

# PRISON BOARD MINUTES

**April 13, 2022**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Commissioner Hunt 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 District Attorney Neugebauer to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on March 9, 2022.**

**Motion was seconded by Sheriff Robertson and passed.**

**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 March 9, 2022:**

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Retirement Fund</b>        | <b>\$24,968.37</b>  |
| <b>Retirement Fund</b>        | <b>\$25,237.61</b>  |
| <b>Retirement Fund</b>        | <b>\$25,942.36</b>  |
| <b>UPMC Health Plan</b>       | <b>\$568.70</b>     |
| <b>UPMC Health Plan</b>       | <b>\$92,562.45</b>  |
| <b>UPMC Dental</b>            | <b>\$108.40</b>     |
| <b>UPMC Dental</b>            | <b>\$113.82</b>     |
| <b>Symetra Life Insurance</b> | <b>\$505.39</b>     |
| <b>Symetra Life Insurance</b> | <b>\$496.56</b>     |
| <b>Ebensburg Borough</b>      | <b>\$36,363.80</b>  |
| <b>Mainline Newspaper</b>     | <b>\$396.50</b>     |
| <b>Phoenix Rehab</b>          | <b>\$213.73</b>     |
| <b>Pro Disposal</b>           | <b>\$495.00</b>     |
| <b>Ricoh</b>                  | <b>\$668.34</b>     |
| <b>Tony Sunseri</b>           | <b>\$50.00</b>      |
| <b>Wells Fargo</b>            | <b>\$295.10</b>     |
| <b>GC Pivotal</b>             | <b>\$74.05</b>      |
| <b>Penelec</b>                | <b>\$18,840.95</b>  |
| <b>Direct Energy</b>          | <b>\$751.74</b>     |
| <b>Peoples</b>                | <b>\$1,033.10</b>   |
| <b>Pro Disposal</b>           | <b>\$1,070.00</b>   |
| <b>Ray Oil &amp; Gas</b>      | <b>\$1,557.48</b>   |
| <b>Total:</b>                 | <b>\$232,313.45</b> |

**Invoice Status Report:**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>April 11, 2022, 106 Invoices Totaling</b>              | <b>\$275,794.91</b> |
| <b>Canteen Fund bills paid after March, 2022, Meeting</b> | <b>\$6,889.68</b>   |
| <b>Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid</b>                      | <b>\$60,351.47</b>  |

**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 10:35 a.m.**

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

**Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to reconvene the Public Meeting at 10:45 a.m.**

**Motion was seconded by Sheriff Robertson and passed unanimously.**

**Personnel:**

- 1. George Rozum, transfer from Captain to Second Deputy Warden, effective April 17, 2022.**
- 2. Gene Pugliese, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective March 9, 2022.**
- 3. Christopher Huston, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective March 20, 2022.**
- 4. Raymond Morris, transfer from Correctional Officer I to Full-Time Correctional Officer II, effective April 3, 2022.**
- 5. David Hunt, remove Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective March 21, 2022.**
- 6. Robin Yakicic, transfer from Records/Booking Center Clerk to Fiscal Specialist, effective April 17, 2022.**

**The Warden reported:**

- 1. For the first time in almost 18 months, the Warden reported that the Prison has been Covid-19 free for approximately 6 weeks with no current active cases. Through Monday, April 11, 2022, the Facility was still at a total of 614 positive Covid-19 cases. 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, in-person visiting started again on March 21, 2022. The mask mandate has been lifted, and the Prison has restarted several inmate treatment programs that were suspended.**
- 2. Underground Storage Tank – Electrical wiring is complete. The Facility is still waiting on parts to be delivered for the sensor installation. Once installed, it will have to be inspected again.**

**HF HVAC System** – No further progress to report. Materials are still on order.

**Roof** – No further progress to report. Materials are on site awaiting a start date, which is dependent upon the weather.

**Geothermal System** – Project is complete. The secondary system pump was installed the week of March 14, 2022.

**Kitchen Floor/Equipment** – Equipment has been ordered. The new anticipated arrival date of some of the equipment is the end of May or the beginning of June. The vendor will store the equipment until the floor is installed. The Warden is working with Tara Keilman, from the Commissioners' Office, and CJL on preparing the bid specs for the floor replacement.

**Simplex Fire System Panel Upgrade** – Project was completed on March 25, 2022.

3. The Department of Corrections' Inspection is scheduled to be conducted on May 5, 2022. Over the last several weeks, the Facility has been preparing and gathering the required documentation that is to be sent in prior to the Department's onsite arrival.

