

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

April 14, 2021

Board Members Present:

Thomas C. Chernisky, President Commissioner
William J. Smith, Commissioner
Scott W. Hunt, Commissioner
Kristine Segear, First Deputy to the Controller
Gregory J. Neugebauer, District Attorney

Others Present:

Chris Smith, Warden
William Patterson, First Deputy Warden
Craig Descavish, Second Deputy Warden
William Valko, Court Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., in the Jury Room of the Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

None.

Presentation and Approval of Invoices:

Kristine Segear presented the following bills and Invoice Status Report for approval:

Prison bills paid after the Meeting held March 10, 2021:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Retirement Fund | \$21,668.98 |
| Retirement Fund | \$21,525.71 |
| Retirement Fund | \$22,897.68 |
| UPMC Health Plan | \$93,076.52 |
| UPMC Health Plan | \$557.56 |
| UPMC Dental | \$124.66 |
| UPMC Dental | \$119.24 |
| Symetra Life Insurance | \$472.17 |
| Symetra Life Insurance | \$472.48 |
| Ebensburg Borough | \$27,331.80 |
| Ray Oil & Gas | \$1,242.55 |
| Ricoh | \$470.79 |
| Wells Fargo | \$150.20 |
| Conemaugh | \$75.00 |
| Debra Farrell | \$154.00 |
| Penelec | \$16,406.50 |
| Ricoh | \$352.55 |
| Direct Energy | \$695.33 |
| Peoples | \$1,017.93 |
| GC Pivotal | \$16.87 |
| Phoenix Rehab | \$50.00 |
| Pro Disposal | \$495.00 |
| Total: | \$209,373.52 |

Invoice Status Report:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| April 9, 2021, 89 Invoices Totaling | \$298,866.36 |
| Canteen Fund bills paid after March, 2021, Meeting | \$11,814.02 |
| Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid | \$36,933.14 |

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to approve the bills and the Invoice Status Report.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

The Warden requested an Executive Session.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to convene an Executive Session at 10:32 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to reconvene the Public Meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Personnel:

- 1. Dale Westrick, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I from payroll, effective April 4, 2021.**
- 2. Lance Miller, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I from payroll, effective March 31, 2021.**
- 3. Joshua Platko, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer from payroll, effective March 12, 2021.**
- 4. Randy Eagler, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer from payroll, effective March 12, 2021.**

Warden Smith reported:

- 1. The Prison is currently going through its third wave of Covid-19 at the Facility. To date, there have been two hundred and ninety-three (293) positive cases; fifty-one (51) staff, four (4) PrimeCare employees, and two hundred and thirty-eight (238) inmates, which is an increase of seventy-one (71) positive cases since last month's report. Currently, the positive cases consist of ten (10) staff and fifty-five (55) inmates. Screening, testing, cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine practices remain in effect.**
- 2. The Intertech security upgrade has been completed. The Prison did have some glitches after the initial installation. However, Intertech engineers and the software company worked diligently to find resolutions. As of Friday of last week, it appears that all issues have been resolved.**
- 3. The first week of May, the 2nd through the 8th, the Facility will be celebrating National Corrections Employee Week. Throughout the week, the Prison will be having a special menu planned for staff. All Board Members are invited for lunch during the week. On Friday, May 8, 2021, the Prison will be awarding the annual Employee, Supervisor, and Officer of the Year Awards. Due to Covid-19 restrictions keeping congregations small, the Facility will not be having an awards ceremony again this year.**

The awards will be personally handed out, and an announcement will be made as to who was recognized.

4. The annual inspection of the Facility's fire system was completed by Intertech the week of March 22, 2021. No issues were found.

5. The Prison's Captains and Lieutenants made a donation of two (2) Dakota Pinnacle Birch Trees to the Facility. One tree was planted "In Remembrance of Law Enforcement and First Responders Who Have Lost Their Lives to Covid-19," and the second one was planted "In Remembrance of County Employees and Family Members Who Have Lost Their Lives to Covid-19." The trees were planted in the front grass area of the Facility, and plaques will be purchased for each tree.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

March, 2021

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Average Daily Population for March, 2021 | 319 |
| Housing Revenue for March, 2021 | \$125,720.00 |
| Year to Date Revenue as of March, 2021 | \$386,680.00 |

Food Service Report:

During the month of March, Jeff Callihan worked with Megan Gervasi of the Nutrition Group on making possible changes to the menu to help with food costs.

The Facility worked with inmate labor on the importance of wearing masks and personal hygiene as well as safety in the workplace. Procedures for choking were discussed along with what to do if someone receives a cut or burn or slips and falls in the workplace.

Medical Report:

Report is attached.

Training:

1. From March 16, 2021, through March 19, 2021, Officer Doug Kimack received sixteen (16) hours of training in Floor Control Operations and sixteen (16) hours of training in Central Control Operations.

2. From March 15, 2021, through March 19, 2021, Officer Calvin Ates received forty (40) hours of training in Prison Kitchen Operations.

3. From March 17, 2021, through March 19, 2021, Officer Wallace Litzinger received twenty-four (24) hours of training in Max Control Operations.

4. From March 22, 2021, through March 24, 2021, Officer Wallace Litzinger received twenty-four (24) hours of training in Floor Control and Central Control Operations.

5. From March 30, 2021, through April 1, 2021, Officer Calvin Ates received twenty-four (24) hours of training in Max Control Operations.

6. From March 29, 2021, through April 1, 2021, Office Wallace Litzinger received thirty-two (32) hours of training in Prison Kitchen Operations.

7. From March 30, 2021, through March 31, 2021, Officer Jennifer Shero received sixteen (16) hours of training in Max Control Operations.

8. On March 22, 2021, the Prison's second new Per-Diem Correctional Officer Cadet Academy began. It will graduate on April 16, 2021, and cadets will be available for duty April 24, 2021. The class consists of five (5) new Per-Diem Officers.

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.

New Business:

None.

Adjournment:

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

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk