



BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

Blair County Prison Board Meeting of February 16, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. In the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room

Board Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Laura Burke, Commissioner Amy Webster, Controller A.C Stickel, Sheriff James Ott, District Attorney Pete Weeks

Non-Board Members in Attendance:

Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Shaun Edmundson, Deputy Warden Jay Whitesel, Carol Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog)

Board Members not in Attendance:

President Judge Elizabeth Doyle

Primecare Representatives in Attendance: NONE

AFSCME Representatives in Attendance: NONE

Quorum: Present

Prison Society Members in Attendance: Bob Dupont

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 Controller Stickel.

Call for Public Comment on Prison Board Items: Controller Stickel called for public comment on Prison items. Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror, requested an update on COVID-19; and she also questioned the number of people on Work Release.

Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2023 Meeting: A motion was made by Commissioner Erb and seconded by Sheriff Ott to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2023 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Recognition of BCP Employee: Warden Tate stated the Prison had a very busy month and she wanted to extend an overall appreciation. She recognized Deputy Warden Whitesel and Deputy Warden Shaun Edmundson for their efforts with the GED program. Deputy Warden Whitesel started the process and had to step away to perform other duties. Deputy Warden Edmundson "picked up the ball and ran with it". Deputy Warden Edmundson and one Case Manager are taking classes to become a Proctor for the exam.

Warden Tate also stated there have been numerous maintenance issues at the Prison. There has been some assistance from County employees; but for many of the issues, Maintenance Officer Jeff Plazek has addressed them alone.

Meeting of February 16, 2023 continued. . .

Warden Tate also thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Controller Stickel stated the Board is grateful for the dedication to the Prison.

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 Shaun Edmundson stated: The Peerstar Re-entry Program had 4 participants. The Salvation Army presentation had 2 participants. Women's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 15 participants. Men's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 12 participants. Reformers Unanimous had 11 participants. Women's Parenting had 14 participants. Men's Parenting had 23 participants. The Good Will Re-entry Program had 4 participants. The GED Preparation Program has 10 female and 19 male participants. The Work Release Program has 2 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 K-Block Female Unit was on COVID-19 quarantine. The quarantine was lifted on Monday, February 14, 2023.

Prison Sub-Committees: Commissioner Erb updated the Prison Board on the Re-Entry Coalition. They had their first meeting on February 2, 2023 with the Facilitator, Kerry Richman. 20 participants attended. The County was represented by the Prison, Blair County Drug and Alcohol, Goodwill, the Prison Society, and Penn Highlands Community College. Deputy Warden Edmundson was very active at the meeting. Jen White, from the Adult Probation Office, was also involved with the discussion. They also had a re-entrant that shared her inspirational story. The Coalition will continue to meet on the 1st of the month for the next three months.

Financial Report: Controller Stickel provided a report for January 2023 which will be kept on file with the minutes.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, Controller Stickel adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. at the Blair County Prison

Respectfully Submitted,



President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle
Secretary