

# PRISON BOARD MINUTES

June 10, 2020

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

William Valko, Court Administrator  
Chris Smith, Warden  
William Patterson, First Deputy Warden  
Kris Segear, First Deputy to the Controller

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 Commissioner Hunt to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2020.

Motion was seconded by District Attorney Neugebauer 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 May 13, 2020:**

Retirement Fund	\$20,618.84
Retirement Fund	\$22,396.97
UPMC Health Plan	\$95,433.92
UPMC Dental	\$113.82
Symetra Life Insurance	\$477.52
Ebensburg Borough	\$33,537.55
Phoenix Rehab	\$100.00
Ricoh	\$209.00
FNB Bank (Visa)	\$1,252.84
GC Pivotal	\$65.61
Penelec	\$18,120.38
Ricoh	\$413.97
Direct Energy	\$739.93
Peoples	\$1,085.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$194,565.36</b>

**Invoice Status Report:**

June 8, 2020, 123 Invoices Totaling	\$227,127.35
Canteen Fund bills paid after May 2020 Meeting	\$6,954.49
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$25,122.39

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

**Motion was seconded by Court Administrator Valko and passed unanimously.**

**Warden's Report:**

**An Executive Session was requested to discuss a personnel matter.**

**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 11:24 a.m.**

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

**Personnel:**

- 1. Brendan Gray, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective April 30, 2020.**

**Operations:**

**Warden Smith reported:**

- 1. As of today, there have been no positive Covid-19 cases within the Facility. As preventative measures continue to be ever changing, the Prison has implemented all required changes into protocols. One significant change, due to the chance of the virus entering the institution from a new commitment, is the length of quarantine status for new commitments entering the Facility. This has been increased from two (2) to three (3) days to fourteen (14) days. This means that new inmates are confined to their cells, with the exception of a daily shower and phone call, for fourteen (14) days prior to entering general population and have no contact with any other inmates except his/her cellmate. This extended medical quarantine period has forced the Facility to shift the inmate population around and dedicate two (2) full housing units to quarantining new inmates. With Cambria County currently in the green phase of reopening, the Prison will be making decisions within the next few days and weeks on the best way to reopen the Prison to personnel, visitors, volunteers, and instructors.**
- 2. When the tablet install took place last year, one of the system's capabilities was that the tablets would allow for inmates to video visit with their family. After almost a year of waiting, due to software and installation issues, the video visits were implemented two (2) weeks ago. Each unit has two (2) video visit-enabled tablets that are hard mounted to pedestals near the Officer's Station. Family members can preschedule a video visit online for a cost of \$.40 per minute or \$6.00 for a maximum fifteen (15) minute visit. All visits are recorded, can be monitored both while in progress and via recording, and privileges can be restricted for both the inmate and the visitor, if they fail to comply with rules.**
- 3. As a result of the recent sewer project that was completed at the Prison, an area of the parking lot that the company had to dig up near the loading dock has begun to sink. Deputy Patterson met with EADS Group last week to have that area of the parking lot repaired correctly, and they are awaiting a response from the contractor.**

4. Upon Court Orders, the Central Booking Center returned to full operation on May 26, 2020. Since that time, new commitments still continue to remain slow. However, the fingerprint orders for summonses issued by District Magistrates have been keeping the Center very busy. The Prison extended weekend hours through June to accommodate the backlog of orders that need to be completed.

5. During recent discussions with the U.S. Marshal, the Prison has agreed to increase the number of inmates that the County is holding for them. Through May, the Prison has held twenty-five (25) U.S. Marshal inmates. This week, the Facility anticipates approximately thirty (30) more arriving on Tuesday, and ten (10) to fifteen (15) more arriving on Thursday. There is also a possibility that they may transfer additional inmates to the County from other facilities. The contracted cost to house a U.S. Marshal inmate is \$70.00 per day.

**Statistical Report:**

Report is attached.

**May, 2020**

Average Daily Population for May, 2020	287
Housing Revenue for May, 2020	\$114,380.00
Year to Date Revenue as of May, 2020	\$605,500.00

**Food Service Report:**

During the month of April, the Prison worked on cleaning and sanitizing work areas, with reviewing the difference between cleaning and sanitizing. Personal hygiene was also discussed.

**Medical Report:**

Report is attached.

**Training:**

1. From May 3, 2020, through May 5, 2020, Officer Joseph Frontino received twenty-four (24) hours training in central control operations.
2. On May 5, 2020, Officer Zachary Nealen received eight (8) hours training in mail operations.
3. From May 6, 2020, through May 8, 2020, Officer Martin Dean received twenty-four (24) hours training in central control operations.
4. From May 10, 2020, through May 14, 2020, Officers David Port, Scott Batzel, Hikeen Frost, Isaac Lane, and Joshua McNulty each received eight (8) hours training in the operation of Prison laundry.
5. From May 11, 2020, through May 15, 2020, Officer Brett Landry received forty (40) hours training in the operation of the Prison kitchen.
6. On May 12, 13, and 15, 2020, Officer Brandon Shaw received sixteen (16) hours training in central control operations and eight (8) hours training in mail operations.
7. On May 19, 2020, Officer Michael Ross received eight (8) hours training in lobby operations.

**8. On May 20, 2020, Matthew Rose received eight (8) hours training in lobby operations.**

**9. From May 19, 2020, through May 22, 2020, Officer Kenneth Wertz received thirty-two (32) hours training in the operation of the Prison kitchen.**

**10. From May 20, 2020, through May 22, 2020, Officer Zachary Shuhayda received twenty-four (24) hours training in central control operations.**

**11. From May 26, 2020, through May 29, 2020, Officer Leanna Reese received thirty-two (32) hours training in floor control and central control operations.**

**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 Hunt and passed unanimously.**

**Communications:**

**None.**

**Old Business:**

**None.**

**New Business:**

**The Warden stated that the Prison is using the ID maker to make new IDs for the Sheriff's Office.**

**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**