

# PRISON BOARD MINUTES

October 9, 2019

**Board Members Present:**

Norman A. Krumenacker, III, President Judge  
Thomas C. Chernisky, President Commissioner  
William J. Smith, Commissioner  
Mark J. Wissinger, Commissioner  
Kelly Callihan, District Attorney  
Edward Cernic, Jr., Controller

**Others Present:**

William Valko, Court Administrator  
Christian Smith, Warden  
William Patterson, Second Deputy to the Warden  
Craig Descavish, Second Deputy to the Warden  
Kristine Segear, First Deputy to the Controller

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Wissinger called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m., in the Jury Room of the Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on September 11, 2019.

Motion was seconded by District Attorney Callihan 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 September 11, 2019:**

Retirement Fund	\$21,832.09
Retirement Fund	\$21,008.60
UPMC Health Plan	\$91,709.66
UPMC Dental	\$124.66
Symetra Life Insurance	\$450.67
GC Pivotal	\$70.87
Blues Fire Extinguisher	\$450.00
Industrial Safety	\$650.00
JC Ehrlich	\$271.00
Phoenix Rehab	\$100.00
Lakin Nicholson	\$35.00
Penelec	\$19,839.51
Peoples	\$1,534.49
Uline	\$1,359.49
Total	\$159,436.04

**Invoice Status Report:**

October 7, 2019, Invoices Totaling \$171,952.66

<b>Canteen Fund bills paid after September 2019 Meeting</b>	<b>\$79,568.38</b>
<b>Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid</b>	<b>\$23,891.37</b>

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

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

**Warden Smith requested an Executive Session.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to convene an Executive Session at 10:39 a.m.**

**Motion was seconded by District Attorney Callihan and passed unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Smith to reconvene the public meeting at 10:44 a.m.**

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

**Warden's Report:**

**Personnel:**

- 1. Justice Rieger, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective October 20, 2019.**
- 2. Kenneth Wertz, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective October 20, 2019.**
- 3. Douglas Kimack, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective October 20, 2019.**
- 4. Jeffrey Allen, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective October 20, 2019.**
- 5. Sarah McCool, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective October 20, 2019.**
- 6. Emily Matson, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective October 20, 2019.**
- 7. Greg Peterson, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer from payroll, effective September 19, 2019.**
- 8. Chanta McNeil, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer from payroll, effective September 24, 2019.**

**Operations:**

**Warden Smith reported:**

- 1. The Warden informed the Board that the Prison received the recertification to continue conducting the Cadet Academy at the Facility. This recertification will remain valid for a period of three (3) years, and the Warden recognized Training Officer Matt Hale and Deputy Warden Craig Descavish for the time and effort they put into the recertification process. Currently, there are fourteen (14) cadets attending the Academy who will be ready to start working in two (2) weeks.**

2. In September, the annual mandated radiation safety survey was conducted on the Prison's body scanner. All radiation levels were well within acceptable limits, and the machine passed with flying colors. Matt Hale, Training Officer and Radiation Safety Officer, also completed his annual updates for his Radiation Safety Officer Certification. Starting within the next month, he will begin conducting the annual training updates for the body scanner operators.

3. The Prison has recently been notified that the annual ICE inspection at the Facility will be from November 5, 2019, to November 7, 2019. Staff is working diligently to ensure all areas of the Facility are in compliance for this inspection.

4. Deputy Descavish and Captain Rozum attended the Pennsylvania County Corrections Association Annual Fall Conference that was held in Harrisburg last week. There were approximately two hundred (200) prison wardens and correctional staff from across the entire state in attendance. The trainings included the Pennsylvania Criminal History Record Information Act, Hiring and Retaining Staff, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, Funding Opportunities for Substance Abuse, and MAT (Medically-Assisted Treatment) Basics.

5. With the removal of the state parole inmates, (currently down to nine (9)), the Facility has moved those inmates to one quadrant of the DHU and has closed the HF Unit. The unit will remain closed, and all maintenance and painting needs are being taken care of. The officers bid to that unit have been moved into floater positions to fill open positions in lieu of overtime. The Prison continues to look for other housing opportunities.

6. The County's payback to PennDot for the Prison's parking lot project included the Facility refurbishing nine (9) snow plows for PennDOT trucks and picking up litter along Routes 22 and 422. Last month, inmate work crews completely refurbished two (2) of PennDOT's larger plows, and for the next two (2) weeks, they will be completing the litter pickup, which will fulfill the first year of the three (3) year commitment.

**Statistical Report:**

Report is attached.

**September, 2019**

Average Daily Population for September, 2019	460
Housing Revenue for September, 2019	\$186,114.00
Year to Date Revenue as of September, 2019	\$2,302,660.00

**Food Service Report:**

During the month of September, the Prison discussed temperature controls for both hot and cold food items, including how to cool hot foods for storage and how to reheat items. They also discussed how to use a thermometer to check temperatures of hot and cold food items.

**Medical Report:**

Report is attached.

**Training:**

1. From August 12, 2019, to August 16, 2019, Officers David Leverknight and Zachary Nealen completed the Incident Response Instructor Course at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Academy, forty (40) hours.
2. On September 5, 2019, Officer Eric Wysong completed the CLEAN certification for the Booking Center.
3. From September 12, 2019, to September 13, 2019, Lieutenants Mark Anderson and Brian Litzinger completed Commissioned Officers Development Training provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, in Huntingdon, sixteen (16) hours.
4. On September 16, 2019, the Cambria County Prison Training Academy No. 3-2019 began with fourteen (14) Cambria County Cadets and eleven (11) cadets from other counties in attendance.
5. From September 17, 2019, to September 19, 2019, Prison Chaplain Art Bucceri attended the Pennsylvania Prison Chaplains Association Annual Training Conference in Carlisle.
6. From September 24, 2019, to September 26, 2019, Correctional Kitchen Officer Lakin Nicholson completed the Food Service Sanitation Certification at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Academy, twenty-four (24) 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 Smith 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 Smith and passed unanimously.

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Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk