

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

November 12, 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, Assistant Deputy
Megan Bursky, Assistant Deputy Warden
Alex M. Ashcom, Chief Clerk
Nicole Arrington, Court Administrator

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:

John DeBartola stated or questioned the following:

1. He received an anonymous letter regarding overtime at the Prison.
2. What is the status of the County's agreement with ICE? When will the County begin to see revenue?
3. Regarding the audit that is being talked about in the Warden's Report, he would like for that audit to be released to the public so that a Right to Know Request is not necessary to obtain it.
4. He believes the County will be increasing taxes by 4 mils but yet questioned why certain businesses in Johnstown are not paying taxes.
5. He understands that the Prison has been doing ride-alongs with the Johnstown Police Department. Is it true that the Police Department is returning vehicles because they are the wrong color?

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on October 8, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

An Executive Session was held on November 10, 2025.

Presentation and Approval of Invoices:

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

Prison bills paid after the Meeting held October 8, 2025:

Retirement Fund	\$33,440.21
Retirement Fund	\$31,795.24
UPMC Health Plan & Dental	\$51,596.91
Mainline Newspaper	\$85.07

ProDisposal	\$799.39
Wells Fargo	\$890.60
Kyle Brawley	\$107.80
FNB Visa	\$125.28
Penelec	\$30,225.44
Patrick Zirpoli	\$4,000.00
United Energy	\$845.18
Canteen Fund	\$366.00*
DLP Conemaugh	\$144.00*
GC Pivotal	\$170.04
Janitors Supply	\$9,773.76*
Mayer Supply	\$452.21
Nutrition	\$2,567.50*
Peoples	\$1,199.29
Phoenix Workplace Health	\$1,005.00
PrimeCare	\$8,829.26*
ProDisposal	\$799.39
Wells Fargo	\$295.10
Total:	\$179,512.67

(Amounts with an * were paid on November 7, 2025, but were not included on the previous October report).

Invoice Status Report:

November 6, 2025, 140 Invoices Totaling	\$819,967.19
Canteen Fund Bills Paid after October, 2025, Meeting	\$6,817.30
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$30,812.74

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 to discuss security matters.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to convene an Executive Session at 10:38 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to reconvene the Public Meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Personnel:

Removals / Resignations:

1. Martin Daughenbaugh, remove from payroll, effective October 10, 2025.
2. Shawn Fagan, remove from payroll, effective October 12, 2025.

Transfers / Changes:

1. Harry Plummer, transfer from Correctional Officer I to Correctional Officer II, effective August 25, 2025.

New Hires:

1. Lindsay Scott, hired as a Counselor to replace Coordinator McCoy's open position, effective October 27, 2025.

Warden Wolford reported:

1. Staff:

a. The Prison continued to collaborate with Chief Britton and the Johnstown Police Department in preparation for the upcoming First Responders Ball, scheduled for November 15, 2025. This inaugural event is designed to celebrate community partnership and strengthen relationships among local first responder agencies. All Board Members were invited to attend.

b. Work is underway to develop a comprehensive security clearance policy and an updated cellphone access policy. These policies will strengthen overall Facility security while establishing clear, organized protocols for staff, volunteers, and approved visitors. In conjunction with these updates, a new badge identification system is being created for all non-correctional personnel entering the institution. This system will clearly display each individual's authorized level of clearance, ensuring consistency and awareness among staff. These initiatives are part of an ongoing effort to formalize and enhance existing security procedures across all areas of Facility operations.

c. The Prison, in partnership with the Probation Department, participated in the Ebensburg Halloween Parade. This event provided an opportunity to promote a positive community presence and demonstrate the Prison's ongoing commitment to supporting local events and strengthening community relationships.

d. The administrative team attended the swearing-in ceremony for Detective K9 Blitz at the Cambria County Courthouse. The Prison was honored to be invited and to take part in this important event, which represents continued collaboration among law enforcement agencies and supports efforts to enhance public safety within the community.

e. A new procedure has been implemented to further support the training and development of new staff while ensuring policies and procedures are being properly learned and applied. As part of this initiative, all administrators, including the Warden, will spend one 8-hour shift each quarter shadowing new correctional staff within the housing units. This approach reinforces leadership visibility, promotes teamwork, and provides administrators with firsthand awareness of daily operations and staff training needs.

