

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

May 13, 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**

Others Present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public Comment:

John DeBartola spoke about an article in the Tribune Democrat that pertained to contraband at the Prison, and he brought up his Right to Know Request regarding same. He also thanked District Attorney Aurandt for being honest about the ongoing crime in the County.

Etta Albright stated that May was Mental Health Month, and she spoke about mental illness.

Motion was made by Judge Fleming to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on April 8, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session of the Prison Board was held on May 11, 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 April 8, 2026:

Retirement Fund	\$42,485.57
Retirement Fund	\$38,781.63
UPMC Health Plan and Dental	\$56,455.13
UPMC Health Plan and Dental	\$54,387.79
Symetra Life Insurance	\$687.35
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$49.50
Peoples	\$1,721.40
Pro Disposal	\$863.34
Wells Fargo	\$295.10
FNB Visa	\$356.09
Penelec	\$28,347.60
Wells Fargo	\$150.20
De Lage (Cisco)	\$1,350.90
Ricoh	\$209.00
United Energy	\$1,484.94
GC Pivotal	\$274.88
Peoples	\$1,422.84

Pro Disposal	\$863.34
Total:	\$230,186.60

Invoice Status Report:

May 11, 2026, 122 Invoices Totaling	\$424,815.26
Canteen Fund Bills Paid after April, 2026, Meeting	\$3,147.99
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$65,892.03

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to approve the bills and the Invoice Status Report.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

Personnel:

Transfers:

- 1. Jason Dunbar, Correctional Officer I to Lieutenant, effective April 26, 2026.**
- 2. Allen Zurich, Correctional Officer I to Correctional Officer II, effective April 26, 2026.**

Removals:

- 1. Melissa Elias, Executive Assistant, effective May 23, 2026.**
- 2. Jacob Fitzpatrick, Correctional Officer I, effective April 24, 2026.**
- 3. Melissa Gillen, Correctional Officer I, effective April 22, 2026.**
- 4. Kaleb Popson, Correctional Officer I, effective May 11, 2026.**
- 5. Eric Dreikorn, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 6. Timothy Braniff, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 7. Debra Farrell, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 8. Richard Sobecky, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**

New Hires:

- 1. Nathan Bolvin, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 2. Brianna Yagoda, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 3. James Moore, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 4. Jordan Hall, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 5. Ross Inzana, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 6. Kwanjee Prentice, Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 7. Gage Myers, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 8. Roger Brothers, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 9. Douglas Tanaka, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 10. Aiden Jackson, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 11. Duane Biller, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 12. Breanna Altumus, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 13. Patricia Villa, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 14. Brandon Demchak, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**
- 15. Ryan Cornelius, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.**

16. John Grosholz, Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective June 7, 2026.
17. Samantha Snowberger, Counselor, effective June 7, 2026.

Warden Wolford Reported:

Staff:

1. Prison Administration reopened a previously closed recreation bid in an effort to increase opportunities for indoor recreation and provide inmates with additional out-of-cell time within the Facility. This initiative is intended to support inmate wellness, structured activity, and overall Facility operations at the Prison.
2. Prison Administration continued to conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of Facility security procedures and policies to ensure the Prison is operating in the safest and most secure manner possible. The ongoing review includes operational practices, staff procedures, and overall security protocols aimed at maintaining a secure environment for staff, inmates, and the public.
3. Administration and PrimeCare Medical participated in the Western Regional Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) meeting on April 30, 2026, to discuss the operational and treatment challenges currently facing correctional facilities, including the increasing number and complexity of mental health cases being managed on a daily basis at the Prison.
4. Representatives from the Prison attended the Prom Promise Program at Penn Cambria High School to speak with students about the importance of making responsible decisions during prom season and to highlight the serious real-world consequences that can result from impaired driving, substance use, and other poor choices.
5. The Prison is requesting approval to obtain a narcotics detection canine for the Facility, through a grant in coordination with Titan's Watch and Chief Detective Hinterliter. This canine will enhance the overall security operations by providing an additional deterrent against the introduction of narcotics into the Facility while further supporting the safety and security of both staff and inmates.
6. The Prison participated in National Corrections Officers Week, from May 3, 2026, through May 9, 2026. During the week, the Facility recognized several employees for their outstanding dedication, professionalism, and service. Congratulations to Supervisor of the Year, Captain Kristen Perino; Officer of the Year, Officer Christopher Mastrine; and Employee of the Year, Food Service Director Shannon Mathis.
7. Chief Deputy Warden Furnari and Major John Briel completed the Federal 287(g) Warrant Service Officer Accreditation Program. This training permits designated staff at the Prison to serve active immigration warrants to detainees already housed within the Facility, on behalf of federal authorities. The accreditation is limited in scope and does not grant authority for off-site enforcement activities or independent immigration enforcement actions outside of the Facility.

