

# PRISON BOARD MINUTES

November 12, 2020

**Board Members Present:**

Thomas C. Chernisky, President Commissioner  
William J. Smith, Commissioner  
Scott W. Hunt, Commissioner  
Kristine Segear, First Deputy to the Controller  
Don Robertson, Acting Sheriff  
Gregory J. Neugebauer, District Attorney

**Others Present:**

Chris Smith, Warden  
William Patterson, First Deputy Warden  
Craig Descavish, Second Deputy Warden

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 October 14, 2020.

District Attorney Neugebauer abstained, as he was not present during the last meeting. Motion was seconded by Acting Sheriff Robertson and passed.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Presentation and Approval of Invoices:**

Kristine Segear presented the following bills and Invoice Status Report for approval:

**Prison bills paid after the Meeting held October 14, 2020:**

Retirement Fund	\$21,594.06
Retirement Fund	\$22,060.27
UPMC Health Plan	\$91,685.94
UPMC Dental	\$119.24
Symetra Life Insurance	\$441.10
Penelec	\$15,956.48
Ray Oil & Gas	\$553.41
Ricoh	\$736.06
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$50.00
Peoples	\$721.50
Direct Energy	\$461.84
Wells Fargo	\$525.60
Total:	\$154,905.50

**Invoice Status Report:**

November 9, 2020, 99 Invoices Totaling	\$205,070.86
Canteen Fund bills paid after October 2020 Meeting	\$914.32
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$30,668.92

**Motion was made by Kristine Segear to approve the bills and Invoice Status Report.**

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

**Warden's Report:**

**The Warden requested an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.**

**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 District Attorney Neugebauer to reconvene the Public Meeting at 11:01 a.m.**

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

**Personnel:**

- 1. Kristin Moore, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer from payroll, effective October 23, 2020.**
- 2. Jeffrey Long, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer from payroll, effective October 25, 2020.**
- 3. Elijah Fritz, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer from payroll, effective October 30, 2020.**
- 4. Makenzie McDonald, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer from payroll, effective November 3, 2020.**
- 5. Brett Landry, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I from payroll, effective November 2, 2020.**

**Warden Smith reported:**

- 1. The primary focus over the last month has been keeping the institution operational while dealing with the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak.**

**To date, since September 23, 2020, there have been a total of one hundred and seventy-five (175) positive Covid-19 cases at the Prison; thirty-two (32) employees, three (3) PrimeCare employees, and one hundred and forty (140) inmates. Of these, two (2) active employee cases and eight (8) active inmate cases remain. An additional three (3) employees are currently off pending testing and results.**

**All Covid-19 cleaning, mitigation, and prevention protocols continue to remain in effect. Several rounds of mass testing have been completed since the start of the outbreak, and the Prison continues to test all newly committed inmates prior to them entering general population.**

**All inmates previously transferred to SCI Huntingdon have returned, and the invoice for housing was submitted to EMA for reimbursement from PEMA.**

**Inmates who have previously tested positive and have recovered are also being tested for antibodies twenty-one (21) days after their positive test result. Inmates who are shown to have the antibodies are being used to fill the inmate work crews, as long as they meet the classification requirements for working. This procedure has allowed the Prison to begin using inmate**

workers again throughout the institution this week without the concern of the virus spreading.

The inmate housing areas have also been reorganized to allow for one of the larger units to be utilized as a quarantine unit for new commitments until their Covid-19 testing is completed and test results are received. With the active cases dropping to only five (5) currently, a smaller unit has now been designated as a Covid-only unit moving forward. While the restriction on visitors and group settings is still in effect, the operations of the general population housing units is slowly returning to normal operations.

Pending any new cases, three (3) of the five (5) current inmate cases should be considered recovered by week's end.

**Statistical Report:**

Report is attached.

**October, 2020**

Average Daily Population for October, 2020	349
Housing Revenue for October, 2020	\$120,540.00
Year to Date Revenue as of October, 2020	\$1,361,290.00

**Food Service Report:**

None.

**Medical Report:**

Report is attached.

**Training:**

None.

**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:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion was seconded by Kristine Segear and passed unanimously.**

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**Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk**