

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

July 8, 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
Don Robertson, Chief Deputy Sheriff
Honorable Norman A. Krumenacker, III

Others Present:

William Valko, Court Administrator
Chris Smith, Warden
William Patterson, First Deputy Warden
Craig Descavish, Second Deputy Warden
Scott Fye, Detective
Emily Krug, Auditor/Accountant

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 June 10, 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 June 10, 2020:

Retirement Fund	\$21,337.63
Retirement Fund	\$20,817.62
UPMC Health Plan	\$94,646.06
UPMC Health Plan	\$1,672.68
UPMC Dental	\$108.40
Symetra Life Insurance	\$479.29
Phoenix Rehab	\$100.00
FNB (Visa)	\$559.15
Penelec	\$17,527.22
Ricoh	\$543.23
Ricoh	\$410.65
Total	\$158,201.93

Invoice Status Report:

July 6, 2020, 69 Invoices Totaling	\$210,899.96
Canteen Fund bills paid after June 2020 Meeting	\$4,036.68

Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid

\$18,464.83

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

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky 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 10:35 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to reconvene the public meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Personnel:

- 1. Justice Rieger, hire Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective July 13, 2020. (Employment is contingent on successful completion of the pre-employment screenings.)**
- 2. Zachary Nealen, transfer from Correctional Officer to Lieutenant, effective July 12, 2020.**
- 3. Eric Dreikorn, transfer from Correctional Officer to Booking Center Correctional Officer, effective May 3, 2020.**
- 4. Christine Yahnert, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 31, 2020.**
- 5. Courtney Getsy, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 17, 2020.**
- 6. Lakin Nicholson, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 21, 2020.**
- 7. Kristin Moore, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 23, 2020.**
- 8. Brock Kauffman, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 4, 2020.**

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to approve the Personnel Section of the Warden's Report.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Operations:

Warden Smith reported:

- 1. As part of the union labor contract, the Prison is required to serve meals to staff, because they are unable to leave during their lunch period. As a result of a recent labor grievance filed by the union concerning how the meals on third shift (10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) are prepared, the meals for third-shift employees will now be pre-packaged instead of served buffet**

style. This change not only resolved the union's grievance, but over time, it should reduce the cost of meals and wasted food for third-shift employees.

2. The Corrections Officers' union, (UMWA Local 616), recently held their officer elections. All of their elected positions remained the same, with the exception of the Union President. Officer John Briel, a 27-year veteran, was elected as the new President. With this change, the Prison anticipates maintaining a very good working relationship with the union.

3. To date, the Facility has been able to maintain a COVID-free environment. The Prison is still not open to visitors, instructors, or volunteers, as all prevention and mitigation practices continue. Last week, the Facility completed another complete fogging (disinfecting). PrimeCare has completed a total of eighteen (18) regular COVID tests and two (2) 'rapid' COVID tests on inmates, all with negative results.

4. Over the past month, the Prison got hit hard with inmates being sent to, or admitted to, the hospital for various reasons. In June, the Facility had eleven (11) inmates sent to the hospital, with the majority of them being admitted. In addition to normal overtime hours, these hospitalizations required eight-one (81) officer overtime shifts throughout the month.

5. Since installing the vending machines in the housing units in the middle of 2019, they continue to remain a popular privilege for the inmates. Throughout 2020, even with the inmate population being much lower than normal for the last four (4) months, the average vending sales are at \$21,046.00 per month, which is an average commission to the County of \$5,261.00 per month, (a total of \$31,569.00 through June).

6. Currently, the inmate count, as of July 7, 2020, is 305 inmates, up approximately sixty (60) since the COVID restrictions across the County began being lifted in June. The immigration count is currently at twenty-one (21) inmates, (\$70.00 per day). The U.S. Marshall count has doubled in the last month and is currently at forty-nine (49) inmates, (\$70.00 per day), and on Monday, the Facility received a request from Bedford County to hold twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) of its inmates, (\$70.00 per day), beginning later this week. Both the doubling of the U.S. Marshall inmates and the inmates tentatively scheduled to come from Bedford County are a welcomed, unexpected boost to the housing revenue.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

June, 2020

Average Daily Population for June, 2020	319
Housing Revenue for June, 2020	\$129,220.00
Year to Date Revenue as of June, 2020	\$734,720.00

Food Service Report:

During the month of June, the Prison continued cross-training the inmate workforce while trying to focus on cleaning and sanitizing work areas. The importance of personal hygiene in the workplace was also discussed.

Medical Report:

Report is attached.

Training:

- 1. On June 21, 2020, and from June 24, 2020, through June 27, 2020, Officer Alexia Nicholson received forty (40) hours of training in Prison Kitchen Operations.**
- 2. On June 21, 2020, and June 23, 2020, Officer Kenneth Wertz received sixteen (16) hours of training in Central Control Operations.**

Throughout the month, eight (8) correctional officers received the following training: Firearms Use & Recertification, eight (8) hours; Social Media Implications/Emergency Cell Door Operations/Disciplinary Housing Unit Operations/Key & Tool Control, eight (8) hours; and Body Scanner Recertification, eight (8) hours.

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:

Controller Cernic questioned the loading dock repairs.

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