

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

November 10, 2021

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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 October 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 October 13, 2021:

Retirement Fund	\$23,628.48
Retirement Fund	\$24,815.66
UPMC Health Plan	\$90,747.70
UPMC Dental	\$130.08
Symetra Life Insurance	\$454.47
CamTran	\$306.63
Ray Oil & Gas	\$525.90
Wells Fargo	\$105.20
Peoples	\$727.01
Phoenix Rehab	\$110.00
Ricoh	\$552.48
Commonwealth of PA	\$450.00
Direct Energy	\$500.34
Total:	\$143,053.95

Invoice Status Report:

November 5, 2021, 105 Invoices Totaling	\$227,521.67
Canteen Fund bills paid after October, 2021, Meeting	\$9,670.86
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$55,062.97

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

Motion was seconded by Acting Sheriff Robertson and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

Personnel:

1. Donald Shirk, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I from payroll, effective November 20, 2021.

2. Hire the following as Full-Time Correctional Officer I's, effective November 29, 2021. (Employment is contingent on successful completion of the pre-employment screenings.)

Jason Burkhardt	Izaak Gray	Chad Sossong
John Termarki	Austin Vasilinda	

3. Hire the following as Per-Diem Correctional Officer I's, effective November 29, 2021. (Employment is contingent on successful completion of the pre-employment screenings.)

Everett Churchey	Sierra Cunningham	Robert Jacobson
Matthew Leamer	Ashlee Mulraney	Gavin Pacewicz
Jonathan Riggle	David Rummel, Jr.	Eric Stiffler
Cathy Thomas	Nathan Wingard	

Motion was made Controller Cernic to approve these personnel changes.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

First Deputy Warden Patterson reported:

1. To date, there have been four hundred and seventeen (417) positive Covid-19 cases at the Prison; ninety-six (96) staff, eight (8) PrimeCare employees, and three hundred and sixteen (316) inmates. This reflects an increase of thirteen (13) staff members and eleven (11) inmates since last month's meeting. All screening, testing, cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine practices remain in effect.

2. Since the start of 2021, PrimeCare has been providing the Prison with no-cost rapid-testing kits to use for both staff and inmates. Unfortunately, the supply of no-cost test kits is slowly being exhausted. PCR tests have cost \$155.00 each throughout the length of the pandemic, but the influx of free rapid test kits this year decreased the need for, and costs for, PCR tests. The Prison anticipates the supply of the rapid tests to run out by the end of the year. Therefore, testing related costs are expected to increase.

3. During the week of October 18, 2021, Deputy Patterson and Captain Rozum attended the Pennsylvania Prison Warden's Association's Fall Training Conference. The focus of the training was "Risk in Unprecedented Times" and included topics in Alcohol, Drug, and Concealment Trends and Identifiers; Seven Rules of Admiral Hyman Rickover; What is Risk Management; and Why Things Go Right-Why Things Go Wrong. During the conference, elections were held for Association positions. Deputy Patterson would like to congratulate Captain George Rozum for being elected as the PPWA Western District Representative. Deputy Patterson previously held this position but chose not to run for re-election due to his pending retirement.

4. Due to additional retirements and the loss of a few recently hired cadets, the Facility will be conducting another Cadet Academy beginning on November 29, 2021, and running through December 24, 2021. The Prison anticipates five (5) vacant full-time officer positions and ten (10) per-diem officer positions being filled through this academy. All those hired will

complete one hundred and sixty (160) hours of classroom training and forty (40) hours of on-the-job training prior to being placed into full duty.

5. The mandated annual review of the Prison's Emergency Operations Plan by the Prison Administrative Team and EMA Director Art Martynuska was completed in October. This plan was forwarded to the Commissioners for final approval and signatures.

6. The Prison's annual Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 11, 2021, at the Ebensburg Country Club. Cocktails will start at 6:00 p.m. with dinner and D.J. starting at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Warden Patterson invited the entire Board and spouses to attend.

7. The bid has tentatively been awarded to MARC-Service, Inc., pending approval at the November 18, 2021, Commissioners' Meeting.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

October, 2021

Average Daily Population for October, 2021	405
Housing Revenue for October, 2021	\$233,170.00
Year to Date Revenue as of October, 2021	\$1,445,010.00

Food Service Report:

None.

Medical Report:

Report is attached.

Training:

1. From October 4, 2021, through October 8, 2021, Officer Dakota Fauver completed forty (40) hours of training on Prison Kitchen Operations.
2. On October 5, 2021, Officer Wallace Litzinger completed eight (8) hours of training on Property Operations.
3. From October 11, 2021, through October 13, 2021, Officer Alex Gardini completed twenty-four (24) hours of training on Intake Operations.
4. From October 13, 2021, through October 15, 2021, Officer Calvin Ates completed twenty-four (24) hours of training on Flor Control Operations.
5. From October 13, 2021, through October 14, 2021, Officer Dakota Fauver completed sixteen (16) hours of training on Floor Control Operations.
6. From October 13, 2021, through October 14, 2021, Officer Dakota Houston completed sixteen (16) hours of training on Prison Kitchen Operations.
7. From October 13, 2021, through October 14, 2021, Officer Trey Karfelt completed sixteen (16) hours of training on Prison Kitchen Operations.

8. From October 12, 2021, through October 15, 2021, Officer Wallace Litzinger completed thirty-two (32) hours training on Intake and Property Operations.
9. From October 11, 2021, through October 12, 2021, Officer Jennifer Shero completed sixteen (16) hours of training on Floor Control Operations.
10. From October 11, 2021, through October 12, 2021, Officer Noah Sleasman completed sixteen (16) hours of training on Prison Laundry Operations.
11. From October 18, 2021, through October 20, 2021, Officer Zachary Shuhayda completed twenty-four (24) hours training on Intake and Property Operations.
12. From October 18, 2021, through October 20, 2021, Officer Calvin Ates completed twenty-four (24) hours of training Central Control Operations.
13. From October 21, 2021, through October 22, 2021, Officer Dakota Houston completed sixteen (16) hours of training on Escort Operations.
14. From October 18, 2021, through October 19, 2021, Officer Wallace Litzinger completed sixteen (16) hours of training on Prison Mail Operations.
15. From October 21, 2021, through October 22, 2021, Officer Brad Rosemas completed sixteen (16) hours training on Escort Operations.
16. From October 26, 2021, through October 28, 2021, Officer Calvin Ates completed twenty-four (24) hours of training on Intake Operations.
17. From October 26, 2021, through October 28, 2021, Office Dakota Fauver completed twenty-four (24) hours of training on Central Control Operations.
18. From October 26, 2021, through October 29, 2021, Officer Anthony Shultz completed sixteen (16) hours of training on Max Control Operations and sixteen (16) hours of training on Escort Operations.
19. From October 26, 2021, through October 29, 2021, Officer Theodore Theys completed sixteen (16) hours of training on Max Control Operations and sixteen (16) hours of training on Escort Operations.
20. Throughout the month, an additional twenty-four correctional staff completed sixteen (16) hours of annual training.
21. The Operational Planning Course mentioned last month is being rescheduled by the provider, and the hope is to have the class in early 2022.
22. A new Cadet Basic Training Academy is slated to begin on November 29, 2021.

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 District Attorney Neugebauer 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 Controller Cernic and passed unanimously.

Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk