

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

February 11, 2026

Board Members Present:

Edward Cernic, Jr., Controller
Thomas C. Chernisky, Commissioner
Linda Rovder Fleming, President Judge
Scott W. Hunt, President Commissioner
Keith Rager, Commissioner
Don Robertson, Sheriff

Others Present:

Kurt Wolford, Warden
Megan Bursky, Assistant Deputy Warden
Alex M. Ashcom, Chief Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance.

Sheriff Robertson called the Meeting to order, at 10:30 a.m., at the Cambria County Prison.

Public Comment:

Etta Albright showed a magazine to demonstrate mental health issues. She believes we need to find a positive way to approach these issues.

John DeBartola stated that he believes the County spends too much money on utilities and healthcare at the Prison. He is looking for a breakdown of money affiliated with ICE detainees and is asking how the County can cut costs at the Prison.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on January 14, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed. Judge Fleming abstained.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session of the Prison Board was held on February 9, 2026.

Presentation and Approval of Invoices:

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

Prison bills paid after the Meeting held January 14, 2026:

Retirement Fund	\$34,795.85
Retirement Fund	\$43,392.97
UPMC Health Plan and Dental	\$52,404.82
UPMC Health Plan and Dental	\$52,808.97
Symetra Life Insurance	\$648.05
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$891.73
ProDisposal	\$799.39
Ebensburg Borough	\$38,650.30
Kimberly Peles	\$35.00
FNB (Visa)	\$7.28
FNB (Visa)	\$9.78
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$50.00
Penelec	\$30,255.64
Wells Fargo	\$150.20
Ricoh	\$209.00

United Energy	\$2,142.19
Peoples	\$2,308.24
ProDisposal	\$799.39
GT Pivotal	\$215.48
Total:	\$260,574.28

Invoice Status Report:

February 9, 2026, 95 Invoices Totaling	\$373,382.00
Canteen Fund Bills Paid after January, 2026, Meeting	\$1,503.24
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$28,461.06

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

Motion was seconded by Judge Fleming and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

Personnel:

Removals/Resignations:

- 1. Sandy Jones, Per-Diem Correctional Officer I, effective January 17, 2026.**
- 2. Ruth Garcia, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 8, 2026.**
- 3. Brian Latoche, Full-Time Major of Booking, effective January 31, 2026.**
- 4. George Rozum, Full-Time Chief Deputy Warden, effective February 17, 2026.**
- 5. Dylan Segada, Per-Diem Correctional Officer I, rescinded job offer, effective January 20, 2026.**
- 6. Barbara Steiner, Per-Diem Correctional Officer I, rescinded job offer, effective January 20, 2026.**
- 7. Gabriel Davis, Correctional Officer I, effective February 5, 2026.**
- 8. Edward Fockler, Correctional Officer I, effective January 16, 2026.**
- 9. Leroy Wheeler, III, Correctional Officer I, effective January 30, 2026.**

New Hires:

- 1. Christina Berkhimer, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 20, 2026.**
- 2. Michael Clawson, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 20, 2026.**
- 3. Isaac Bellomo, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 20, 2026.**
- 4. Charles Dolanskey, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 20, 2026.**
- 5. Carrie Martynuska, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 20, 2026.**

6. **Keri Beiswenger, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 20, 2026.**
7. **Melissa Gillin, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 20, 2026.**
8. **Christopher Smith, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 20, 2026.**
9. **Jason Link, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 20, 2026.**
10. **Ryan Holgash, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective January 20, 2026.**

Transfers:

1. **Jeremy Smick, Counselor to Director of Training and Recruitment, effective February 2, 2026.**
2. **Courtney Sinclair, Full-Time Correctional Officer I to Per-Diem Correctional Officer I, effective February 2, 2026.**
3. **Jason Kopnick, Per-Diem Correctional Officer I to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective February 15, 2026.**
4. **John Forsythe, Per-Diem Correctional Officer I to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective February 15, 2026.**
5. **Jacob Fitzpatrick, Per-Diem Correctional Officer I to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective February 15, 2026.**

Warden Wolford Reported:

Staff:

