



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 @ 9:30 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Felts, Chairman
James Wallace, Vice-Chairman/Commissioner
Richard L. Mays, Jr., Secretary/Commissioner
Richard Brown Jr., Commissioner
Dawne Vandiver, Commissioner
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner
Joe Peacock, Commissioner

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON:

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Mahogany Brown, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB
Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Saalam, Administrative Specialist III (Parole), APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC
Meredith Rebsamen, Attorney Generals Office

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 12, 2013

Commissioner Wallace moved. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts stated that he and Mr. Graves attended the Board of Correction retreat and this year Mrs. Wendy Naro-Ware did a report for ADC in order to determine the projected growth over the next few months. She reported to the BOC that she really couldn't give an accurate prediction due to all the recent changes. Chairman Felts stated that he and Mr. Graves will be attending another presentation today at the Charitable and Penal Committee to discuss this issue further. He stated that there are over 2,000 offenders in county jail. This includes offenders on parole holds and parole violations. The Board must keep this in mind for what is coming up in the next few months. Mrs. Shirley Ellingburg reported that she will be able to give the Board an accurate number of upcoming hearings by October 22, 2013. At that time, everyone will be scheduled up until January.

Chairman Felts reported that there are currently 1,531 males and 120 females on the County Jail Backup list.

In review of the DCC Parole and Probation population report there are a total of 29,043 individuals on probation, 2,283 in drug court and 23,199 individuals on parole and 443 in boot camp for a total of 55,068.

In review of the DCC jurisdiction population there is a total population of 1,412. The total capacity for the DCC centers is 1,603. Chairman Felts stated that Mrs. Sheila Sharp is working with her staff to get all of the beds filled.

Chairman Felts stated that everyone should have a copy of the matrix report in their board packets. There were no questions.

In review of the APB monthly report, Chairman Felts stated that the Board had a total of 328 approved Transfer Screenings out of a total of 357. The overall approval rate for Screenings was 91.9%. The Board conducted a total of 393 Transfer Hearings with 248 approvals for release. The overall approval rate for Hearings was 63.1%. The total approval rate for Transfer Hearings and Screenings was 79%. Chairman Felts reported that there were 28 pardons with 19 voted with merit and 9 without merit. There were 35 commutation screenings with 30 voted with merit, 1 scheduled for a hearing and 4 deferred. There were 5 commutation hearings with 3 voted with merit and 2 without merit. There were also 2 firearm restoration requests for a total of 70 Executive Clemencies. The Board had total actions of 985.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mrs. Rebsamen stated that while she does not have a report, she does want to make the Board aware of one issue. She stated that she has been contacted by an attorney who is concerned about the Board stipulation of RSVP for his client, who is incarcerated with the Department of Correction. She stated that the Attorney General's office has this issue under control and it is being handled by Mrs. Christine Crier.

FISCAL REPORT

Mrs. Mahogany Franklin reported that the Board has currently expended 15% of its annual travel and operations budget. She stated that the detailed report is attached for the Board's review. She stated that the AAPPA Conference is approaching and she will need to know who plans to attend. She stated that if any Board member would like to attend, it will need to be for just one night because we have hearings and victim input meetings scheduled for that week. There were no further questions regarding the fiscal report.

HEARING JUDGES REPORT

The Hearing Judge report was available to the Board for review. This month there were a total of 656 actions taken on revocation requests.

AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Graves stated that the Board has a memo dealing with the June 13, 2013 changes to the Board manual. He stated that these changes were finalized and adopted last Friday by the Legislative Council. Mr. Graves asked that the Board give final approval to the policy changes. Commissioner Mays moved. Commissioner Peacock seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Dawne Vandiver recommended that the IT position be filled by applicant Nicholas Bradley. She stated that Mr. Bradley had a lot of experience with ADC. She stated that he will be a great benefit to our office. She called for a motion to accept the hiring recommendation of Nicholas Bradley as the new IT employee. Commissioner Mays moved. Commissioner Peacock seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

October 2013 Schedule

Chairman Felts stated that the schedule for October is available and if there are any changes that need to be made, please let him or Tamara know so those can be addressed. He stated that all Board Commissioners will be going out about 5 times each, including himself. He stated that he will be utilizing all help available at this time. There were no questions regarding the schedule.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

There were no questions regarding files for review. Chairman Felts stated that Mr. Belken made copies of a recent article regarding a parolee that he would like for each Board member to review. He also stated that they did have one inmate for review that is not deniable. The Board has done what they could by ordering him to complete Vo-Tech and a mental health assessment. It was shown that there is no indication of mental illness and at this time they have voted to release this inmate. He will be stipulated to not return to Pulaski County.

RATIFICATION OF VOTES

Commissioner Mays moved. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion to ratify the votes. Motion carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

Chairman Felts stated that at the recent BOC retreat, ADC signed a new medical contract for inmates with Correct Care Solutions.

ADJOURNMENT

There were no further comments or questions.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 9:30a.m. in the APB Boardroom

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Richard L. Mays, Jr.
Secretary

ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES
SEPTEMBER 2013

<u>UNITS:</u>	<u>RATIFIED (X)</u>
BENTON	X
CACCC	X
EAST AR	X
MISSISSIPPI CO.	X
NEACCC	X
OUACHITA RIVER CORR.	X
PINE BLUFF	X
R.L. WILLIAMS	X
SEARC	X
SWARC	X
TRCC	X
VARNER	X
WRIGHTSVILLE	X
OTHER: PARDONS, COMMUTATIONS, TRANSFER SCREENINGS, ACT 290, 700'S, RECONSIDERATION, REVOCATION APPEALS, EPA, ETC.	X

MOTION BY: Commissioner Mays SECONDED BY: Commissioner Carpenter

RATIFICATION DATE: September 26, 2013