

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

September 8, 2021

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Chris Smith, Warden
William Patterson, First Deputy Warden
William Valko, Court Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on August 11, 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 August 11, 2021:

Retirement Fund	\$22,770.96
Retirement Fund	\$24,857.30
UPMC Health Plan	\$90,569.20
UPMC Dental	\$113.82
Symetra Life Insurance	\$448.66
Pro Disposal	\$495.00
Phoenix Rehab	\$820.00
Ricoh	\$209.00
GC Pivotal	\$67.00
Penelec	\$18,512.01
Ricoh	\$359.14
Tribune Democrat	\$95.00
Wells Fargo	\$150.20
GC Pivotal	\$67.00
CamTran	\$402.55
Direct Energy	\$483.15
Peoples	\$724.01
Total:	\$161,144.00

Invoice Status Report:

September 3, 2021, 99 Invoices Totaling	\$110,466.94
Canteen Fund bills paid after August, 2021, Meeting	\$13,089.18

Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid

\$47,010.25

Motion was made by Controller Cernic 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 10:34 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to reconvene the Public Meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Personnel:

- 1. Calvin Hartman, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective September 19, 2021.**
- 2. Anthony Shultz, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective September 19, 2021.**
- 3. Theodore Theys, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective September 19, 2021.**
- 4. David Port, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective September 1, 2021.**
- 5. Scott Batzel, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective September 1, 2021.**
- 6. Benjamin Krumenaker, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer from payroll, effective August 16, 2021.**

Warden Smith reported:

- 1. To date, there have been three hundred and eighty-six (386) positive Covid-19 cases at the Prison; seventy-six (76) staff, seven (7) PrimeCare employees, and three hundred and three (303) inmates. This reflects an increase of five (5) staff members since last month's Meeting. All screening, testing, cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine practices remain in effect.**
- 2. The Cadet Academy for new hires that began last month was suspended due to Covid-19 cases. This will set the Prison back with the anticipated timeline of being back to full staffing. The Academy is scheduled to resume class on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.**
- 3. Currently, the Facility has two (2) individuals under the age of eighteen (18) that have been charged and adjudicated as adults. In the past, a smaller housing unit was converted to house juveniles. Over the last year and a half, with no juveniles to house, that unit has become a vital part of the Prison's separation procedure for Covid-19 positive inmates. In the event that the Facility undergoes another round of Covid-19 infections, Administration will need to seek out contract housing at another facility for these two (2) juveniles.**

4. This past week, the domestic water pump that supplies the entire institution with water was replaced. This pump began to fail late last year, and the Prison has been operating on a secondary pump since then. The 1,700-pound pump was original to the building and had to be special ordered and built to certain specifications, which is what caused the replacement delay.

5. At the last few meetings, the Warden has been updating the Board on the progress of replacing the HF Unit furnace. Since last month, the engineering bid has been awarded to CJL Engineering. A kick-off meeting with all parties involved with the project will be scheduled in the near future.

6. With the nationwide ammunition shortage facing all law enforcement agencies, the Prison is no different. The Facility has placed an order. However, there is a six (6) to eight (8) month wait time for delivery. This delay will only slightly affect operations. In order to maintain an adequate supply of ammunition on hand, the Prison has been forced to complete its annual firearms certification for fewer than normal officers. Since staff is not armed within the institution, this temporary delay in certifications will only reduce the amount of current staff available to conduct armed transports.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

August, 2021

Average Daily Population for August, 2021	360
Housing Revenue for August, 2021	\$140,910.00
Year to Date Revenue as of August, 2021	\$1,056,230.00

Food Service Report:

During the month of July, the Prison worked on basic food safety in the food industry. The Facility touched on the four (4) major points of how food becomes unsafe, which are time and temperature abuse, cross-contamination, poor personal hygiene, and the importance of cleaning and sanitizing.

They also reviewed diversity in the workplace and how to deal with issues that may come about due to diversity.

Medical Report:

Report is attached.

Training:

1. From August 19, 2021, through August 20, 2021, Lieutenant Mark Anderson completed Aerosol Irritant Projector Instructor certification. This was a virtual course provided by Sabre Law Enforcement Training.

2. From August 30, 2021, through August 31, 2021, Officers David Leverknight, Brad Dugan, and Michael Hite completed Aerosol Irritant Projector Instructor certification. This was a virtual course provided by Sabre Law Enforcement Training.

3. Approximately forty-five (45) correctional officers completed annual firearms recertification.

Misconduct Report:

There was no information to report.

Miscellaneous:

There was no information to report.

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to accept the Warden's Report.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Communications:

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk