

# **PRISON BOARD MINUTES**

**January 12, 2022**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

**Chris Smith, Warden  
Craig Descavish, Second Deputy Warden  
George Rozum, Security Captain  
William Valko, Court Administrator**

**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, Pennsylvania.**

**Motion was made by Controller Cernic to nominate William J. Smith as temporary President.**

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

**Reorganization:**

**Motion was made by Controller Cernic to retain the current existing officers, i.e., William J. Smith, President; Scott W. Hunt, Vice President; and Michael Gelles, IV, Secretary.**

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

**Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to appoint Christian Smith as Warden.**

**Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic and passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Smith appointed Edward Cernic, Jr., Donald Robertson, and Gregory J. Neugebauer as Inspectors.**

**Motion was made by Controller Cernic to hold meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in the Jury Room of the Courthouse, at 10:30 a.m., with the exception of the March, May, July, and October meetings. These meetings will be held at the Cambria County Prison.**

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

**Motion was made by Sheriff Robertson to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on December 8, 2021.**

**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 December 8, 2021:**

Retirement Fund	\$30,748.17
Retirement Fund	\$27,801.72
UPMC Health Plan	\$111,429.54
UPMC Dental	\$(5.42)
GC Pivotal	\$66.71
CamTran	\$247.75
Pro Disposal	\$1,595.00
FNB (Visa)	\$1,806.09
Ricoh	\$914.49
Wells Fargo	\$150.20
Kimberly Peles	\$112.00
Phoenix Rehab	\$520.00
Direct Energy	\$773.92
Peoples	\$1,057.82
Ray Oil & Gas	\$1,398.22
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$178,616.21</b>

**Invoice Status Report:**

January 7, 2022, 122 Invoices Totaling	\$338,372.74
Canteen Fund bills paid after December, 2021, Meeting	\$15,739.62
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$34,737.91

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to approve the 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 10:34 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to reconvene the Public Meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

**Personnel:**

1. John Kindja, transfer from Full-Time Correctional Officer II to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 3, 2022.
2. Zachary Nealen, remove Full-Time Lieutenant, effective February 18, 2022.

**3. Remove the following Full-Time Correctional Officer I's from payroll:**

**Taylor Frederick, effective December 7, 2021;  
Jeffrey Allen, effective December 15, 2022;  
Noah Sleasman, effective December 19, 2021;  
Jeremy Kost, effective January 5, 2022;  
Justice Rieger, effective January 7, 2022; and  
Nicholas Zavada, effective January 28, 2022.**

**4. Transfer the following Per-Diem Correctional Officer I's to Full-Time Correctional Officer I's, effective January 16, 2022: Robert Jacobson; Ashlee Mulraney; Jonathan Riggle; and Matthew Leamer.**

**The Warden reported:**

**1. Through January 10, 2022, the Prison has had a total of five hundred and eighteen (518) positive Covid-19 cases. The breakdown is as follows: three hundred and ninety-nine (399) inmates with one (1) current positive; one hundred and nine (109) employees with four (4) current positives; and ten (10) contracted employees with no current positives.**

**This reflects an increase of thirty-six (36) positives; twenty-six (26) inmates, eight (8) employees, and two (2) contracted employees, from last month's report. All screening, testing, cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine practices continue to remain in effect. With the nationwide shortage of test kits, the Department of Corrections provided a potential source for test kits. The Facility was able to secure an order for six hundred and forty (640) rapid test kits at a cost of seven thousand one hundred and twenty dollars (\$7,120.00). This cost will be covered by ARPA funds.**

**2. Maintenance Updates:**

**A. Underground Storage Tank – The parts for the upgraded alarm system have been ordered, and the Prison is awaiting delivery.**

**B. HF HVAC System – No further progress. Vendor waiting on contract from engineer.**

**C. Water Heater – Installed and operational, and the other three (3) tanks have been inspected. No other issues were found, and flush valves were added to all of them.**

**D. Laundry – A new washer is to be delivered and installed the week of January 17, 2022. The Facility is still waiting for parts to be delivered for the commercial dryer so that repairs can be made.**

**E. Roof – Project to begin in the spring. With the wet weather recently, the Facility has developed numerous new leaks. Maintenance continues to temporarily fix the issues until the restoration is complete.**

**3. The Prison's CERT, (Correctional Emergency Response Team), will begin its annual training this coming week. Training will focus on defensive tactics, methods of restraint, and tactical planning and implementation. The Warden informed the Board that the Prison has had twelve (12) additional officers volunteer to become members of CERT and receive this additional training.**

**4. This week, the Facility began interviewing for another cadet academy that will begin in February. For this academy, the Prison is hoping to be able to hire enough eligible candidates to fill several vacant full-time positions as well as several per-diem positions. Currently, the Prison has two (2) vacant full-time positions with no per-diems on the roster to replace them. The Facility also has two (2) officers off on extended FMLA leave, two**

(2) who will be retiring soon, and one (1) lieutenant who will be resigning next month due to accepting a policing position elsewhere.

5. Due to the Covid-19 wave running through the Facility once again, the Prison cancelled in-person visits in order to reduce the number of people entering the Facility. This suspension will remain in effect until further notice. The inmates do continue to have access to visiting with their friends and family by using the video visitation stations in each housing unit.

**Statistical Report:**

Report is attached.

**December, 2021**

Average Daily Population for December, 2021	399
Housing Revenue for December, 2021	\$238,210.00
Year to Date Revenue as of December, 2021	\$1,916,670.00

**Food Service Report:**

None.

**Medical Report:**

Attached.

**Training:**

None.

**Misconduct Report:**

There was no information to report.

**Miscellaneous:**

There was no information to report.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to accept the Warden's Report.

Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic 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 Hunt and passed unanimously.

---

**Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk**