



MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

December 16, 2015

9:00 A.M.

APB BOARDROOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Felts, Chairman
Richard Brown, Jr., Vice-Chairman /Commissioner
Dawne Vandiver, Secretary/Commissioner
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner
James Wallace, Commissioner
John Belken, Commissioner
Andy Shock, Commissioner

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Cara Boyd-Connors, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB

OTHERS PRESENT:

Solomon Graves, Board Administrator, APB
Mahogany Franklin, Business Manager, APB
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Lois Hansberry, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC
Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:05 am. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 23, 2015

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

REPORT UPDATES

Chairman Felts reported that there are 17,746 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction. There are currently 1,264 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list.

In review of the ACC Center Jurisdictional Population there are a total 1,557 offenders in ACC Centers. This includes those in ACC Centers, Omega and SE ARK TVP, and on ACC back-up list. Their statewide field report reflects 27,357 on probation, 2,410 out to drug court/specialty court, 309 boot camp releases and 22,972 on parole, for a combined total of 53,201.

Mr. Solomon Graves, Board Administrator, updated the Board on the APB report for November 2015. There were 1,143 Board actions which cover parole and executive clemency. Of that total, 628 were approvals and 157 were denials. The approval numbers have gone down over the last few months. Several factors contributed in the decrease in the number of approvals. Among them are, fewer inmates coming up for the regular PE/TE dates, the number of previous denials and parole violators. Mr. Graves stated to the Board that there had been some positive changes made by the Board in 2015 to control the inmate population.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

There were no reports from the Attorney General's office to be discussed.

FISCAL REPORT

Mahogany Franklin, Business Manager, reported that the Board has expended 43% of its annual travel, maintenance, and operations budget.

Ms. Franklin asked the Board members to make any personnel changes prior to her leaving for maternity leave at the end of January 2016.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the fiscal report.

HEARING JUDGE'S REPORT

The Hearing Judge Activity Report was available for the Board's review. Chairman Felts stated if there were in questions regarding the report to call the hearing judges and they could give you a summary of their actions. There were a total of 386 actions that were taken.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the hearing judge report.

AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Solomon Graves, Board Administrator, explained the 55% decrease in revocations. Mr. Graves provided the Board with policy changes related to the timeline for the issuance of warrants. Mr. Graves asked that the Board extend the submission deadline for Technical Violation Reports to five (5) calendar days. Commissioner Wallace moved to adopt the extension. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Graves updated the Board on the posting for the IT position. An applicant should be selected by mid-January. Ken Giesbrecht will be working for both ACC and the Parole Board until we have hired someone.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Felts stated to the Board that there were issues involving hearings at the units. Chairman Felts assured the Board that he would address the issue that the Board Members were having at the Units with ADC Director Wendy Kelley.

Chairman Felts began discussing how the Board is handling Class IV inmates. The Board agreed to discuss this issue further.

Chairman Felts mentioned that there will be an Active Shooting training on January 8, 2016 and a meeting with Institutional Release on January 29, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

FILES FOR REVIEW

There were no questions regarding the files for review.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Dawne Vandiver
Secretary

**ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES**

December 2015

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

DELTA



WRIGHTSVILLE



NORTH CENTRAL/NW



TUCKER/ TUCKER MAX



CUMMINS



MCPHERSON



BENTON



TRCC/SW/ACC-CAC



R.L. WILLIAMS



PINE BLUFF/SE



GRIMES



EAST ARKANSAS



MISS CO/NEC



VARNER



OUACHITA



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



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

RATIFICATION DATE: December 16, 2015