

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

March 9, 2022

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Chris Smith, Warden
William Patterson, First Deputy Warden
George Rozum, Security Captain
Jessica Greathouse
William Valko, Court Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Smith called the Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., at the Cambria County Prison, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on February 9, 2022.

Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic and passed. District Attorney Neugebauer abstained.

Public Comment:

Etta Albright spoke regarding the Reimagine Project.

Presentation and Approval of Invoices:

Controller Cernic presented the following bills and Invoice Status Report for approval:

Prison bills paid after the Meeting held February 9, 2022:

Retirement Fund	\$25,741.39
Retirement Fund	\$27,362.85
UPMC Health Plan	\$1,137.40
UPMC Health Plan	\$90,856.35
UPMC Dental	\$108.40
Symetra Life Insurance	\$486.65
J. Berrena	\$1,568.52
Sysco	\$884.26
Phoenix Rehab	\$385.00
CamTran	\$99.95
Penelec	\$17,882.18
Pro Disposal	\$495.00
Ray Oil & Gas	\$481.25
Schwebel Baking Company	\$1,757.98
Direct Energy	\$783.77
Peoples	\$1,071.99
Ricoh	\$558.02
Schwebel Baking Company	\$1,562.70
Wells Fargo	\$370.10
Total:	\$173,727.83

Invoice Status Report:

March 7, 2022, 104 Invoices Totaling	\$277,507.19
Canteen Fund bills paid after February, 2022, Meeting	\$12,688.05
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$42,239.91

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

Motion was seconded by District Attorney Neugebauer and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

The Warden requested an Executive Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to convene an Executive Session at 10:47 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to reconvene the Public Meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Personnel:

- 1. William Patterson, First Deputy Warden, remove from payroll, effective April 9, 2022.**
- 2. Craig Descavish, transfer from Second Deputy Warden to First Deputy Warden, effective April 10, 2022.**
- 3. Daniel Link, Correctional Officer I, remove from payroll, effective April 21, 2022.**
- 4. George Lung, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective March 20, 2022.**
- 5. Tyler Gulash, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective March 20, 2022.**
- 6. Nathan Knopp, Correctional Officer I, remove from payroll, effective March 20, 2022.**
- 7. Cory Stormer, transfer from Full-Time Correctional Officer II to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective March 13, 2022.**

The Warden reported:

- 1. Through Thursday, March 3, 2022, the Prison has had a total of 618 positive Covid-19 cases. The breakdown is as follows: 482 inmates; 121 County employees; and 11 contracted employees. This reflects an increase of 4 positive cases (3 inmates and 1 County employee), from last month's report. Currently, the Facility has no active cases among staff or inmates. All screening, testing, cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine practices continue to remain in effect. Due to the reduction in cases within the Facility, as well as in the general public, the Prison will resume in-person visitation on March 21, 2022.**

2. Maintenance/Facilities Updates.

Underground Storage Tank – Electrical wiring is completed. The Prison is still waiting on parts to be delivered for the sensor installation.

HF HVAC System – No further progress. Materials have been ordered.

Laundry – Commercial dryer has been repaired. Laundry is fully operational.

Roof – Project to begin in the spring. A large shipment of materials was delivered last week and is now being stored onsite.

Geothermal System – A secondary pump failed. A new pump was ordered, has arrived, and is scheduled for installation this week.

Kitchen Floor/Equipment – Equipment has been ordered. The floor vendor is having an issue with his Co-Stars account. If this is not resolved this week, the Prison will be putting the floor replacement out for bid.

Simplex Fire System Panel Upgrade – Scheduled to be completed the week of March 21, 2022.

Fire Suppression System Inspection – The entire Facility inspection was completed during the week of February 21, 2022. The system passed, but replacement backup parts needed to be ordered.

3. The first quarter of the year is usually when the Prison updates manuals, handbooks, etc. During the past month, the Facility has completed the annual review and revision of the Institutional Policy Manual, and it has been distributed to staff. The Prison is currently in the process of reviewing and revising the Inmate Handbook. Once completed, it will be printed and distributed to the inmate population. This is anticipated to be completed by next week.

4. The recently hired Cadet Academy completed the classwork portion of training last week and is now currently finishing on-the-job training. The Prison is planning on conducting another academy for neighboring county facilities in mid-April. When the pandemic began in 2020, and the Prison experienced its first wave of Covid-19 cases, it was in the first week of an academy that had to be shut down. There were cadets from other counties in that academy that had paid for spots in that class. The counties who previously paid for spots but did not receive the training were offered refunds, but they chose to just hold their spots for a future academy. Those counties will be the first ones offered spots in this upcoming academy.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

February, 2022

Average Daily Population for February, 2022	390
Housing Revenue for February, 2022	\$200,760.00
Year to Date Revenue as of February, 2022	\$431,620.00

Food Service Report:

During the month of February, the Prison worked with inmate labor on ensuring proper personal hygiene in the workplace. How to get ready for work and how and when to wash hands and use gloves was also reviewed.

At the end of February, the inmate workforce was placed in quarantine due to Covid-19. A backup crew was used to work the kitchen, and minor changes were made to the menu.

Medical Report:

Attached.

Training:

The following trainings were completed during the month of February, 2022.

1. Officer Dakota Houston received 40 hours of training on Booking Center Operations and 40 hours of training on Central and Floor Control Operations.
2. Officer Jerrad Baker received 16 hours of training on Maximum Control Operations, and 8 hours of training on Escort Operations.
3. Officer Izaak Gray completed 16 hours of training on Prison Kitchen Operations and 40 hours of training on Maximum and Floor Control Operations.
4. Officer Calvin Hartman received 16 hours of training on Property Operations and 8 hours of training on Maximum Control Operations.
5. Officer Trey Karfelt received 24 hours of training on Maximum and Floor Control Operations.
6. Officer Kimberly Peles received 8 hours of training on Maximum Control Operations.
7. Officer David Warner received 16 hours of training in Prison Kitchen Operations and 16 hours of training on Maximum and Floor Control Operations.
8. Officer Brendan Appley received 80 hours of training on Shift Commander (Lieutenant) Operations.
9. Officer Jason Burkhardt received 16 hours of training on Maximum Control and Prison Laundry Operations.
10. Officer Andrew Evanicsko received 16 hours of training on Prison Laundry Operations.
11. Officer Matthew Leamer received 8 hours of training on Escort Operations.
12. Officer John Tremarki received 40 hours of training on Maximum and Floor Control Operations.
13. Officer Max Rager received 32 hours of training on Maximum Floor and Central Control Operations.
14. Officer Calvin Ates received 24 hours of training on Intake Operations.

15. Officer Robert Jacobson received 16 hours of training on Prison Laundry Operations.

16. Officer Chad Sossong received 8 hours of training on Escort Operations.

17. Officers Jim Vocco, Lee Erickson, Chelsea Gaida, Zachary Shuhayda, Kristen Glavach, Dough Kimack, and Devon Nagle received 8 hours of training on Body Scanner Recertification and Emergency Key Operations.

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 Controller Cernic and passed unanimously.

Communications:

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Bill Valko, Court Administrator, discussed a work program with Cresson Steel.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk