



BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

Blair County Prison Board Meeting of July 15, 2021 at 8:30 AM In Commissioners' Public Meeting Room

Board Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Bruce Erb, Commissioner Burke, President Judge Elizabeth Doyle, Commissioner Amy Webster, Controller A.C. Stickel, District Attorney Pete Weeks

Board Members not in Attendance:

Sheriff James Ott

Quorum: Present

Non-Board Members in Attendance:

Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Eckerd, Deputy Warden Whitesel, Lieutenant Shaun Edmundson, Chief Lieutenant Kermit Alwine¹, Nicole Hemminger, Officer Joe Salomie

Primecare Representatives in Attendance: NONE

AFSCME Representatives in Attendance: NONE

Prison Society Members in Attendance: NONE

Media in Attendance: Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror

Call to Order: Controller Stickel called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Led by Controller Stickel.

The roll was called by Tracy Mosel-Miller.

Call for Public Comment on Prison Board Items: Controller Stickel called for public comment on Prison items. Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror, stated she would like an update on the air conditioning issues.

Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2021 Meeting: A motion was made by Commissioner Erb and seconded by Commissioner Webster to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2021 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Recognition of BCP Employee: Warden Tate acknowledged and thanked Officer Joe Salomie for doing a wonderful job in I-Block Housing Unit. He has been very vocal and supportive of the implementation of the Guardian System. He explained the benefits of the system to other staff members. He has been an advocate for the system. He provides good information from his Housing Unit. He is very in tune with what is going on in the unit.

¹ The Lieutenant is a voting member of the board in the absence of Sheriff Ott.

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Warden Tate stated she “does not have to worry” when Joe is on the I-Block. He handles things in an appropriate manner. Warden Tate appreciates all his efforts and being an advocate for the Guardian System. Chairman Stickel also stated appreciation of his leadership and enthusiasm.

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 Whitesel reviewed the Inmate Services Report which will be kept on file with the minutes. Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings have 8 participants. Women’s Parenting has 14 participants. Men’s Parenting has 13 participants. Reformers Unanimous has 18 participants. Chairman Stickel made a call for questions. There was none.

Warden’s Report: Warden Tate provided the Warden’s Report which will be kept on file with 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 no cases with inmates or staff. The 3rd vaccine clinic was held 7/14/2021. 1 inmate received their first vaccination, 8 inmates received their second vaccination, and two County employees were vaccinated.

Air Conditioning Update: Warden Tate stated the Prison has been trouble shooting the air conditioning system for the last couple of years. They bid out for new coils. The coils arrived last week and were installed. The compressors then “went down”. There was not much air conditioning or air flow for a few days. All but one compressor has been fixed. It is to be fixed on July 19, 2021. There was no health issues with inmates or staff. No behavioral issues with the inmates. We allowed the inmates to be out in the day room in T-Shirts. The air conditioning is now working. Warden Tate stated there have been requests to turn it down.

Prison Expansion Committee: Chairman Stickel was excited to announce R.L. Kimball, Architect should be ready to give a report of their findings and recommendations within a month. Chairman Stickel and a few Committee Members are planning to tour the Franklin County Prison in August.

Prison Sub Committee Discussion: Chairman Stickel stated he has not any contact with anyone who has specific concerns. Chairman Stickel, District Attorney Peter Weeks, and

Meeting of July 15, 2021 continued. . .

Warden Tate did meet and discussed minor issues. Chairman Stickel would like to meet at least once a month.

Chairman's Report: No report at this time.

Financial Report: Controller Stickel provided a report for June 2021 which will be kept on file with the minutes. He made a call for questions.

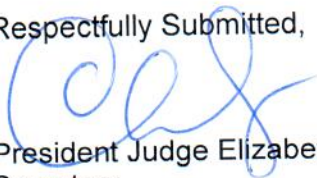
Commissioner Erb questioned Substance Expense being under 50%. Warden Tate responded the Kitchen Manger is working out well. Deputy Warden Whitesel and Lieutenant Edmundson have worked closely with the Kitchen Manager to explain the balance of prison life and the importance of food to the Prison operation. Warden Tate stated that Deputy Warden Whitesel and Lieutenant Edmundson should be commended on their efforts. Deputy Warden Whitesel met with US Foods on a rebate program we may apply for.

Commissioner Erb also questioned the Medical Expense being lower. Warden Tate explained the population being down helps keep things manageable.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, Controller Stickel adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle
Secretary