

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

July 8, 2026

Board Members Present:

**Jessica F. Aurandt, District Attorney
Edward Cernic, Jr., Controller
Thomas C. Chernisky, Commissioner
Scott W. Hunt, President Commissioner
Don Robertson, Sheriff**

Others Present:

**Kurt Wolford, Warden
Megan Bursky, Chief 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:

John DeBartola spoke regarding concerns over the crime in the County. He believes there is a need for accountability, and he believes that there is a need for youth programs in the community.

Motion was made by District Attorney Aurandt to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on June 10, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic and passed unanimously.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session of the Prison Board was held on July 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 June 10, 2026:

Retirement Fund	\$39,420.64
Retirement Fund	\$38,950.60
UPMC Health Plan and Dental	\$53,443.69
	\$53,329.87
Symetra Life Insurance	\$675.56
Peoples	\$1,254.94
Wells Fargo	\$445.30
FNB (Visa)	\$27.82
Elite Outdoor Services	\$910.00
Penelec	\$27,976.38
Ricoh	\$733.24
United Energy	\$1,149.06
Ryan Holgash	\$100.05
William Irvin	\$83.38
Total:	\$218,500.53

Invoice Status Report:

July 6, 2026, 135 Invoices Totaling	\$132,621.14
Canteen Fund Bills Paid after June, 2026, Meeting	\$3,691.61

Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid

\$39,400.09

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:

Removals/Resignations:

- 1. Deb McCoy, Correctional Officer I, effective June 9, 2026.**
- 2. John Bennett, Correctional Officer I, effective June 25, 2026.**
- 3. Jordan Hall, Correctional Officer I, effective June 9, 2026.**
- 4. Duane Biller, Correctional Officer I, effective June 10, 2026.**
- 5. Robert Brown, Correctional Officer I, effective June 27, 2026.**

Transfers:

- 1. Kristen Perino, Captain to Major of Security and Investigations, effective July 12, 2026.**
- 2. Kolbe Brothers, Full-Time Correctional Officer I to Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective July 19, 2026.**
- 3. Ryan Cornelius, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.**
- 4. Breanna Altimus, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.**
- 5. Brendan Demchak, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.**
- 6. John Grosholz, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.**
- 7. Roger Brothers, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.**
- 8. Aiden Jackson, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.**

New Hires:

- 1. Darylynn Eger, Administrative Secretary, effective July 6, 2026.**
- 2. Samantha Snowberger, Correctional Counselor, effective June 8, 2026.**

Warden Wolford Reported:

Staff:

- 1. Captain Houston received a commendation for his efforts in leading and coordinating the Facility's preparation for the ICE compliance inspection, which was completed on June 30, 2026. His work included ensuring that all required policies, records, and supporting documentation were thoroughly reviewed, organized, and available for inspection. During the exit interview, inspectors provided positive preliminary feedback regarding the Facility's operations and advised that no findings had been identified at that time. The final written report is expected to be issued within ninety (90) days.**
- 2. Interviews were completed for the vacant Warden Assistant position. The candidates interviewed presented strong qualifications, and following completion of the selection process, Darylynn Eger was selected to fill the position.**

3. Don Ochenrider, Major of Security, retired following twenty (20) years of dedicated service to the Cambria County Prison. Throughout his career, Major Ochenrider made significant contributions to the safety, security, and daily operations of the Facility. His experience, leadership, and commitment will be deeply missed.

4. Officer Brown retired from the Prison following nearly sixteen (16) years of dedicated service. His contributions to the Facility and the commitment he demonstrated throughout his career are appreciated. His years of service will not be forgotten.

5. Officer Geist received a commendation for voluntarily reporting for additional duty to assist with the thorough cleaning of the Facility's kitchen. His initiative, work ethic, and attention to sanitation helped ensure the Food Service Department continued to maintain the Facility's established cleanliness and food-service standards.

Training:

1. The newest Training Academy began on June 8, 2026. Jeremy Smick, Director of Training and Recruitment, continued to instruct the cadets using the updated training curriculum he developed to strengthen and modernize the Facility's Academy Program. He also continues recruitment efforts to fill the remaining open Per-Diem Correctional Officer positions.

