

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

September 14, 2022

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Chris Smith, Warden
Craig Descavish, First Deputy Warden
George Rozum, Second Deputy Warden
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 Sheriff Robertson to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on August 10, 2022.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed. District Attorney Neugebauer abstained.

Public Comment:

None.

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to amend the Agenda to include the Warden's Report, including personnel and canteen fund invoices.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Presentation and Approval of Invoices:

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

Prison bills paid after the Meeting held August 10, 2022:

Retirement Fund	\$29,000.53
Retirement Fund	\$25,385.20
Retirement Fund	\$26,158.90
UPMC Health Plan	\$1,536.67
UPMC Health Plan	\$89,096.17
UPMC Dental	\$113.82
UPMC Dental	\$113.82
Symetra Life Insurance	\$485.67
Symetra Life Insurance	\$476.62
CamTran	\$378.88
Mainline Newspaper	\$610.00
Phoenix Rehab	\$160.00
Pro Disposal	\$753.50
Ricoh	\$209.00
FNB Visa	(\$4,833.64)
Penelec	\$35,419.72
Wells Fargo	\$150.20
Michael Kakabar, Jr.	\$30.69
Eric Wysong	\$31.25

Direct Energy	\$591.25
Mainline Newspaper	\$762.50
Peoples	\$839.39
GC Pivotal	\$78.48
Total:	\$207,548.62

Invoice Status Report:

September 9, 2022, 107 Invoices Totaling	\$326,480.77
Canteen Fund Bills Paid after August, 2022, Meeting	\$21,518.65
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$25,247.35

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 to discuss personnel matters.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to convene an Executive Session at 10:34 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to reconvene the Public Meeting at 11:19 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Personnel:

1. Remove Michael Kakabar, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective September 13, 2021.
2. Hire the following as Full-Time Correctional Officer I's, effective September 19, 2022:

Matthew Lang	Molly Stine	Dana Shultz
Christopher Whiting	Anthony Markovich	Jamie Proudfit
Ashley Marconi	Trina Stephen	Terry Horner
Todd Shaffer	Brandon Rhodes	Brian Datres

3. Hire Joshua Staff, Per-Diem Correctional Officer I, effective September 19, 2022.

The Warden reported:

1. Through Monday, September 12, 2022, the Prison has experienced a total of 678 positive Covid-19 cases, which is an increase of 51 since last month. Breakdown is as follows: 526 inmates (increase of 41), 141 employees (increase of 12), and 11 contract employees. As of yesterday, there are no active cases. All Covid-19 protocols remain in effect.

2. **MAJOR MAINTENANCE/FACILITIES UPDATES:** (As of Tuesday, September 13, 2022):

- a. **HF HVAC System** – The unit is installed and running. The Facility is still waiting on FIT Optimized to add the unit to the control software.

b. **Roof** – Progress is continuing. There is no anticipated completion date as of this time due to recent weather delays.

c. **Kitchen Floor/Equipment** – On August 29, 2022, a temporary kitchen was set up. On August 30, 2022, through September 2, 2022, equipment was removed and the kitchen was cleaned. On September 6, 2022, floor work began. The floor prep is complete, and the installation phase has begun.

d. **DHU Recreation Runs** – The steel has been received, and so far, 5 of the 7 runs have been removed and rebuilt.

3. On August 19, 2022, approximately 15 members of the Department of Correction’s Laurel Highlands Area Hostage Negotiation Team visited and toured the Prison.

4. On August 3, 2022, the Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet toured the Facility, which was their first time back since before Covid-19.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

August, 2022

Average Daily Population for August, 2022	402
Housing Revenue for August, 2022	\$192,970.00
Year to Date Revenue as of August, 2022	\$1,691,355.00

Food Service Report:

None.

Medical Report:

Attached.

Training:

Sixteen (16) staff members completed 16 hours of annual training during the month of August, 2022.

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 unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk