I have sent that email out and there was no response I will place my concerns on the record here at this meeting.

Controller Stickel: I would like say publicly I did get a chance either to address the inhouse candidates but I do want to express deep gratitude to Deputy Warden Edmundson and Deputy Warden Yedlosky for their incredibly through out this much longer than hoped for time of transition. I have no doubt in them to be incredible team players in what I expect to be an incredibly strong team moving forward. We have our challenges, you may have read in the paper this week, though that doesn't address all the challenges we face at the Blair County Prison. We are very grateful, particularly to you Shaun, for keeping that sinking ship afloat these last few months.

Commissioner Webster: I think all of us are very thankful and grateful of the monumental task you deal with on a regular basis. Hoping you will be with us on the good things going forward and onto the new prison.

Deputy-Sheriff Peo: I would also like to recognize Shaun on the Sheriff's behalf. Shaun and I have worked together a lot over the past couple of months I appreciate the work he has done immensely. Thank you, Shaun.

Commissioner Burke: I will add I agree with what everyone has said and your excellent job with the Prison.

To what Pete said about the interview process, it is difficult to get Prison Board together at all the same time, even in these meeting we are not all here all of the time, but we did come together in that process and if we are able to do that and it works it's better than when we are not all on the same page.

District Attorney Weeks: Deputy Warden Edmundson and Deputy Warden Yedlosky know there is a lot of work that needs to be done and a lot of work that has been done. There are challenges at the Prison that we are all aware of. We are going into a phase where Prison Board taking a bigger role. I have always enjoyed a fantastic working relationship with Deputy Warden Edmundson. We look forward to continue to seeing you here.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Meeting of September 11, 2025 continued. . .

**Recognition of BCP Employee:** Acting Warden Edmundson wants to share his appreciation to all the employees and all the staff that take on all the task and climb all the mountains that need climbed for that facility. I truly mean this, I would not be where I am today if it was not for all the employees. I'm grateful everyday for all of them facing that adversity. I call them grinders because we grind and climb mountain every day. Sometimes we have to share information that we need your team work and I have reached out to all of you and you've all been more than willing to help me step up. I am sure Deputy Yedlosky feels the same way. I would again like to recognize everyone at the Prison.

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

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

Controller Stickel commended Acting Warden Edmundson on all the programs available to inmates considering the limited spaces in the Prison and the lack of program in the past.

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

- 1) Regarding Overwatch, Controller Stickel commented that the Board has not received any report yet. Commissioner Webster informed that a meeting is scheduled in a few weeks after the new Warden is onboarded.
- 2) Regarding Inmate Compensation, Controller Stickel agrees a raise in compensation make sense since the future purchase of soda and snacks is set to increase. The recommendation to the Prison is to preset this through the budgeting process for next years budget.

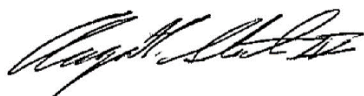
**Staffing Update:** Acting Warden Edmundson provided a Staffing Report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

**Financial Report:** Controller Stickel presented the financial report to be kept on file with the minutes.

**Adjournment:** There being no further public business to come before the Board, Controller Stickel made the motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by District Attorney Weeks. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:58a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday October 9, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Public Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



August C. Stickel IV  
Chairperson