2. Jeremy Smick, Director of Training and Recruitment, and Major John Briel coordinated with the Cambria County Sheriff's Office to review and strengthen the Facility's recruitment and hiring procedures. These efforts are intended to ensure that applicants are evaluated consistently and fairly based on established qualifications, job-related standards, and their suitability for employment within a correctional environment.

3. Jeremy Smick, Director of Training and Recruitment, implemented and completed a new security-awareness training initiative for all external work crew supervisors. The training was designed to reinforce supervisor responsibilities, promote consistent security practices, and strengthen the safe operation of the Facility's external work crew program.

Audits:

1. ICE completed an approximately 30-day compliance review of the Facility, which included an examination of applicable policies, procedures, records, and supporting documentation related to the housing and management of ICE detainees. The review concluded with an onsite inspection on June 30, 2026, during which inspectors observed Facility operations, reviewed staff practices, and conducted an exit interview with administration.

Major Maintenance/Facility Updates:

1. Administration met with ViaPath Technologies regarding the final implementation of secure video-visitation services in the Facility's attorney-client visitation rooms. The service is intended to provide inmates with more efficient and reliable access to their attorneys at the Cambria County Public Defender's Office while preserving the confidentiality of attorney-client communications.

2. Administration continues to develop several internal applications designed to further digitize operations, improve recordkeeping, and increase staff efficiency. The applications are currently undergoing review in coordination with the County's IT Department to ensure compliance with applicable information-security and technology requirements.

Implementation will proceed only after the review has been successfully completed and all necessary approvals have been received.

3. Administration met with representatives from the Keefe Group to learn about the inmate tablet services and technology options available to correctional facilities. The meeting was exploratory in nature and was conducted to evaluate whether any of the available services could improve inmate programming, communication, or operations. No purchasing decision or contractual commitment has been made at this time.

4. The Warden received the final technology services contract from Watkins Security. The agreement is currently under review by the County Solicitor, and an update will be provided to the Prison Board once that review is complete.

Treatment and Behavioral Health:

1. Chief Deputy Warden Bursky attended the Health and Welfare Council meeting in June, in order to continue to update the Prison into all community events throughout the summer months.

2. A Re-Entry quarterly meeting was held at the Prison including Coordinator McCoy, Specialist Lasagna, Chief Deputy Warden Bursky, and Ms. Urban from Goodwill.

Faith-Based Programming:

1. Sean O'Dowd informed the Prison that he has almost completed the Alpha Program schedule and is beginning to coordinate with Director Smick to get volunteers trained in security awareness.

Family Reunification and Community Reintegration:

1. The Warden met with Missy Raho, Children and Youth Services Administrator, and her team to discuss the final implementation of the program that will allow inmates to connect more with their children while they are incarcerated.

Community Partnerships and Criminal Justice Collaboration:

1. Administration met with the new Chief Probation Officer, Jeff Vivian, in order to strengthen the ongoing collaboration between Probation and the Prison, as well as streamline the process for those seeking home-plan approvals.

2. The Prison partnered with the State Police Camp Cadet Program to launder all uniforms and bedding for the new cadets.

3. Major Briel visited all of the Magistrates throughout the County to ensure operations were running smoothly and in a way that continues good collaboration with the courts.

4. In coordination with Nicole Arrington, Court Administrator, and Hal Dues, the inmate furlough crew was sent to Probation to strip and wax all of the floors. The Warden thanked those workers on the excellent job they did, and the floors almost looks brand new.

Statistical Report:

June, 2026

Average Daily Population for June, 2026	434
Housing Revenue for June, 2026	\$364,833.00
Year to Date Housing Revenue	\$1,881,909.00

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 miscellaneous information reported.

Motion was made by District Attorney Aurandt to approve the Warden’s Report.

Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic and passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to adjourn the Meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

An Executive Session was called to order at 10:45 a.m., after the Meeting was adjourned.

Alex M. Ashcom, Chief Clerk