2. Major Maintenance/Facility Updates:

a. The Prison received the final report from Germ Solutions regarding the air cleaners that were installed through a grant approved several years ago. The report is extensive but demonstrates a significant improvement in overall air quality during the study period.

b. The specification list for the upcoming body camera bid has been finalized and submitted to the Controller's Office for release. The request for bids will include 40 body-worn cameras and 5 vehicle-mounted systems to provide comprehensive coverage across all shifts, with additional units available for rotation and replacement.

c. The Warden is working with Chief Clerk Ashcom to compile information on the Facility's HVAC systems. This review is intended to ensure all systems are operating efficiently, cost effectively, and in a manner that supports long-term energy savings and reliability throughout the institution.

3. Training:

a. Counselor Smick continues to oversee the Training Department and is leading a comprehensive revamp of its structure and curriculum. In addition, all new staff and volunteers are now required to complete a robust security awareness training to ensure consistency, preparedness, and compliance with Facility standards. Counselor Smick also managed a job fair at the Human Resources Department in order to fill gaps with staffing.

4. Medical:

a. Deputy Warden Bursky, Captain Houston, and the Warden met with representatives from a regional hospital to discuss potential opportunities for inmate medical services in addition to the current provider. Preliminary conversations focused on strengthening collaboration and improving overall service delivery. The Prison has also begun evaluating multiple medical facilities for outside transports to enhance security, reduce transport time, and ensure the highest level of safety for inmates, staff, and the community.

b. The Prison recently held a quarterly meeting with PrimeCare to review ongoing medical operations and discuss strategies to reduce costs to taxpayers. One key initiative involves transitioning to a stock medication system rather than ordering individually packaged prescriptions for each inmate. The current system often results in unused medication being discarded upon an inmate's release. By adopting a stock-based approach, the Facility will significantly reduce waste and achieve measurable savings within the medical budget while maintaining continuity of care.

5. Audits:

a. Following feedback from Solicitor Repak, the Warden requested several final revisions to the Facility-wide audit contract from Pat Zirpoli. The updated draft is expected to be completed and ready for review and potential approval at the next Prison Board Meeting.

6. Inmate Treatment:

a. Coordinator McCoy, Deputy Warden Bursky, Goodwill Industries, and the newly appointed Re-Entry Specialist, Chantelle Lasagna, participated in a virtual meeting with Dauphin County officials to review re-entry practices and discuss potential improvements to the program.

b. Since assuming her role, Coordinator McCoy has facilitated multiple inmate placements into the Bridging the Gap transitional housing program, with steady utilization of available beds and continued coordination to meet ongoing demand.

c. The re-entry team continues to work in partnership with Goodwill to expand support services and ensure full integration of the Re-Entry Specialist position within the program structure.

d. Deputy Warden Bursky also met with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, (DDAP), regarding the introduction of gambling addiction education and treatment within the Facility. DDAP identified an approved provider to facilitate the programming in the Facility. The program would be provided at no cost to the County.

e. A generous donation of books was received from the Bellwood Library for the inmate population. The Warden thanked Officer Trexler for coordinating and facilitating this contribution, which supports continued learning and positive engagement within the Facility.

f. The administrative team attended the Day Reporting Center's graduation ceremony on October 10, 2025. The Facility was proud to support the graduates and recognize the continued success of this important program.

7. Miscellaneous:

a. The Facility continues to receive a consistent intake of immigration detainees, all classified as minimum-security. Their average length of stay remains relatively short, and housing is being managed in accordance with existing federal housing agreements.

b. Discussions are planned with federal partners to explore potential adjustments that could strengthen future collaboration and ensure continued cost effectiveness. Once additional data is available, a report will be prepared to summarize housing trends and associated fiscal impacts.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

October, 2025

Average Daily Population for October, 2025	336
Housing Revenue for October, 2025	\$122,751.00
Year to Date Housing Revenue, October, 2025	\$1,303,686.00

Food Service Report:

Report is attached.

Medical Report:

Report is attached.

Training:

Report is attached.

Misconduct Report:

There was no information to report.

Miscellaneous:

There was no information to report.

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

Motion was seconded by Judge Fleming and passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.