



State of Oklahoma
PARDON AND PAROLE BOARD

PARDON AND PAROLE BOARD
Business Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 8, 2024
9:00 a.m.

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Edward Konieczny, Richard Miller, Calvin Prince, Kevin Buchanan, and Robert Reavis
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** None
- STAFF:** Tom Bates, Melinda Romero, Kyle Counts and Leroy Long
- GUESTS:** Angelina Hampton

I. Call To Order – Edward Konieczny, Chairman

The Business Meeting of the Pardon and Parole Board (PPB) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Edward Konieczny on Monday, April 8, 2024.

A. Roll Call

The members present were Calvin Prince, Edward Konieczny, Robert Reavis, Richard Miller, and Kevin Buchanan.

B. Assurance of Compliance with Open Meeting Act

General Counsel Kyle Counts provided assurance of compliance with the Open Meeting Act. The business meeting of the Pardon and Parole Board was convened in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. This meeting was preceded by an advance notice of the date, time, and place filed with the Oklahoma Secretary of State on November 13, 2023. Notice of this meeting was also given at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting by posting notice of the date, time, virtual meeting place, and agenda of the meeting on April 4, 2024, on the Pardon and Parole Board's website, www.ok.gov/ppb. The meeting is in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Discussion and Possible Action on March 2024 Business Meeting Minutes

The March business meeting minutes were provided to the Board for review. Calvin Prince made a motion to approve the March business meeting minutes, Robert Reavis seconded. The Board carried the motion 5-0.

B. Discussion and Possible Action on March 2024 Parole Meeting Minutes

The March Parole minutes were provided to the Board for review. Calvin Prince made a motion to approve the March Parole meeting minutes, Robert Reavis seconded. The Board carried the motion 5-0.

- III. Agency Updates –Tom Bates, Executive Director, Melinda Romero, Deputy Director, Leroy Long, Field Director, and Kyle Counts, General Counsel**
- A. Personnel Updates** – Melinda Romero, Deputy Director, reported no new hires or separations.
 - B. Field Updates** – Leroy Long, Field Director, informed the Board that the May docket is being completed, and that interviews were scheduled for the Parole Investigator vacancy in the field.
 - C. Legal Updates** – Kyle Counts, General Counsel, explained that in the Month of March there were 22 revocations, with 16 waiving their hearings and 6 receiving hearings. He told the board that a clemency hearing for Wade Lay is scheduled for May, but likely will not occur due to pending competency proceedings. Mr. Counts informed the Board that the OCCA should soon release an order regarding further clemency scheduling and execution pacing. Finally, the Board received a status update regarding pending legislation that could affect the Board’s procedures, both of which are awaiting Senate Committee hearings.
 - D. Director’s Update** – Tom Bates, Executive Director, was happy to announce that the move of the office into the OHCA building is complete. He thanked everyone involved for their help. He explained that he is remaining optimistic about the requested budget increase after encouraging words from the Senate. Finally, he thanked Ms. Angelina Hampton for coming to provide the Board with training for this meeting.
- IV. Training – Angelina Hampton, Drug Court Coordinator for Pottawatomie and Lincoln Counties**
- A.** Angelina Hampton provided training to the Board regarding Drug Court in Pottawatomie and Lincoln Counties. Ms. Hampton began her work in criminal justice in 2005 and has seen impactful change in Specialty Court programs since the establishment of the Best Practices Standards in 2013. Such practices implemented evidence-based treatment options for early diversion, pre-trial release, and supervision. Important to the success of Drug Court participants is the team behind them- the judge, District Attorney, defense attorneys, and treatment providers. Often, the first step is ensuring that basic human needs are met before expectations are set. Once those needs are met, short-term goals are reached through use of incentives and sanctions. Long-term goals, such as sobriety, are not met with sanctions, but instead, adjustments to treatment to ensure success. Ms. Hampton shared a success story, the outcome of which prompted the decision give participants ample chances and opportunity to succeed, and to avoid terminations where possible. Ms. Hampton answered the Board’s questions.
- V. New Business Not Known or Which Could Not Have Been Reasonably Foreseen Before the Posting of the Agenda**
- No new business was discussed.
- VI. Adjournment of the Business Meeting**
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Counts", written over a horizontal line.

Kyle Counts
General Counsel

The minutes for the April 2024 Pardon and Parole Board Business Meeting were approved by a majority vote on the 6th day of May 2024.