Major Maintenance/Facility Updates:

1. The Prison is collaborating with Alex Ashcom, Chief Clerk, to pursue grant funding to replace the Facility's outdated heating system software. Upgrading this system will improve overall operational efficiency, enhance reliability throughout the Facility, and help maintain a safe and consistent environment for both staff and the inmate population.

2. The Prison is continuing the evaluation process to determine the best fit for the Facility's long-term technology service needs following the recent Request for Proposal process. The goal is to ensure the selected provider can effectively support the Prison's operational, security, and technological needs moving forward.

Training:

1. Annual training was completed for all correctional staff through the Training Department at the Prison. Jeremy Smick, Director of Training and Recruitment, coordinated with state officials to redesign and restructure the annual training program to provide a more hands-on, practical approach with an increased emphasis on knowledge retention and real-world application.

2. In coordination with Human Resources, the Prison conducted Employee Assistance Program (EAP) training for staff to help ensure employee wellness needs are being addressed, with a particular focus on mental health awareness, available support resources, and overall staff wellbeing.

3. In an effort to revitalize and strengthen the Facility's CERT team, representatives from Boondock Solutions conducted on-site training at the Prison for CERT team members and staff. The training focused on enhancing defensive tactics, response capabilities, and practical hands-on techniques designed to improve staff preparedness and safety.

Prison Audits:

1. The Prison and PrimeCare Medical completed the Facility's inspection through the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). The inspection reviewed correctional healthcare practices, policies, and compliance standards within the Facility. Once the official results are received, they will be provided to the Board.

Inmate Treatment:

1. The Prison is currently working to organize a program for the inmate population that will bring in guest speakers who have overcome significant challenges in their lives and have gone on to achieve success and stability. Similar peer-driven initiatives have shown positive results in supporting rehabilitation, accountability, and personal growth, and the Prison is hopeful this program will provide meaningful encouragement and perspective to those within the Facility.

2. Chief Deputy Warden Megan Bursky, along with Re-Entry Coordinator McCoy and Re-Entry Specialist Lasagna, recently toured the Re-Entry Program at the Bedford County Jail. During the visit, they were able to gain valuable insight into the program's operations and identify several initiatives and practices that may be beneficial to implement here at the Prison, as it continues to strengthen its own re-entry efforts.

3. The Prison Chaplain has been working diligently to reorganize and improve the Facility chapel while also developing several new initiatives aimed at expanding religious programming and services available to the inmate population. These efforts are intended to provide additional opportunities for guidance, support, and positive engagement within the Facility.

Kitchen Updates:

1. Prison Administration coordinated with The Nutrition Group to finalize upcoming ServSafe training that will be provided to correctional staff and inmate kitchen workers at the Prison. In addition to

strengthening food service knowledge and safety practices within the Facility, this initiative is intended to provide inmate workers with valuable certifications and practical skills that may assist with employment opportunities and successful reentry upon release.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

April, 2026

Average Daily Population for April, 2026	415
Housing Revenue for April, 2026	\$332,526.00
Year to Date Housing Revenue	\$1,165,942.50

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 Commissioner Hunt to approve the Warden’s Report.

Motion was seconded by District Attorney Aurandt 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