

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

February 9, 2022

Board Members Present:

Thomas C. Chernisky, President Commissioner
William J. Smith, Commissioner
Scott W. Hunt, Commissioner
Edward Cernic, Jr., Controller
Donald Robertson, Sheriff
Norman A. Krumenacker, III, President Judge

Others Present:

Chris Smith, Warden
William Patterson, First Deputy 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 Commissioner Hunt to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on January 12, 2022.

Motion was seconded by Sheriff Robertson 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 January 12, 2022:

Retirement Fund	\$26,388.15
Retirement Fund	\$26,694.78
UPMC Health Plan	\$568.70
UPMC Health Plan	\$91,993.75
UPMC Dental	\$108.40
Symetra Life Insurance	\$467.88
GC Pivotal	\$67.07
Ebensburg Borough	\$35,173.55
Pro Disposal	\$495.00
FNB (Visa)	\$49.50
Mainline Newspaper	\$335.50
Penelec	\$80,456.80
Ricoh	\$557.98
Wells Fargo	\$150.20
Douglas Kimack	\$105.28
Eric Wysong	\$84.00
Nicholas Zavada	\$224.00
Direct Energy	\$933.85
Peoples	\$1,253.22
Ray Oil & Gas	\$1,912.73
Total:	\$268,020.34

Invoice Status Report:

February 7, 2022, 75 Invoices Totaling	\$247,859.48
Canteen Fund bills paid after January, 2022, Meeting	\$8,818.13
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$30,849.10

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

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

The Warden requested an Executive Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to convene an Executive Session at 10:35 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to reconvene the Public Meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Personnel:

- 1. Austin Vasalinda, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 18, 2022.**
- 2. Wallace Litzinger, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 24, 2022.**
- 3. Ronald George, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 31, 2022.**
- 4. Katie Delozier, remove Fiscal Specialist, effective February 26, 2022.**
- 5. Brendan Appley, transfer from Full-Time Correctional Officer I to Full-Time Lieutenant, effective February 20, 2022.**
- 6. Martin Daughenbaugh, transfer from Full-Time Correctional Officer I to Full-Time Correctional Officer II, effective January 30, 2022.**
- 7. Hire the following as Full-Time Correctional Officer I's, effective February 7, 2022, pending pre-employment screenings:**

Gene Pugliese	Haley Stiles	Miranda Gindlesperger
Jylian Auger	Chalsy McQuillen	

- 8. Hire the following as Per-Diem Correctional Officers, effective February 7, 2022, pending pre-employment screenings:**

George Lung	David Hunt	Christopher Huston
Michael Kakabar	Christian Roberts	Tyler Gulash

The Warden reported:

- 1. Through Thursday, February 2, 2022, the Prison has had a total of 614 positive Covid-19 cases. The breakdown is as follows: 479 inmates, 124 County employees, and 11 contracted employees.**

This reflects an increase of 96 positive cases, (80 inmates, 15 County employees, and 1 contracted employee), from last month's report. All screening, testing, cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine practices continue to remain in effect.

2. Underground Storage Tank – The Prison is still waiting for parts to be delivered.

HF HVAC System – No further progress. Materials are ordered.

Laundry – New washer was delivered and installed in the middle of January. The Facility is still waiting for parts to be delivered for the commercial dryer.

Roof – Project to begin in the spring. The vendor has decided to store materials onsite, in the event that the weather permits them to start early. Materials are to be delivered on February 22, 2022.

Geothermal System – A secondary pump failed. A new pump was ordered and has arrived. The Facility is waiting for installation.

Kitchen Floor/Equipment – The Warden received updated co-star quotes for both the equipment and the floor and forwarded them to the Commissioners' Office for review. The equipment replacement quote is \$246,000.00, which is up \$33,000.00 from the quote that was received last April. The floor replacement quote is \$124,300.00, which is down \$8,700.00 from last April. The Warden was able to negotiate the reduction in cost by using inmate work crews to remove the existing floor tile.

3. Construction of the Prison's Video Courtroom was completed in mid-February 2021, as a result of operational changes caused by the pandemic. The Prison included a summary in the Board's packets showing the success of this program. In 2021, the Facility held 3,029 virtual court proceedings, etc., broken down as follows: 1,560 Cambria County Court of Common Pleas' hearings; 591 Cambria County Magisterial Court hearings; 221 Cambria County Public Defender interviews; 139 federal hearings and immigration hearings; 194 other Common Pleas and Magisterial proceedings; 324 'other' proceedings, which includes private attorney interviews, Pennsylvania SOAB interviews, Cambria County Drug and Alcohol assessments, federal pre-trial investigations, federal public defender interviews, and psychological evaluations.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

January, 2022

Average Daily Population for January, 2022	391
Housing Revenue for January, 2022	\$230,860.00
Year to Date Revenue as of January, 2022	\$230,860.00

Food Service Report:

During the month of December, the Prison worked with inmate labor on cleaning and sanitizing work areas as well as the equipment in the workplace. The difference between cleaning, which is the removing of food and other types of debris from a surface that you can see, and sanitizing, which takes care of bacteria and germs that cannot be seen, was also discussed.

During the month of January, food safety was discussed along with how to prevent food from becoming unsafe.

Medical Report:

Attached.

Training:

1. In December, 2021, the Basic Training Academy concluded, and 9 new correctional officers completed the training.
2. From January 18, 2022, through January 21, 2022, Officer Calvin Ates completed 32 hours of training on Intake/Property Operations.
3. From January 18, 2022, through January 21, 2022, Officer Dakota Houston completed 32 hours of training on Intake/Property Operations.
4. From January 25, 2022, through January 28, 2022, Officer Calvin Ates completed 32 hours of training on Booking Center Operations.
5. From January 25, 2022, through January 27, 2022, Officer David Warner completed 24 hours of training on Escort, Max Control, and Floor Control Operations.
6. In January, 2022, the Prison's 32 CERT members completed 16 hours of training on defensive tactics, methods of restraint, and tactical planning and implementation.

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 and to have the Commissioners review action on replacing the Prison kitchen floor and equipment.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Communications:

The Warden received a communication through the Commissioners' Corner from a mother concerned about her son's healthcare.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk