

# PRISON BOARD MINUTES

March 10, 2021

**Board Members Present:**

Thomas C. Chernisky, President Commissioner  
William J. Smith, Commissioner  
Scott W. Hunt, Commissioner  
Ed Cernic, Jr., Controller  
Don Robertson, Acting Sheriff  
Gregory J. Neugebauer, District Attorney

**Others Present:**

Chris Smith, Warden  
William Patterson, First Deputy Warden  
William Valko, Court Administrator  
Katie Delozier  
Emily Krug

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., Cambria County Prison, 425 Manor Drive, Ebensburg.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on February 10, 2021.

Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic and passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Presentation and Approval of Invoices:**

Controller Cernic presented the following bills and Invoice Status Report for approval:

**Prison bills paid after the Meeting held February 10, 2021:**

Retirement Fund	\$23,614.37
Retirement Fund	\$22,703.74
UPMC Health Plan	\$93,864.38
UPMC Dental	\$113.82
Symetra Life Insurance	\$471.54
Phoenix Rehab	\$475.00
Ray Oil & Gas	\$1,463.20
Ricoh	\$209.00
FNB Bank (Visa)	\$375.00
Conemaugh	\$600.00
Penelec	\$16,507.01
Ray Oil & Gas	\$1,057.75
Ricoh	\$356.77
Wells Fargo	\$150.20
John Briel	\$40.88
John Kindja	\$26.32
GC Pivotal	\$75.62
Peoples	\$1,232.63
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$163,337.23</b>

**Invoice Status Report:**

March 5, 2021, 111 Invoices Totaling	\$228,052.51
Canteen Fund bills paid after February, 2021, Meeting	\$11,199.01
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$40,857.75

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to approve the bills and Invoice Status Report.

Motion was seconded by Acting Sheriff Robertson and passed unanimously.

**Warden's Report:**

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to adopt a policy to improve the collection of room and board charges.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

**Personnel:**

1. Hire the following individuals as Per-Diem Correctional Officers, effective March 22, 2021. (Employment is contingent on successful completion of the pre-employment screenings.)

Dakota Fauver	Chelsea Gaida	Jennifer Hodge
Alexander Nagle	Melvin Wisor	

**Warden Smith reported:**

1. The Warden informed the Board last month that the Prison was experiencing an uptick in positive Covid-19 cases. The Facility has overcome that increase and is currently, once again, reporting zero (0) positive cases among both staff and inmates. To date, there have been two hundred and twenty-two (222) positive cases at the Prison; forty-one (41) staff, three (3) PrimeCare employees, and one hundred and seventy-eight (178) inmates. Appropriate screening, testing, cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine practices remain in effect.

2. The Warden previously informed the Board that the Prison was in the process of a security upgrade that was approved last year. Intertech technicians have been onsite for the last two (2) weeks. As of Monday, March 8, 2021, they are at an estimated eighty percent (80%) completion point with a projected completion date for the end of this week.

3. The Cadet Academy finished last Friday, and those seven (7) cadets are currently completing their on-the-job training. The Facility has been conducting interviews over the last month to recruit new hires to begin another Academy on March 22, 2021.

4. At the end of last year, both representatives from Nutrition, Inc., that worked with the Prison retired from the company. On February 24, 2021, Administration met with the new representatives assigned to the Prison's account. With the increase in meal costs, the Warden has requested that Nutrition make it a top priority to explore new menu options to help reduce costs. They will be working with Mr. Callihan on this task.

5. Under new ICE regulations, the Prison is now required to undergo Office of Detention Oversight Inspections of the Facility every six (6) months. This is in addition to the annual inspection completed by ICE. This week, the Facility has been undergoing the first of the 2021 ODO Inspections. Due to Covid-19, the Inspection Team is conducting the inspection virtually. Although the Prison would prefer an onsite inspection rather than a virtual one, a positive result is still anticipated.

**Statistical Report:**

Report is attached.

**February, 2021**

Average Daily Population for February, 2021	295
Housing Revenue for February, 2021	\$122,780.00
Year to Date Revenue as of February, 2021	\$260,960.00

**Food Service Report:**

During the month of February, the Prison worked on the proper ways to prepare, cook, and serve food items. The topics of minimum internal temperatures as well as holding temperatures for both hot and cold food items were also discussed.

**Medical Report:**

Report is attached.

**Training:**

None.

**Misconduct Report:**

There was no information to report.

**Miscellaneous:**

There was no information to report.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to accept the Warden's Report.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

**Communications:**

None.

**Old Business:**

None.

The Warden requested an Executive Session.

District Attorney Neugebauer made a motion to convene an Executive Session at 11:10 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to reconvene the Public Meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Motion was seconded by District Attorney Neugebauer and passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.**

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**Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk**