



# BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

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

### Board Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Bruce Erb, Commissioner Laura Burke, Controller A.C. Stickel, Commissioner Amy Webster, Sheriff James Ott, District Attorney Peter Weeks, President Judge Elizabeth Doyle, Deputy Controller Angela Wagner

### Board Members not in Attendance:

NONE

**Quorum:** Present

### Non-Board Members in Attendance:

Warden Abbie Tate, Deputy Warden Jay Whitesel, Deputy Warden Shaun Edmundson, Deputy James Eckard, Sergeant Matt Schmitt, Dave Kessling

### Primecare Representatives in Attendance: NONE

### AFSCME Representatives in Attendance: NONE

### Prison Society Members in Attendance: Kathy Skebeck

### Media in Attendance: Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Erb called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:** Led by Commissioner Erb.

Controller Stickel was in attendance via phone. Deputy Controller Wagner was voting on his behalf.

The roll was called by Commissioner Erb.

**Call for Public Comment on Prison Board Items:** Commissioner Erb called for public comment on Prison items. There were no comments.

**Approval of Minutes from October 19, 2023 Meeting:** A motion was made by Sheriff Ott and seconded by District Attorney Weeks to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2023 Prison Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Recognition of BCP Employee:** Warden Tate recognized Sergeant Matthew Schmitt. Matthew's current position is First-Shift Sergeant. When Lieutenant Dave Fogle passed away, he volunteered to step in as Temporary Lieutenant. Warden Tate stated she looks forward to working with him as Temporary Lieutenant. She stated he has an abundance of skills, and is excited to see him developing new ones. She appreciates his service.

Commissioner Erb thanked Sergeant Schmitt for his service and willingness to step up.

Meeting of November 16, 2023 continued. . .

**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 6 participants. The Salvation Army presentation had 6 participants. Women's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 12 participants. Men's In-Prison Drug/Alcohol Pre-Release Program had 9 participants. Reformers Unanimous had 20 participants. Women's Parenting had 21 participants. Men's Parenting had 21 participants. The Good Will Re-entry Program had 5 participants. The GED Preparation Program has 7 female and 17 male participants. The Work Release Program has 5 participants. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) had 4 female and 24 male participants.

**Warden's Report:** Warden Tate provided the Warden's Report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

**Staffing Update:** Deputy Warden James Eckard provided a Staffing Report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

**COVID-19 Update:** Warden Tate stated there were no COVID-19 issues with staff or inmates.

**Prison Sub-Committees:** Deputy Warden Edmundson stated the Re-entry Coalition met and unanimously approved the final strategic plan. Commissioner Erb stated the Coalition would like to create a Re-entry Coordinator position. This position could possibly be funded by a grant. Commissioner Erb also stated the Coalition is exploring ideas for promoting its purpose and services available. Warden Tate thanked the Board for their hard work on the re-entry program. They are already seeing the benefits.

**Financial Report:** Deputy Controller Wagner provided a report for October 2023 which will be kept on file with the minutes.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Erb adjourned the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. at the Blair County Prison.

Respectfully Submitted,



President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle  
Secretary