



# BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

## Blair County Prison Board Meeting of June 12, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. In the Commissioner's Public Meeting Room

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

Commissioner David Kessler, Controller A.C. Stickel, District Attorney Peter Weeks, President Judge Wade Kagarise, Chief Deputy Richard Peo

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

Commissioner Laura Burke, Commissioner Amy Webster, Sheriff James Ott

**Quorum:** Present

**Media in Attendance:** Kay Stephens - Altoona Mirror, Carol Dannenberg – Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog.

**Non-Board Members in Attendance:** Deputy Warden Shaun Edmundson, Deputy Warden Cory Yedlosky, Lori Guyer, Alicia Tiracave, Brian Walters

**Primecare Representatives in Attendance:**  
NONE

**AFSCME Representatives in Attendance:**  
NONE

**Prison Society Members in Attendance:**  
Kathy Skebeck

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**Call to Order:** Controller Stickel called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**Moment of Silent Reflection:** Led by Controller Stickel

**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:** Kay Stephens – Interested in hearing about the claims that there was no hot water in the Prison for four days. If there could be some point on your agenda a report on that. A report on the executive sections held because you are to report them before or after they happen and there reason.

District Attorney Peter Weeks – I anticipate working with the entirety of the Prison Board on the issues that were brought to our attention and the changes to the jail. My request for clearer policy and procedure that sanctions Blair County Prison employees. I'd expect that to be a prison board item. I will be furthering my research and looking into the role of the Prison Board and what it's duty is vs the commissioner or Human Resources. I will share my findings with the rest of the board members, but I do expect Prison Board items will be handled by the Prison Board as a whole. Thank you.

Commissioner Kessler – Would like to thank the Sheriff's department for their last minute help with inmate transfer of several individuals to Central Court. I greatly appreciate the quick response from the Sheriff's office and their assistance to the Prison so that Central court could go on.

**Approval of Minutes from May 8, 2025 Meeting:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kessler and seconded by Controller Stickel to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2025 Prison Board Meetings. The motion was unanimously carried.

Meeting of June 12, 2025 continued. . .

**Appointment of Shaun Edmundson as “Acting Warden” effective June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kessler and seconded by District Attorney Weeks to appoint Deputy Warden Shaun Edmundson to Acting Warden. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Recognition of BCP Employee:** There are several employees I would like to recognize from our female housing unit. The officers are on post currently and could not be present however I have one example recognition letter for officer Emily Diehl. Officer Diehl had exemplary service that day. There is a copy of this letter in her file and she has also already been served this letter. I would like to read it. ‘Emily this letter is to extend much appreciated gratification in your role this Friday, May 30, 2025 during the 7-3 shift. You have exhibited exemplary observation skills on your post as a K block officer. You took immediate action, remained focused, and calm when you observed a female inmate attempting to harm herself in K-11 cell. Your performance was exemplary in the duration of this incident. Your professional leadership had a major role in the outcome which most certainly prevented a loss of life. On behalf of the administration Blair County Prison we would like to thank you for your efforts and recognition of a job well done.’ A copy had been placed in her file. There are similar letters for Officer Kira Hicks and Julie Colbert for similar accommodations.

**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 Services Report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

**Warden’s Report:** Acting Warden Edmundson 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.

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

Commissioner Kessler – The Hot water was out at the Prison but it has been fixed and hot water has been restored. We were awaiting a part.

Acting Warden Edmundson – We received the part from granger to replace the malfunctioning one. Our guys took the box off to check and found a wire not correct upon production. The wire was fixed and water in the institution is currently functioning correctly.

District Attorney Weeks – asked about cost of the replacement and if it would be wise, once cost are known, for the Prison Board to approve of having the replacement part in stock here at the Prison to prevent this from happening again.

Commissioner Kessler - An executive session of Prison Board was held June 9, 2025 at 1 p.m. that included prison board, HR director, chief clerk, and assistant county administrator and Overwatch personnel and a second one that began at 2 p.m. that included just prison board, hr, chief clerk and assistant county administrator. 1<sup>st</sup> one would be about security and 2<sup>nd</sup> one would be about an open position.

**Adjournment:** There being no further public business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kessler made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Controller Stickel. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45a.m.

An executive session of Prison Board was held after the meeting concluded on Personal and Building Security.

Meeting of June 12, 2025 continued. . .

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at the Blair County Prison.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "August C. Stickel IV". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "A".

August C. Stickel IV  
Chairperson