

# PRISON BOARD MINUTES

May 11, 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  
Don Robertson, Sheriff

**Others Present:**

Chris Smith, Warden  
Craig Descavish, First Deputy Warden  
George Rozum, Second Deputy Warden  
William Valko, Court Administrator  
Scott Fye, Detective

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion was made by Sheriff Robertson to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on April 13, 2022.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt 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 April 13, 2022:**

Retirement Fund	\$26,439.05
Retirement Fund	\$26,438.48
UPMC Health Plan	\$93,875.61
UPMC Health Plan	\$1,536.67
UPMC Dental	\$113.82
Symetra Life Insurance	\$513.33
Penelec	\$17,179.18
Ricoh	\$209.00
Chalsy McQuillen	\$87.75
Cory Stormer	\$29.25
GC Pivotal	\$74.67
RH Marcon	\$956,298.00
RH Marcon	\$309,580.00
Direct Energy	\$714.50
Peoples	\$888.82
Pro Disposal	\$575.00
Wells Fargo	\$450.60
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,435,003.73</b>

**Invoice Status Report:**

May 6, 2022, 92 Invoices Totaling	\$265,325.01
Canteen Fund Bills Paid after April, 2022, Meeting	\$31,673.80
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$27,118.73

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:**

**Personnel:**

1. Robert Jacobson, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I from payroll, effective March 14, 2022.
2. Michael Mozi, transfer from Full-Time Correctional Officer I to Full-Time Correctional Officer II, effective May 8, 2022.

**The Warden reported:**

1. Through Friday, May 6, 2022, the Prison had a total of 615 positive Covid-19 cases. This is an increase of one positive case since last month's Meeting, which was a new commitment from the street who was immediately placed into medical isolation upon commitment. There are currently no active cases. All screening, testing, cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine practices continue to remain in effect.

2. Underground Storage Tank – Project 99% completed. Need to wire into the generator and get a re-inspection of the tank.

HF HVAC System – Preconstruction meeting with all contractors and the engineer was held on April 20, 2022. Work began on Monday, May 4, 2022.

Roof – No further progress. Materials are on site. Awaiting a start date. The weather has not been cooperative.

Kitchen Floor/Equipment – Equipment still on order. CJL completed the bid specs for the floor replacement, and it was posted on May 6, 2022, with a due date of June 6, 2022. A pre-bid meeting with the contractors is scheduled for May 17, 2022.

3. Last week, the Prison participated in National Corrections Employee Week at the Prison. As part of the week, the Facility presented its annual employee awards. The Warden informed the Board that this year's recipients were as follows: Officer of the Year – Officer Shane Davis, Supervisor of the Year – Maintenance Supervisor Jim Hoffman; and Employee of the Year – Maintenance Technician Brian Risko. All three of these individuals are very dedicated, hard-working employees who are well-deserving of this recognition.

4. In hopes of gaining more interest in supervisory positions at the Prison, this past month, the Facility offered the opportunity to staff, with at least one year of experience in the facility, to job shadow a Lieutenant and/or Captain during their shift. There was a total of five officers who submitted interest in shadowing.

5. Last month, the Warden reported that the Facility was preparing for its inspection by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections on May 5, 2022. Although official notification has not yet been received, the Warden informed the Board that the inspector's preliminary findings were that the Prison should be receiving another "Full Compliance" rating. This makes approximately 10 consecutive inspection cycles, or 20 consecutive years, that the Facility has not been found to have any deficiencies. The Warden acknowledged all staff for a job well done and for the time and effort put into insuring the Facility continues to meet the necessary requirements and standards. The Warden specifically acknowledged Deputy Descavish, as he was the point person for this inspection and responsible for the documentation required for submission.

**Statistical Report:**

Report is attached.

**April, 2022**

Average Daily Population for April, 2022	384
Housing Revenue for April, 2022	\$206,430.00
Year to Date Revenue as of April, 2022	\$852,040.00

**Food Service Report:**

None.

**Medical Report:**

Attached.

**Training:**

The following trainings were completed during the month of April, 2022, for a total of 920 hours:

1. Officer Andrew Evanicsko received 40 hours of training on Central Control Operations.
2. Officer Izaak Gray received 24 hours of training on Intake Operations.
3. Officer Chalsy McQuillen received 24 hours of training on Maximum Control Operations and 16 hours of training on Escort Operations.
4. Officer Jonathan Riggle received 16 hours of training on Floor Control Operations and 24 hours of training on Lobby & Mail Operations.
5. Officer Chad Sossong received 56 hours of training on Intake & Property Operations.
6. Officer David Warner received 24 hours of training on Central Control Operations.
7. Officer Calvin Ates received 24 hours of training on Central Control Operations.
8. Officer Dakota Houston received 16 hours of training on Central Control Operations.
9. Officer Christopher Huston received 16 hours of training on Escort Operations.

10. **Officer Matthew Leamer received 24 hours of training on Intake & Property Operations.**

11. **Officer John Tremarki received 40 hours of training on Intake & Property Operations.**

**Throughout the month, 72 officers completed firearms education and qualification recertification.**

**The Prison's Basic Training Academy began the second academy of 2022 on April 18, 2022. This academy consists of 13 students from surrounding counties.**

**Misconduct Report:**

**There was no information to report.**

**Miscellaneous:**

**There was no information to report.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to accept the Warden's Report.**

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

**Communications:**

**The Warden received a letter from a concerned mother regarding her pregnant daughter.**

**Old Business:**

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

**New Business:**

**None.**

**Motion was made by Controller Cernic to convene an Executive Session at 10:54 a.m.**

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

**Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to reconvene the Public Meeting at 11:17 a.m.**

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

**Adjournment:**

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

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