

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

November 13, 2019

Board Members Present:

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
Scott Fye, Detective

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Wissinger called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m., at the Cambria County Prison, Ebensburg.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on October 9, 2019.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky 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 9, 2019:

Retirement Fund	\$21,077.58
Retirement Fund	\$21,054.76
Retirement Fund	\$20,668.56
UPMC Health Plan	\$93,406.40
UPMC Dental	\$113.82
UPMC Dental	\$108.40
Symetra Life Insurance	\$450.88
Symetra Life Insurance	\$451.61
Phoenix Rehabilitation	\$525.00
Pro Disposal	\$495.00
Dale Oxygen	\$230.38
JC Ehrlich	\$271.00
Penelec	\$19,791.39
Ricoh	\$1,021.88
Ricoh	\$209.00
Peoples	\$1,646.18
Total	\$181,521.84

Invoice Status Report:

November 12, 2019, 122 Invoices Totaling \$215,121.32

Canteen Fund bills paid after October 2019 Meeting	\$34,104.61
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$20,359.77

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

Motion was seconded by District Attorney Callihan and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

Personnel:

1. Corey Stormer, transfer from Correctional Officer I to Correctional Officer II, effective September 22, 2019.
2. Shanice Berry, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective November 17, 2019.
3. Erik Thrower, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective October 12, 2019.
4. Richard Cidor, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective October 27, 2019.

Operations:

Warden Smith reported:

1. On October 16, 2019, Deputy Patterson made a trip to the State Surplus in Harrisburg where he was able to purchase a washer and dryer in basically new condition for one hundred dollars (\$100.00). These will be used in the intake commitment area to launder new commitment clothing. Deputy Patterson was also able to purchase five thousand (5,000) flex cuffs (emergency handcuffs that resemble large, heavy-duty zip ties) for a total of ten dollars (\$10.00). Normally, a pack of ten (10) flex cuffs costs ten dollars (\$10.00) per pack, so this ten dollar (\$10.00) purchase had a retail value of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Due to the large number purchased, and the fact that they are only used in emergencies, the Facility gave the County Detectives' Office, the Sheriff's Office, and the Probation Office each a case of five hundred (500) flex cuffs.
2. The loss of the State Parole Inmates gave the Prison the opportunity to reassign duties and responsibilities of the Facility's counselors. Since the parole contract consumed so much of counselors' time conducting programming for State inmates, the Warden took this opportunity to realign these programming opportunities and expand the treatment programs offered to the County inmate population. The Prison now offers four (4) drug and alcohol based programs, five (5) educational/vocational-based programs, and sixteen (16) miscellaneous programs, including topics such as Basic Life Skills, Re-Entry, and Parenting. The Warden has also been in contact with the local Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous representatives about expanding their programming into the Prison. An updated listing of the Prison's Inmate Programs and Services is included in your packets.
3. From October 22, 2019, to October 25, 2019, Deputy Patterson, Deputy Descavish, and Warden Smith attended the Pennsylvania Prison Warden's Association's Fall Conference in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The theme of the conference was "Escaping Complacency, Back to Fundamentals" and included a very insightful training on the 2015 escape of two (2) convicted murderers from the Clinton Correctional Facility in

upstate New York. The training was conducted by two (2) of the lead investigators who handled the escape and focused primarily on the failures of the prison structure itself, its policies, and the complacency and inappropriate actions of staff. An additional training on “Opioid Users and Their Effect on Law Enforcement” was also provided.

4. Last week, the final phase of the five (5) year camera upgrade began. This phase will include the installation of seventeen (17) new cameras, most of them with the capability of recording three hundred and sixty (360) degrees, the addition of extra memory for video storage, the addition of an extra camera observation cell, and new monitors for the officers’ control panels. The Prison is also repurposing several of the cameras that are being removed as part of the upgrade in the inmate housing units and installing them in hallway areas. This installation is anticipated to be completed by the end of the month. The service/upgrade agreement with Intertech Security expires in June of next year. The Warden has already reached out to Intertech to discuss an extension to the Agreement. Once they provide the Warden with something, he will forward it to Solicitor Barbin for review.

5. Following the budget meeting last month, an editorial concerning the Prison’s overtime budget appeared in the Tribune Democrat. The basic idea of the editorial was that the Prison has spent over four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) on overtime to that point in the year and that it should not be passed on to the taxpayer. The editorial was correct on the amount spent, but was incorrect on stating that it was all for overtime. For clarification purposes, the budget line item that is titled ‘Overtime’ does not only include overtime hours, but it also includes staff holiday pay and shift differential. Both of these are items contractually mandated in the officers’ employment contract for officers working on holidays and for those working second or third shift. As of October 28, 2019, the amount spent in this budget line item was four hundred thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$438,000.00). Out of this amount, one hundred forty-six thousand dollars (\$146,000.00) was for holiday pay and shift differential. The actual overtime dollar amount was two hundred ninety-two thousand dollars (\$292,000.00).

6. The Prison’s annual Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 7, 2019, at the Ebensburg Country Club. Cocktails will start at 6:00 p.m. with dinner and a D.J. starting at 7:00 p.m. The Warden extended an invitation to all Board members and their spouses.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

October, 2019

Average Daily Population for October, 2019	445
Housing Revenue for October, 2019	\$150,888.00
Year to Date Revenue as of October, 2019	\$2,452,708.00

Food Service Report:

None.

Medical Report:

Report is attached.

Training:

- 1. On October 2, 2019, Deputy Warden Craig Descavish and Security Captain George Rozum completed training on the PA Criminal History Record Information Act, Hiring and Retaining Staff, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, Funding Opportunities for Substance Abuse, and MAT Basics – Medical Marijuana and Suboxone. These took place at the Pennsylvania County Corrections Association Fall Conference in Harrisburg.**
- 2. On October 2, 2019, Counselors Mary McCoy, Rebecca Fox, Jessica Greathouse, John Sikora, Dave Thomas, and Jeremy Smick completed a Mental First Aid course in Johnstown.**
- 3. On October 7, 2019, Officer Todd Proudfit completed and passed CLEAN recertification.**
- 4. On October 7, 2019, Counselors Mary McCoy and Rebecca Fox attended the Fall CCAPA Conference and completed Sex Offender Treatment training in Grove City.**
- 5. On October 16, 2019, Officer Mike Hite completed and passed CLEAN recertification.**
- 6. From October 22, 2019, through October 25, 2019, Officer Cory Stormer completed thirty-two (32) hours of training in the Booking Center and passed CLEAN recertification.**
- 7. From October 22, 2019, through October 25, 2019, Warden Smith and Deputies Patterson and Descavish attended the Fall Pennsylvania Prison Warden's Conference in Williamsport. Training attended was Demystifying the Opioid User and Their Effect on Law Enforcement and The Real Story – Escape at Dannemora, New York.**
- 8. From October 28, 2019, through October 29, 2019, Officer Cody Morgart received sixteen (16) hours of training in Central Control.**
- 9. On October 29, 2019, Officer Matthew Conti received eight (8) hours of training in Max Control.**
- 10. From October 30, 2019, through October 31, 2019, Officer Benjamin Yeckley received sixteen (16) hours of training in Central Control.**

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.

Warden Smith requested an Executive Session.

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to convene an Executive Session at 11:14 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Controller Cernice to reconvene the public meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed unanimously.

Communications:

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk