

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

June 11, 2025

Board Members Present:

**Edward Cernic, Jr., Controller
Thomas C. Chernisky, Commissioner
Linda Rovder Fleming, President Judge
Scott W. Hunt, President Commissioner
Gregory J. Neugebauer, District Attorney
Keith Rager, Commissioner
Don Robertson, Sheriff**

Others Present:

**Kurt Wolford, Warden
George Rozum, Chief Deputy Warden
Megan Bursky, Assistant Deputy Warden
Donald Ochenrider, Major of Security and Investigations
Alex M. Ashcom, Chief Clerk**

Pledge of Allegiance.

Sheriff Robertson called the Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., in the Jury Room of the Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Public Comment:

None.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on May 14, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed. Sheriff Robertson abstained.

An Executive Session was held on June 9, 2025.

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 Hunt and passed unanimously.

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

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 May 14, 2025:

Retirement Fund	\$29,803.04
Retirement Fund	\$30,827.68
UPMC Health Plan & Dental	\$49,816.14
GC Pivotal	\$169.80
Phoenix Workplace Health	\$560.00
Ricoh	\$209.00

Shane Davis	\$140.00
Anthony Markovich	\$87.00
Cory Stormer	\$35.00
FNB (Visa)	\$29.94
Penelec	\$25,653.65
Wells Fargo	\$445.30
United Energy	\$1,152.07
Total:	\$138,928.62

Invoice Status Report:

June 6, 2025, 75 Invoices Totaling	\$298,476.27
Canteen Fund Bills Paid after May, 2025, Meeting	\$2,706.91
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$29,735.42

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

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

Personnel:

Transfers:

- Officer Briehl transferred to Lieutenant, effective May 18, 2025.**
- Kolbe Brothers transferred from Per-Diem Correctional Officer I to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective May 25, 2025.**

Removal/Resignation:

- Brian Duman, remove as Correctional Officer I, effective May 14, 2025.**

New Cadets (will be starting on May 12, 2025):

- Bradley Mahan, Per-Diem Correctional Officer.**
- Camden Stewart, Per-Diem Correctional Officer.**
- Austin Malenich, Per-Diem Correctional Officer.**
- Nicolas Pacconi, Per-Diem Correctional Officer.**
- Robert Harriman, Per-Diem Correctional Officer.**
- Ernest Miller, Per-Diem Correctional Officer.**
- Kaleb Popson, Per-Diem Correctional Officer.**
- Roy Mohr, Per-Diem Correctional Officer.**
- Jason Dunbar, Per-Diem Correctional Officer.**
- Tristan Albert, Per-Diem Correctional Officer.**

Counselor:

- Carmelo Furnari, hired as Correctional Counselor, effective May 12, 2025.**

Food Service Director:

1. Shannon Mathis, hired as Food Service Director, effective June 9, 2025.

Warden Wolford reported:

1. **Major Maintenance/Facilities Updates:**

- a. The thaw box in the kitchen failed and requires repair. Three (3) quotes were obtained, and all vendors agree that replacement is necessary due to the unit's age, (27 years old). These quotes will be forwarded for the Board's review.

- b. The heat pumps in the gym are currently non-operational. Administration is in the process of gathering repair quotes, and updates will be provided.

- c. The staff muster area has been painted for the first time since the Facility opened. Additionally, the Inmate Services Department has been repainted to create a more treatment-focused environment. The total spent on paint for staff dining, muster area, and the entire inmate services department was approximately \$1,100.00, which is less than what was initially quoted for painting just the staff dining area, (\$1,800.00).

2. **Training:**

- a. Basic Training Academy No. 25-002 began on May 12, 2025.

- b. The inaugural Training Committee Meeting was held on June 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. This Committee is dedicated to enhancing the quality of training and will also play a key role in reviewing applicants to help build the strongest team possible.

- c. The Facility is currently working on reviewing applications for another cadet class to fill all open vacancies.

3. **Staff:**

- a. The Swearing-In Ceremony for new cadets currently in the Academy is scheduled for June 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

- b. The twelve-hour rotation for Shift Commanders has been highly successful. All Shift Commanders have responded positively, are meeting all responsibilities, and are returning to work refreshed and motivated. Currently, the implementation of twelve-hour rotations has allowed the Prison to assign a dedicated Shift Commander from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to focus on disciplinary hearings and managing transport schedules. This adjustment also provides other Supervisors with increased capacity to focus on policy compliance throughout the Facility.

- c. A sixty-day trial of twelve-hour shifts for all correctional staff will begin on June 22, 2025. This trial was made available through a temporary bid process, and twenty-three (23) officers have signed on to participate.

- d. On June 4, 2025, the entire Administrative Team conducted cell inspections in every unit of the Facility. Staff responded positively, and overall policy compliance has improved. Housing Unit A was recognized as the top-performing unit. The Warden congratulated Officers Courtney

Sinclair, Lauren Ecklund, and Krista Pell for their outstanding work and leadership in the Unit.

e. An overall policy review was completed for all policies within the Facility. As part of this process, all policies were transitioned into a more professional and user-friendly template to enhance clarity, consistency, and accessibility.

f. The Prison is currently collaborating with Somerset County and Blair County Prisons to organize a summer golf tournament between the three (3) facilities. This event aims to foster a team-oriented focus among staff and offer a positive recreational opportunity outside of work.

g. The Facility is currently coordinating with Patterson's Country Cookin' food truck to schedule a visit a weekend in July, which would allow staff to purchase meals and enjoy a higher-quality lunch during shifts.

4. Inmate Treatment:

a. A meeting was held with Fred Oliveros and Michaela Hernandez, Cambria County Drug & Alcohol; Ashley Tronzo, Re-Entry Program; Chris Maul, Day Reporting Center; Theresa Tommarello, Cambria House; and Katie Urban, Goodwill, to begin developing a collaborative program aimed at making a positive impact on the community and reducing recidivism.

b. A separate meeting was held with the Correctional Counselors, resulting in the implementation of a revamped procedure. This new approach is designed to give counselors more time to focus on re-entry planning and treatment efforts, while also promoting greater collaboration within the team.

c. On May 22, 2025, Administration and Correctional Counselors participated in the "Sticker Shock" initiative with the Cambria County Drug Coalition. This event was organized by Counselor McCoy, and the Warden expressed his gratitude for her efforts in coordinating a meaningful opportunity for positive community engagement.

d. Assistant Deputy Warden Bursky and the Warden attended a Conservation & Recreation Authority meeting to discuss the future implementation of inmate work crews aimed at benefiting both the inmate population and the broader community. The Warden thanked Commissioner Chernisky for inviting them.

e. The Administrative Team met with Cliff Kitner from the Conservation & Recreation Authority to discuss opportunities for inmate workers to provide community service. This initiative aims to positively impact the community while also offering inmates the chance to develop valuable skills and gain constructive, real-world experience through community engagement.

f. The Administrative Team attended the Day Reporting Center Graduation on May 2, 2025.

g. Assistant Deputy Warden Bursky and the Warden attended the Health and Welfare Council Meeting in Johnstown. The Warden thanked Commissioner Chernisky for the invitation.

5. Medical:

a. Assistant Deputy Warden Bursky identified incorrect medical charges that were billed to the Prison, resulting in a potential savings. PrimeCare is currently revising the invoices to correct these errors, and the finalized savings will be reported to the Board, once confirmed.

6. Kitchen Updates:

a. The new Food Service Director started on June 9, 2025, and will be trained by the Nutrition Group, alongside Joe Medvan. The training aims to establish best practices that will reduce the kitchen budget while promoting a more organized and efficient kitchen operation.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

May, 2025

Average Daily Population for May, 2025	320
Housing Revenue for May, 2025	\$141,090.00
Year to Date Revenue as of May, 2025	\$717,577.50

Food Service Report:

During the month of May, Officer William Trexler created an Excel spreadsheet that will provide the new kitchen management and Administration with a simple and easy means of viewing kitchen cost and purchases. The sheet is a simple plug and play format that allows everyone who views it the understanding of how the kitchen is spending money on a monthly basis. The Facility is now able to keep track of monthly spending and more accurately calculate overall cost.

Medical Report:

Attached.

Training:

The following staff training was completed during the month of May, 2025:

1. The Prison attended the Cambria County Career Fair on May 6, 2025.
2. The new Academy class was held from May 12, 2025, through May 30, 2025.
3. The intern from UPJ completed seventy-one (71) hours of training.
4. The Facility hosted a Taser Instructor Course from May 27, 2025, through May 28, 2025.

Misconduct Report:

There was no information to report.

Miscellaneous:

None.

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to approve the Warden's Report.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Alex M. Ashcom, Chief Clerk