



# BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

## Blair County Prison Board Meeting of February 13, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. In the Commissioner's Public Meeting Room

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

Commissioner David Kessler, Commissioner Laura Burke, Commissioner Amy Webster (via phone), Controller A.C. Stickel, District Attorney Peter Weeks, President Judge Wade Kagarise

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Sheriff James Ott

**Quorum:** Present

**Media in Attendance:** Kay Stephens – Altoona Mirror

**Non-Board Members in Attendance:** Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Cory Yedlosky, Deputy Warden Shaun Edmundson, Lieutenant Amanda Moore, Derek Oberlander – Overwatch Innovations, Bob Smith – Overwatch Innovations, Eric Tice – Overwatch Innovations, Alicia Tiracave, Angela Wagner

**Primecare Representatives in Attendance:** NONE

**AFSCME Representatives in Attendance:** NONE

**Prison Society Members in Attendance:** Marissa Kissinger

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Kessler called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**Moment of Silent Reflection:** Led by Commissioner Kessler

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** Led by Commissioner Kessler

The roll was called by Commissioner Kessler. Commissioner Webster joined over phone.

**Call for Public Comment on Prison Board Items:** Kay Stephens: Altoona Mirror – noticed Overwatch on the Agenda when you get to that item you might have some comments about the 2018 State Department Correction study that was supposed to do the same thing. As a result of that study the County hired 13, I believe, 13 corrections officers for the Prison.

Commissioner Kessler: I will comment on it now: two Staffing Analysis were done, internally and by the Department of Corrections, and both were flawed for varying reasons.

**Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2025 Meeting:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kessler and seconded by Controller Stickel to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2025 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Recognition of BCP Employee:** Warden Tate recognized Lieutenant Amanda Moore has been with the Prison for a year and has been a great help with her vast knowledge and skills she has brought with her about the Court system and Munis processes. Lieutenant Moore has been very helpful with attendance and vacation bids most recently. The Board would also like to thank Lieutenant Moore for going to the Prison and her positive impact she has had down there.

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

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**Inmate Services Report:** Deputy Warden Edmundson 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.

**Financial Report:** Controller Stickel presented the financial report which will be kept with the minutes.

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

Commissioner Kessler: The Department of Correction made there was never a relief factor which is critical in defining staffing. No relief factor based on the facility seeing no need for additional staffing or restoration needs. The Internal study and upon review when you should look at a staffing analysis it should be pretty scientific and pretty in depth, but my review found none of that. There is a vast difference of the number of people those reports identified as having for staffing. A staffing analysis is needed to be done though typically done by the warden of the facility and they would look at the positions and then say this is what we will need. Thought this is a cost savings, these things are typically expensive to have done, the County is in need to do one.

**Overwatch Innovations, LLC – Staffing analysis:** the proposal from Overwatch Innovations will be kept with the minutes.

**Overwatch Innovations, LLC – Participation on pilot program:** the proposal from Overwatch Innovations will be kept with the minutes.

Commissioner Kessler: Meeting on February 20th will present the feasibility study for the new Prison and preliminary land permits signed. There will be a concept presented, but this is only the first step in the process. The Board wants to involve stakeholders in the discussions of what the new facility's needs.

**Adjournment:** There being no further 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 9:59 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at the Blair County Prison.

Respectfully Submitted,



August C. Stickel IV  
Chairperson