1. **Prison Administration formally commended Officer Shuhayda for his exemplary conduct and professionalism in managing an inmate experiencing a mental health crisis.**
2. **Prison Administration commended all staff who reported to work and continued operations during the January snowstorm, as staffing challenges are common during severe weather. Staff stepped up to ensure the Facility remained safe and operational.**
3. **Prison Administration coordinated with Nicole Arrington, Court Administrator, to initiate security training for all personnel responsible for supervising inmate work crews outside the Facility.**
4. **Prison Administration initiated a review process with bid Correctional Officers to evaluate policies and post orders to enhance operational efficiency while incorporating input from frontline staff.**

Major Maintenance/Facility Updates:

1. **Prison Administration collaborated with local law enforcement, the Probation Department, the District Attorney's Office, and local hospitals to develop and implement a new intake prescreening form to improve medical readiness for individuals being committed to the Facility.**
2. **Prison Administration is initiating a competitive bidding process for the software service contract to ensure the County receives optimal service at the best possible value.**
3. **The lobby was reconfigured to enhance the visitor experience while improving the efficiency of safety and security procedures.**

Training:

- 1. The first Training Academy for 2026 commenced on January 20, 2026, with Director Smick overseeing a robust training program designed to provide new cadets with comprehensive preparation for duty.**
- 2. The Commonwealth approved the Prison's Training Academy through 2029 and formally commended Director Smick for his exemplary performance and consistent coordination to ensure compliance with applicable standards.**

Prison Audit:

- 1. Inspector Zirpoli advised of a tentative early March schedule for a voluntary, comprehensive Facility audit encompassing all shifts to enhance operational efficiency and the provision of custody and care.**

Kitchen Updates:

- 1. Prison Administration is collaborating with Food Service Director Mathis and the Nutrition Group to establish ServSafe certification opportunities for inmate workers to improve post-release employment outcomes, with qualified candidates referred for potential employment consideration.**

Miscellaneous:

- 1. The federal census came to the Institution and successfully completed the 2026 census.**
- 2. Interviews for the open Chief Deputy Warden of Operations and Major of Booking and Admissions positions have been completed. All applicants demonstrated qualities aligned with the leadership, professionalism, and commitment the Facility is seeking in these roles. The candidate pool reflects strong interest in advancing within the organization and moving the Facility in a positive direction going forward.**
- 3. The Prison has fully restructured the staff evaluation process to establish position-specific criteria for every role within the Prison. Previously, evaluations were more generalized across job assignments. The updated evaluation system provides clear, consistent guidelines that allow supervisors to identify specific areas where improvement is needed, while also recognizing and highlighting areas where staff members are performing at an exemplary level.**

Inmate Treatment:

- 1. The Prison's partnership with Goodwill Industries and the grant supporting the Re-Entry Department continues to grow. Re-Entry Specialist Lasagna is currently managing a full caseload, and Re-Entry Coordinator McCoy is continuing to develop the Bridging the Gap Program. This program focuses on individuals nearing release and assists them with securing housing and developing a plan of action for successful reentry into the community. This coordinated approach is designed to reduce recidivism by addressing reentry needs before release, while also supporting safer communities through structured planning, accountability, and connection to resources.**
- 2. Prison Administration participated in a Re-Entry Advisory Board meeting on January 21, 2026, to further ongoing work within the Re-Entry Department. The focus of the meeting was on strengthening partnerships,**

refining programming, and continuing efforts aimed at reducing recidivism and supporting successful reentry into the community.

3. Prison Administration is currently in the process of soliciting bids for a new barber service for the inmate population. Once all bids are received, they will be reviewed to ensure the selection of the most qualified and appropriate provider for the Facility.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

January, 2026

Average Daily Population for January, 2026	401
Housing Revenue for January, 2026	\$288,240.00
Year to Date Housing Revenue	\$288,240.00

Food Service Report:

Report is attached.

Medical Report:

Report is attached.

Training:

Report is attached.

Misconduct Report:

There was no information to report.

Miscellaneous:

A report was provided by the Prison's Department of Custody and Community Integration.

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

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to convene an Executive Session at 11:04 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to end the Executive Session at 11:29 a.m.

Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic and passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.