

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

April 8, 2026

Board Members Present:

**Jessica F. Aurandt, District Attorney
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, Chief Deputy Warden
Carmelo Furnari, Deputy Warden of Operations
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:

John DeBartola spoke regarding the Right to Know Request he submitted requesting information that pertained to the Prison. He does not believe that the County can withhold the investigation information that was denied regarding correctional officers allegedly sleeping with inmates. He has filed an appeal with the Office of Open Records.

Etta Albright spoke regarding the lies that government tells and stated her concerns about the Prison housing ICE detainees.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on March 11, 2026.

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

Executive Sessions:

Executive Sessions of the Prison Board were held on March 24, 2026, and April 6, 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 March 11, 2026:

Retirement Fund	\$35,445.47
Retirement Fund	\$36,064.94
UPMC Health Plan and Dental	\$50,904.80
UPMC Health Plan and Dental	\$48,333.63
Symetra Life Insurance	\$621.85
Peoples	\$2,015.77
Elite Outdoor Services	\$3,988.40
Impact Truck Service	\$214.84
Tribune Democrat	\$64.20
Wells Fargo	\$150.20
Ebensburg Borough	\$36,725.30

Ricoh	\$528.10
FNB Visa	\$305.15
Penelec	\$27,628.89
Wells Fargo	\$295.10
United Energy	\$2,003.04
Cisco (DeLage Landen)	\$1,373.77
Total:	\$246,663.45

Invoice Status Report:

April 2, 2026, 115 Invoices Totaling	\$439,096.87
Canteen Fund Bills Paid after March, 2026, Meeting	\$2,345.35
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$39,827.23

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:

Personnel:

Transfers:

1. Lieutenant Wysong transferred to Captain, effective April 13, 2026.
2. Officer Kimack transferred from Correctional Officer II to Correctional Officer I, effective April 5, 2026.

Warden Wolford Reported:

Staff:

1. Post orders have been distributed to all administrative staff. These updates are intended to improve operational efficiency, enhance clarity, and provide consistent guidance for staff.
2. Members of the Administrative Team have begun conducting periodic weekend spot checks to ensure continued oversight and operational consistency. These efforts are part of the Prison's ongoing commitment to maintaining high standards across all shifts.
3. Interviews for the open Captain position have been completed, and a selection has been made. The Warden is confident that the individual chosen will contribute positively to the continued leadership and operations of the Facility.
4. The Prison participated in a job fair at the Hiram G. Andrews Center and a career day at Westmont Elementary School. Both events provided valuable opportunities for recruitment and community engagement and were positive experiences for the staff.
5. Officers Black and Scott were issued commendations for their outstanding work during the incident that occurred at court. Based on the information provided to the Warden, Officer Black placed himself between the inmate and the assailant to help ensure the inmate's safety.
6. Overtime has been significantly reduced this month, as staffing levels continue to improve. This reflects positive progress in stabilizing staffing and controlling associated costs.

7. The Prison is actively working with Titan's Watch and Detective Hinterliter to secure grant funding for the implementation of a K-9 unit at the Prison. This initiative will enhance institutional security, further reduce the presence of narcotics, and represents the first drug detection K-9 program in the Facility's history.

Major Maintenance/Facility Updates:

1. The Prison is continuing efforts to digitize physical paper forms and logs. This initiative is expected to improve operational efficiency, enhance record accuracy and accessibility, and reduce overall paper usage while strengthening accountability.

2. As part of ongoing improvements at the Facility, Administration has standardized all signage. Previously, signage lacked consistency and did not reflect a uniform professional standard. All signage has now been redesigned and replaced to ensure a consistent, professional appearance across the Facility. Approximately sixty (60) signs have been updated.

While this may seem like a minor change, signage plays an important role in reinforcing expectations and conveying professionalism to staff, visitors, and inmates.

3. The Prison is currently repainting the intake area and holding cells. While the project is not yet fully complete, all walls, doors, and bunks have been sanded and repainted. The floors are scheduled to be scrubbed as the final step. These improvements enhance the overall condition and presentation of an area that is often the first point of contact for individuals entering the Facility.

Additionally, a directive has been issued requiring staff to inspect these cells each shift to ensure they are properly maintained. Daily supervisory inspections are also being conducted to reinforce these standards.

Training:

1. Annual training is currently underway, including the implementation of new hands-on housing unit training that had not previously been in place. This addition has been well received by staff and enhances practical, job-specific instruction.

2. Director Smick has done an excellent job leading the redevelopment of the Annual Training Program.

3. Deputy Warden Furnari and Director Smick are currently working with EMA Director Tom Davis to update the Facility's Emergency Operations Plan. This effort is intended to ensure the plan reflects current best practices and supports coordinated response capabilities.

Inmate Treatment:

1. The Warden attended the Go-ReEntry Banquet to emphasize the critical role of reentry services in preparing incarcerated individuals for successful reintegration and reducing recidivism.

2. Deputy Warden Bursky is actively working to secure a two-year MAT Agreement to significantly offset program costs and ensure the continued sustainability of the initiative. This grant will provide \$68,000.00 per year for two (2) years.

3. The Warden attended the March CJAB meeting, which included discussions on implementing processes to assist inmates in obtaining driver's licenses upon release, supporting successful reintegration.

4. The Warden met with Cliff Kitner to coordinate the continuation of inmate work crews for maintenance of the Duman Lake Trail and to explore expanded opportunities for positive community engagement and skill-building for the inmate population.

Miscellaneous:

1. Barber services have temporarily resumed within the Facility. The Warden will continue coordinating these services on a temporary basis, until the position is formally contracted.
2. The Prison has implemented a professional visitor acknowledgment process in the lobby, requiring professional visitors to review and sign documentation outlining contraband policies and associated legal consequences. This measure is intended to enhance security awareness and reinforce compliance expectations within the Facility.
3. Administration met with the Courts to discuss the development of a policy related to medical furloughs, with the goal of improving operational efficiency and managing associated costs. Work is ongoing in this area, including the creation of a formal furlough acknowledgment process for inmates to ensure clear expectations and proper documentation.
4. The Prison has established an as-needed Housing Agreement with Huntingdon County Jail, generating \$103.50 per inmate, per day in revenue while providing additional flexibility in managing population levels.
5. To ensure federal compliance, the Prison is finalizing an Agreement that will reduce inmate phone call costs while aligning operations with current regulatory standards.
6. The Prison has received all proposals for technology services and is actively evaluating them to improve service quality while achieving a reduction in overall service costs.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

March, 2026

Average Daily Population for March, 2026	397
Housing Revenue for March, 2026	\$301,591.50
Year to Date Housing Revenue	\$833,416.50

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 miscellaneous information reported.

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

Motion was seconded by President Judge Fleming and passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Alex M. Ashcom, Chief Clerk