

# PRISON BOARD MINUTES

June 8, 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., 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 May 11, 2022.

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 May 11, 2022:**

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Retirement Fund        | \$23,970.67  |
| Retirement Fund        | \$24,731.43  |
| UPMC Health Plan       | \$93,377.52  |
| UPMC Dental            | (\$10.84)    |
| UPMC Dental            | \$108.40     |
| Symetra Life Insurance | \$508.13     |
| Ebensburg Borough      | \$51,336.80  |
| Ray Oil & Gas Company  | \$344.83     |
| Wells Fargo            | \$295.10     |
| Pro Disposal           | \$544.50     |
| FNB (Visa)             | \$2,779.31   |
| GC Pivotal             | \$74.72      |
| Amazon                 | \$94.32      |
| Hite Company           | \$66.56      |
| Penelec                | \$15,938.77  |
| Ricoh                  | \$209.00     |
| Direct Energy          | \$652.60     |
| Peoples                | \$913.96     |
| Schwebel               | \$1,811.00   |
| Total:                 | \$217,746.78 |

**Invoice Status Report:**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>June 3, 2022, 150 Invoices Totaling</b>              | <b>\$278,284.85</b> |
| <b>Canteen Fund Bills Paid after May, 2022, Meeting</b> | <b>\$21,754.11</b>  |
| <b>Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid</b>                    | <b>\$40,640.41</b>  |

**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 District Attorney Neugebauer to convene and Executive Session at 10:34 a.m.**

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

**Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to reconvene the Public Meeting at 11:04 a.m.**

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

**Personnel:**

- 1. Michael Mozi, transfer from Full-Time Correctional Officer I to Full-Time Correctional Officer II, effective May 8, 2022.**
- 2. Christian Roberts, remove from payroll, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective May 13, 2022.**
- 3. Haley Stiles, remove from payroll, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 1, 2022.**
- 4. Alex Gardini, remove from payroll, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 9, 2022.**
- 5. Kurtis Wolford, transfer from Lieutenant to Captain of Security, effective June 12, 2022.**
- 6. Michael Kakabar, transfer from Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 12, 2022.**
- 7. Tierra Shipley, hire as Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 13, 2022.**
- 8. Jude Launi, hire as Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 13, 2022.**
- 9. Arthur Crum, hire as Full-Time Correctional Officer, effective June 13, 2022.**
- 10. Matthias Balliet, hire as Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 13, 2022.**
- 11. Isaac Gray, transfer from Full-Time Correctional Officer I to Adult Probation Department, effective June 19, 2022.**
- 12. James Hoffman, remove from payroll, effective August 2, 2022.**

**The Warden reported:**

1. Through Monday, June 6, 2022, the Prison had experienced a total of 621 positive Covid-19 cases. This is an increase of 3 positive cases, (all staff). There are currently 2 active staff cases. All screening, testing, cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine practices continue to remain in effect. Breakdown is as follows: 482 inmates, 128 employees, and 11 contract employees.

2. As of Monday, June 6, 2022:

**Underground Storage Tank** – Project is complete; re-inspection of tank is complete, and the Prison is awaiting a certificate.

**HF HVAC System** – Work began on May 4, 2022. Gas line has been run; excavation is complete; and concrete pad has been poured. A change order for ductwork was submitted and approved.

**Roof** – Work began on June 3, 2022. Expected timeframe is 8 to 10 weeks, weather depending.

**Kitchen Floor/Equipment** – The equipment is still on order. The flooring bids were due on June 6, 2022. Inmate crews were used to remove the old floor. While removing the floor, it was found that the majority of the drains in the kitchen were disintegrating and need to be replaced. Maintenance Technician Risko is currently replacing upwards of a dozen floor drains and cleanouts as well as 7 larger floor troughs. In addition, it was found that the floors in the walk-in coolers have hard-packed sand as the base/insulation layer. This cannot be used for the base layer for the new floor so a change order was done to the bid to remove the new flooring from all 4 walk-in coolers. The engineer's recommendation was just to patch and re-grout the floors in these areas.

**Fire Hydrant** – Annual flow test of the fire system showed that the parking lot hydrant was not shutting water off completely and needs repaired. The hydrant is owned by the County. A purchase order has been issued for repairs, and the Prison is awaiting scheduling.

**Intertech** – The company has been onsite regularly over the last month addressing issues with cameras and intercoms. A meeting was held on June 1, 2022, with the service manager to discuss progress.

\*Note: Maintenance Supervisor Jim Hoffman is currently on extended leave. Maintenance Technician Brian Risko will be overseeing all of these projects until his return.

3. Deputy Descavish and Deputy Rozum both attended the Spring Pennsylvania Prison Warden's Association training conference in Harrisburg from May 19, 2022, through May 22, 2022. The training that was provided was "PTSD and First Responder Suicide: To Protect and Serve Those Who Protect and Serve."

**Statistical Report:**

Report is attached.

**May, 2022**

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Average Daily Population for May, 2022 | 395            |
| Housing Revenue for May, 2022          | \$217,785.00   |
| Year to Date Revenue as of May, 2022   | \$1,069,825.00 |

**Food Service Report:**

During the month of April, the Prison worked with inmate labor on the proper ways to prepare, cook, and serve food items. This included how to properly thaw frozen food, how to cook and serve food, and the proper ways to cool and reheat food items.

During the month of May, the Prison worked with inmate labor on measuring and proper portion control. This included the importance of proper measuring when dealing with recipes as well as portions of food items on trays.

**Medical Report:**

Attached.

**Training:**

The following trainings were completed during the month of May, 2022:

1. Officer Brian Duman received 16 hours of training in Property Operations.
2. Officer Raymond Morris received 24 hours of training in Central Booking Operations.
3. Officer Alexander Nagle received 16 of hours training in Property Operations.
4. Officer George Lung received 16 hours of training in Escort Operations and 40 hours of training in Kitchen Operations.
5. Officer Chalsy McQuillen received 8 hours of training in Lobby Operations and 32 hours of training in Kitchen Operations.
6. Officer Jonathan Riggle received 24 hours of training in Central Control Operations and 40 hours of training in Property/Intake Operations.
7. Officer David Warner received 16 hours of training in Mail Operations, 16 hours of training in Visitation Operations, and 32 hours of training in Intake Operations.
8. Officer Andrew Evanicsko received 24 hours of training in Property/Intake Operations.
9. Officer John Tremarki received 40 hours of training in Mail, Lobby, and Visitation Operations.
10. Officer Youseff El Shawarby received 16 hours of training in Max Control Operations and 8 hours of training in Property Operations.
11. Officer Chad Sossong received 16 hours of training in Laundry Operations.

Lieutenant Kurt Wolford, Officer Shane Davis, and Officer Ken Wertz completed "Training for Staff Trainers" Instructor Certification at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' Academy in Elizabethtown.

Deputies Descavish and Rozum completed 8 hours of training on PTSD and Suicide Prevention for First Responders at the PPWA Conference in Harrisburg.

**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.**

**Adjournment:**

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

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

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**Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk**