



BLAIR COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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

Blair County Prison Board Meeting of April 7, 2026 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, 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, Carol A. Dannenberg : Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog

Non-Board Members in Attendance: Warden Matthew Hale, Deputy Shaun Edmundson, Deputy Warden Yedlosky, Kyle Brashear, Lindsay Dempsie (via zoom), Chris Gabriel, Lori Guyer, Alicia Tiracave, Angela Wagner

Primecare Representatives in Attendance: NONE

AFSCME Representatives in Attendance: NONE

Prison Society Members in Attendance: NONE

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

Moment of Silent Prayer: Led by Commissioner Kessler.

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

The roll was called by Commissioner Kessler. Lindsay Dempsie joined via zoom.

Call for Public Comment on Prison Board Items: There was none.

Public Comment from Prison Board Members: President Judge Wade Kagarise : Expressed the need for Prison Board to make a decision on it's authority on how the Prison is operated.

Announcement of Prison Board Executive Sessions:

- An executive session was held on February 3, 2026 at approximately 8:30am with the Prison Board, Deputy Controller, Finance Director, Prison Warden, Chief Clerk, Legal Counsel, and Staff to discuss litigation and security.
- An executive session was held on February 10, 2026 at approximately 8:30am with the Commissioners, Sheriff, District Attorney, Controller, Prison Warden, County Solicitor (phone), and Chief Clerk to discuss litigation and security.
- An executive session was held on March 3, 2026 at approximately 9am with the Prison Warden, Deputy Warden Edmundson, Sheriff, President Judge, Commissioner Kessler, Commissioner Burke, Controller, and Detective Sapienza to discuss two disciplinary matters.
- An executive session was held on March 11, 2026 at approximately 12pm with the Prison Board, Prison Warden, and Chief Clerk to discuss litigation and security.

Approval of Minutes from January 6, 2026 and March 3, 2026 Meeting: A motion was made by Commissioner Kessler and seconded by Controller Stickel to approve the January 6, 2026 minutes and March 6, 2026 minutes of Prison Board. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approval for Advertisement of Bids for Prison Medical Services: A motion was made by Controller Stickel and seconded by District Attorney Weeks to approve the Advertisement for Bids from Prison Board. District Attorney Weeks clarified that this was to get bids for outside services for medical service at the Prison then to forward to the Commissioners. The motion was unanimously carried.

Ratification of Dishwasher Proposal: A motion was made by Commissioner Kessler and seconded by Commissioner Webster to ratify the approval of a dishwasher lease for the prison. District Attorney Weeks suggested that this is the kind of thing he believes the Warden should be able to approve as part of his duty to the Prison as it's Warden and that the Warden found a fiscally responsible option for the County. District Attorney Weeks stated this seemed to have approval from the Board and he would not like to see the Prison delayed from keeping the Prison functional. Controller Stickel said he would agree the Warden should be able to get items up to a certain dollar value without coming to the Board, but the Dishwasher is under contract so going through the Prison Board before the Commissioners is appropriate in this case. The motion was unanimously carried.

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

Commissioner Kessler asked how many inmates per trip can be taken?

Warden Hale stated that a trip can take 5 inmates to state prisons.

Commissioner Kessler stated that that leaves a compounding number of inmates still needing trips even if we're getting out 10 per month.

President Judge Kagarise said he has found that the State is allowing more trips for inmates with correct paperwork and that it is more like 15 per month going to the state.

Warden Hale stated more trips can be scheduled with the State if there is availability, but typically it starts with just one per month.

Commissioner Kessler stated there are less beds at the state level now and we can't control when the State will approve more pick-ups or how many more, they will take.

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 Hale 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.

Prison Financial Report: Controller Stickel provided the financial report which will be kept on file with the minutes.

Meeting of April 7, 2026 continued. . .

Adjournment: There being no further public business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kessler moved the meeting into executive session to do with security and staffing. The public meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

The next monthly meeting will be held Tuesday May 5, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Public Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

August C. Stickel IV
Secretary