

# PRISON BOARD MINUTES

February 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  
Norman A. Krumenacker, III, President Judge

**Others Present:**

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

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.

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2021.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt 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 January 13, 2021:**

Retirement Fund	\$23,918.86
Retirement Fund	\$24,953.22
UPMC Health Plan	\$94,249.62
UPMC Dental	\$113.82
Symetra Life Insurance	\$450.47
GC Pivotal	\$66.44
Conemaugh	\$100.00
Penelec	\$17,668.61
Ricoh	\$553.26
FNB Credit Card	\$49.50
Phoenix Rehab	\$25.00
WB Mason	\$1,626.29
CamTran	\$279.13
Direct Energy	\$887.33
Ebensburg Borough	\$36,382.55
Peoples	\$1,263.35
Wells Fargo	\$150.20
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$202,737.65</b>

**Invoice Status Report:**

<b>February 8, 2021, 87 Invoices Totaling</b>	<b>\$311,682.90</b>
<b>Canteen Fund bills paid after January, 2021, Meeting</b>	<b>\$11,518.60</b>
<b>Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid</b>	<b>\$36,845.04</b>

**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:**

**The Warden requested an Executive Session.**

**Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to convene an Executive Session at 10:34 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 Hunt and passed unanimously.**

**Personnel:**

**There were no personnel matters.**

**Warden Smith reported:**

- 1. Although mitigation efforts for Covid-19 continue to be a priority at the Facility, the Prison has recently experienced a slight uptick in the number of active cases. As of Monday, February 8, 2021, there have been two hundred and twenty (220) positive cases; forty-one (41) staff members, three (3) PrimeCare employees, and one hundred and seventy-six (176) inmates. One (1) employee remains off work, and thirteen (13) inmates are active positives. Appropriate screening, testing, cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine practices remain in effect.**
- 2. As part of the Prison's mitigation efforts, it is working with the Cambria County Emergency Management Agency to distribute vaccines to staff, once Pennsylvania enters Phase 1B of the vaccination schedule. PrimeCare Medical will administer the vaccines to Prison employees. Each employee has been given the opportunity to voluntarily sign up for or refuse a vaccination.**
- 3. The Prison is currently in the process of a security upgrade that was approved last year. Intertech technicians have been working remotely on the engineering process, and they were on site on Monday. A tentative completion date for the project is the end of March.**
- 4. The Facility began a new Cadet Academy on Monday, February 8, 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Prison is not accepting cadets from other counties. This class consists of seven (7) new per-diem hires. They will receive one hundred and sixty (160) hours of classroom training and forty (40) hours of on-the-job training.**
- 5. Construction of the video courtrooms at the Prison continues. Since the start of the pandemic, the Facility has been utilizing the Prison counselors and an officer for this purpose. To reduce the amount of staffing required to complete these hearings, the Prison is converting a**

large, unused classroom at the Facility into a video courtroom containing six (6) separate, private mini rooms inside. This conversion will allow one (1) counselor and an officer to oversee up to six (6) simultaneous hearings at one (1) time. CARES funding was used to purchase new Polycom video units that will be installed in each of the mini rooms.

6. The Prison updates inmate mattresses on a rotating basis, due to the hard use they get. The Facility has recently purchased two hundred (200) mattresses that will replace damaged or soiled mattresses. The Prison has also purchased twelve (12) suicide prevention mattresses that will replace the ones currently being used.

7. Last month, the Warden informed the Board that the Prison was seeking quotes on the replacement of the Prison's commercial dishwasher. The Facility is still awaiting several quotes. However, based on the quotes received to this point, if approved, it may need to go out for bid. The Warden will update the Board further, once the remaining quotes are received.

**Statistical Report:**

Report is attached.

**January, 2021**

Average Daily Population for January, 2021	334
Housing Revenue for January, 2021	\$138,250.00
Year to Date Revenue as of January, 2021	\$138,250.00

**Food Service Report:**

During the month of December, 2020, the Prison worked on basic training such as daily job tasks, proper storage of both cooked and uncooked food items, and cleaning and sanitizing of work areas and equipment. The Facility continued to focus on the importance of personal hygiene and wearing masks.

During the month of January, 2021, the Facility discussed the importance of personal hygiene and wearing masks. The Prison worked on proper handwashing and how important it is to wash your hands after each task as well as after every time hands come into contact with an item which is not the task at hand. Glove use was also discussed.

**Medical Report:**

Report is attached.

**Training:**

1. From January 5, 2021, through January 6, 2021, Officer Doug Kimack received sixteen (16) hours of training in Central Control Operations.

2. From January 5, 2021, through January 7, 2021, Officer Wallace Litzinger received twenty-four (24) hours of training in Max Control Operations.

3. From January 12, 2021, through January 13, 2021, Officer Zachary Shuhayda received sixteen (16) hours of training in the Property Officer Position.

4. From January 12, 2021, through January 14, 2021, Officer Wallace Litzinger received twenty-four (24) hours of training in Floor Control Operations.
5. On January 14, 2021, Officer Matthew Hale completed an eight (8) hour Taser Instructor recertification at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.
6. From January 25, 2021, through January 26, 2021, Officer Calvin Ates received sixteen (16) hours of training in Prison Laundry Operations.
7. The proposed Training Plan for 2021 was developed and approved. The Plan includes at least two (2) Cadet Academies, with the first beginning February 8, 2021. The Mandatory Title 37 required training for all staff to follow the first Academy. Additionally, specialized training will be provided for CERT members as well as firearms re-certification for all Corrections Officers. Additional Cadet Academies will be added, if necessary.

**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:**

Warden Smith offered condolences to the Sheriff's Office for the passing of Deputy Ross Dixon.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

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Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk