



# MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

September 14, 2017

9:00 A.M.

APB BOARDROOM

## **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Felts, Chairman  
John Belken, Vice Chairman  
Andy Shock, Secretary/Commissioner, APB  
Dawne Vandiver, Commissioner  
Abraham Carpenter, Jr., Commissioner  
Jerry Riley, Commissioner  
Lona McCastlain, Commissioner

## **EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:**

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB  
Lisa Wilkins, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB  
Evelyn Gomez, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB  
Jerry Bradshaw, Deputy Director of Parole and Probation, ACC

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Brooke D. Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB  
Jessica Leija, Business Operations Manager, APB  
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB  
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB  
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB  
Kenya Woods, Victim Input Coordinator, APB  
Christie Little, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB  
William T. Bowman, II, Computer Support Analyst, APB  
Solomon Graves, Public Information Officer, ADC  
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services  
Cindy Richardson, Assistant Director, ACC  
Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:00 am. A quorum was declared.

Chairman Felts acknowledged the presence of Ms. Cindy Richardson, ACC Assistant Director, and Mr. Solomon Graves, ADC Public Information Officer, at the meeting.

## **Approval of Minutes- August 24, 2017**

Commissioner Vandiver moved for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

## **Agency Updates**

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, introduced and welcomed Ms. Jessica Leija, Business Operations Manager to the agency. Ms. Cummings further stated that Ms. Leija comes to the agency with banking and technology experience; she is a former employee of Arkansas Community Correction.

There were no further questions or concerns regarding Agency Updates.

## **Old Business**

Chairman Felts welcomed Ms. Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, to the meeting whom is in attendance to answer any questions the Board may have concerning the Board moving forward with the Act 539 hearings.

Ms. Mahfouz stated there was a law suit recently filed because the parole hearings being postponed by the Board based on Judge Griffin's order. Ms. Mahfouz stated the Parole Board's hearing provisions were not part of that lawsuit which meant the Board was not bound by that order; the concerns were confined to the constitutionality of the sentencing. The status of Griffin's appeal is not completed.

The Board stated their concerns regarding the matter and it was decided that the Board would move forward with the Act 539 eligible inmate hearings. Ms. Mahfouz mentioned to the Board that should they have any questions on this case or any cases in the future to feel free to give her a call.

Chairman Felts stated that the Board would like to address some issues regarding inmates that have been granted parole and then following the hearing pick up a disciplinary violation or a new commitment prior to release from ADC. The Board is asking that the cases that fall into this category be scheduled as a screening versus a hearing simply because they have already received an in-person hearing by the Parole Board. The Board will discuss this further and contact Institutional Release Services once they have come to a conclusion on the best way to handle these types of cases.

Ms. Ellingburg, Institutional Release Services Area Manager, asked the Board if that would be a policy change for the Board. Chairman Felts stated that it would be a policy change and the agency would put something together to be reviewed.

There were no further questions or concerns regarding Old Business at this time.

## **New Business**

Chairman Felts stated there has been an execution date set for death row inmate Jack Gordon Greene SK#922, the date that has been set is November 9, 2017. The Board will hold the Executive Clemency Hearing on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at the Varner Unit at 9:00 a.m. The Board consulted with the Attorney General's office on setting this clemency hearing date to insure the Board complied with all time restraints involved.

The Board will return from the Varner Unit on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. to hold the Victim Input meeting for the victim's family members and the response from the Attorney General's Office.

The Board's bi-monthly victim input meeting formerly scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> has been moved to Friday, October 6, 2017 and Mr. Kenya Woods, Victim Input Coordinator, will be contacting victims to update them as needed.

In addition, Chairman Felts stated the Board will be attending the AAPPA conference in Hot Springs in October; those dates are October 17 through 19, 2017. The Board scheduled Victim Input for Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> will be rescheduled for Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Woods will contact the families to be rescheduled.

There were no further questions or concerns regarding New Business at this time.

**Files for Review**

There were no questions regarding the Files for Review.

**Adoption of Recommendations**

Secretary Shock moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. The motion passed.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

The next Parole Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

***Signature on File***

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Felts  
Chairman

***Signature on File***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Shock  
Secretary

**Arkansas Parole Board  
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES**

**September 2017**

**UNITS:**

**RATIFIED**

**Delta**



**Wrightsville**



**Wrightsville Satellite/Wrightsville Hawkins**



**Tucker**



**Tucker Max**



**Cummins**



**Benton**



**TRCC/SWACC**



**Bowie County**



**McPherson**



**North Central**



**NWA- Work Release**



**OTHER: Pardons, Commutations, Transfer Screenings, ACT 290s,  
700s, Reconsiderations, Revocation Appeals, Rescinds,  
Special Conditions, EPAs, Etc.**



**MOTION BY: Secretary Shock      **SECONDED BY: Commissioner Carpenter****

**RATIFICATION DATE: September 14, 2017**