



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
May 29, 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

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Cara Boyd-Connors, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Richard L. Mays, Jr., Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT:

Meredith Rebsamen, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Mahogany Franklin, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:07 am. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 14, 2015

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

REPORT UPDATES

Chairman Felts reported that there are 18,839 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction. There are currently 2,770 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list. Last month we had 2,542 men in women on that list. Chairman Felts stated, as the Arkansas Parole Board we have to do what we are tasked to do which is, we have to make good decisions on who we feel are individuals that can be returned back to society.

In review of the ACC Center Jurisdiction Population there is a total 1,597 offenders in ACC Centers. This includes those in ACC correction centers, Omega and SE ARK TVP, and on the ACC's back-up list. The total ACC capacity is 1,603. Statewide Field Report reflects 27,254 on probation, 2,332 out to drug court, 250 boot camp releases and 21,786 on parole, for a combined total of 51,622. There is a reduction in those numbers from previous months.

In review of the APB monthly report Chairman Felts state that the Board had a total of 1,563 board actions in April, including parole and clemencies. The Board approved 795 parole cases. The Board conducted a total of 181 referrals, rescinded paroles and reconsiderations in April. The APB report is sent to Legislature, Governor's office and Board of Correction on a monthly basis.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

Meredith Rebsamen, Assistant Attorney General, has returned from maternity leave. She asked that the Board document the dates on any mail or documentation served to the Board regarding any legal information. There were no further questions or updates to discuss.

FISCAL REPORT

Mahogany Franklin, Fiscal Support Supervisor, reported that the Board has currently expended 79% of its annual travel, maintenance, and operations budget. The report was attached for the Board's review. There were no questions regarding the fiscal report.

Solomon Graves and Mahogany Franklin presented the FY16 budget and discussed the effects of the proposed budget cuts for the 2016 fiscal year. The Board asked for clarification on several issues and asked for updates as more information becomes available.

HEARING JUDGE'S REPORT

The Hearing Judge Activity Report was available for the Board's review. Chairman Felts stated that a total of 86 offenders were revoked and sent back to custody in ADC, RCF or TVP. There were a total of 517 actions for the month of April. Waivers are down from previous months, there were a total of 314 waivers for the month. There were no further questions or comments.

AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Solomon Graves, APB Administrative Services Manager updated the Board on the following items/ There were no question or comments from the Board:

- Office Security enhancements;
- IT needs survey from the State Personnel Office;
- Automating voting on Act 700s and EPAs; and
- Vacancies in the Revocation Support section

OLD BUSINESS

There was not any old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

The June 2015 Arkansas Parole Board hearing schedule and calendar was provided to the Board. The Board was asked to notify Ms. Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, of any scheduling conflicts.

Motion to suspend the rules to consider the June 2015 Schedule. Commissioner Carpenter moved to suspend the rules for June 2015 schedule. Commissioner Belken seconded. The motion was carried.

Our mandatory Board retreat to be held on June 19th at the Crown Plaza in West Little Rock from 8:30-4:00.

There were no questions regarding the scheduling at this time.

FILES FOR REVIEW

There are no questions regarding the files for review. The next Victim Input Hearing will be held on June 3rd, 2015 at 9:00 am.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Vandiver, Secretary of the Board, moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. The motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Parole Board.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Dawne Vandiver
Secretary

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

May 2015

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

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, EPA, Etc.**



MOTION BY: Commissioner Vandiver SECONDED BY: Commissioner Brown

RATIFICATION DATE: May 29, 2015