4. The annual firearms recertification training began on April 4, 2022, and will run through April 18, 2022. Training will include both classroom instruction and range training. The required annual training is tentatively scheduled to begin on May 23, 2022, which will consist of 2 days of classroom instruction for all staff. The Prison's Director of Training and Recruitment attended the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College's Job Fair on April 6, 2022.

5. Goodwill Industries requested the Prison's approval to apply for the "Pathway Home Program" grant, which would allow Goodwill to place a Pennsylvania Careerlink Center within the Prison and to hire a Reintegration Specialist that would be stationed Full-Time at the Facility. The program would provide case management, assessment, occupational and life skills training, and job/post-secondary education placement. There is no cost to the County for this program, and Goodwill will pay rent for the space allotted to them. The anticipated start date, if awarded the funding, will be July, 2022.

6. In coordination with the District Attorney's Office, the County Detectives' Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' Canine Unit, and the County's CERT Team a full-scale drug and contraband sweep of the entire institution and every inmate on March 17, 2022. No drugs were identified by the canine units, and only minor items of contraband were found. The Warden expressed his appreciation to the County Detectives, the District Attorney, and the Department of Corrections' Canine Unit for working together with the CERT Team to conduct this successful operation.

**Statistical Report:**

Report is attached.

**March, 2022**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Average Daily Population for March, 2022 | 388          |
| Housing Revenue for March, 2022          | \$213,990.00 |

Year to Date Revenue as of March, 2022

\$645,610.00

**Food Service Report:**

During the month of March, the Prison worked with inmate labor on the proper storage of food products as well as cleaning supplies in the workplace. The FIFO, (First In First Out), method of stock rotation, as well as the importance of dating goods, was also reviewed.

**Medical Report:**

Attached.

**Training:**

The following trainings were completed during the month of March, 2022, for a total of 960 hours of training.

1. Officer Max Rager received 56 hours of training on Intake & Property Operations and 24 hours of training on Central & Floor Control Operations.
2. Officer Jerrad Baker received 24 hours of training on Escort, Lobby & Mail Operations.
3. Officer Jason Burkhardt received 8 hours of training on Escort Operations and 40 hours of training on Prison Kitchen Operations.
4. Officer Andrew Evanicsko received 16 hours of training on Max Control & Escort Operations and 40 hours of training on Prison Kitchen Operations.
5. Officer Izaak Gray received 32 hours of training on Lobby & Central Control Operations and 24 hours of training on Maximum Control, Escort, & Property Operations.
6. Officer Calvin Hartman received 40 hours of training on Central & Floor Control Operations; 32 hours of training on Maximum Control, Intake & Property Operations; 24 hours of training on Floor & Maximum Control Operations; and 24 hours of training on Central Control Operations.
7. Officer Dakota Houston received 16 hours of training on Intake Operations and 16 hours of training on Floor Control Operations.
8. Officer Matthew Leamer received 24 hours of training on Maximum & Floor Control Operations; 16 hours of training on Prison Laundry Operations; and 16 hours of training on Central Control Operations.
9. Officer Chad Sossong received 8 hours of training on Escort Operations; 32 hours of training on Prison Kitchen Operations; 40 hours of training on Floor & Maximum Control & Lobby Operations; and 32 hours of training on Central & Floor Control Operations.
10. Officer John Tremarki received 40 hours of training on Prison Kitchen & Lobby Operations and 32 hours of training on Central & Floor Control Operations.
11. Officer Brian Duman received 32 hours of training on Central & Maximum Control, Escort Operations.
12. Officer Alex Nagle received 32 hours of training on Maximum & Central Control Operations.

13. **Officer David Warner received 32 hours of training on Intake & Property Operations.**
14. **Officer Kimberly Peles received 40 hours of training on Central, Floor & Maximum Control Operations.**
15. **Officer Zachary Shuhayda received 32 hours of training on Intake & Property Operations.**
16. **Officer Sarah McCool received 24 hours of training on Intake Operations.**
17. **Officer Ashlee Mulraney received 32 hours of training on Prison Lobby, Mail & Visiting Operations and 16 hours of training on Maximum Control Operations.**
18. **Officer Jonathan Riggle received 40 hours of training on Central & Floor Control Operations.**
19. **Officers Alex Gardini & Dakota Fauver completed ServSafe Certification, 8 hours.**
20. **Director Jessica Greathouse completed TASER Instructor Certification, 8 hours.**

**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 Commissioner Chernisky and passed. Controller Cernic voted no on the transfer of Robin Yakicic.**

**Communications:**

**District Attorney Neugebauer sent a letter to the groups assisting with the security shakedown.**

**Old Business:**

**Controller Cernic questioned the status of the furnace replacement and tank project.**

**New Business:**

**None.**

**Adjournment:**

**Motion was made by Controller Cernic to adjourn the meeting.**

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

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**Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk**