



BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

Blair County Prison Board Meeting of September 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. At the Blair County Prison.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Board Members not in Attendance:

Commissioner David Kessling, Sheriff James Ott

Quorum: Present

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

Non-Board Members in Attendance: Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Cory Yedlosky,

Primecare Representatives in Attendance: NONE

AFSCME Representatives in Attendance: NONE

Prison Society Members in Attendance: Kathy Skebeck

Call to Order: Commissioner Webster called the meeting to order at 9:00 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. No additional attendees over phone.

Call for Public Comment on Prison Board Items: Commissioner Webster called for public comment on Prison items. Kay Stephens: Altoona Mirror – the Prison Population was over 400 in May, June, and July now it is down in the 300s. She had heard that when the population was higher people were sleeping on the floor and if that's accurate? District Attorney Weeks – the Judges have allowed more time in their schedules allowing for more resolutions to cases which has helped in the overall population size. Kathy Skebeck: Prison Society – the mood of prisoners have improved because of tablets being implemented.

Approval of Minutes from August 15, 2024 Meeting: A motion was made by Controller Stickel and seconded by Judge Kagarise to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2024 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Recognition of BCP Employee: Warden Tate recognized her two Deputy Wardens: Shaun Edmundson and Corey Yedlosky for their continued help in facilitating the two major projects happening at the Prison. The security project spearheaded by Deputy Yedlosky and his ability to work with the companies involved has been critical for the efficient implementing. The project appears to be wrapping up on budget and will be an asset for high quality footage for the District Attorney's office or in cases in assisting the County. The Inmate tablet project was difficult with the Wi-Fi issues the prison has been having in the past. Deputy Edmundson has worked with Encartell the Prison's service provider in improvements to the Wi-Fi and the tablets for prisoners. Deputy Edmundson works with prisoner needs and is working with them to find improvements as well. The prison is hoping to see

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more common come from the tablets being implemented. Both Deputies are appreciated for the long hours, blood, sweat, and tears they put in at the Prison and on these improvement projects. The Board also thanks them for their hard work.

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 Edmunson provided an updated Inmate Population Report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

Warden's Report: Warden Tate 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.

COVID-19 Update: Warden Tate stated there a few cadets, two corrections officers, and a deputy warden from the prison with COVID protocol needed. One Inmate found with COVID after going to the hospital with another issue.

Prison Sub-Committees: No sub-committee reports presented at this time.

Judge Kagarise wants to set up a meeting to discuss budget needed and where it will come from for electronic monitoring of inmates.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, Controller Stickel made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Judge Kagarise. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Public Meeting Room

Respectfully Submitted,



August C. Stickel IV
Chairperson