

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

August 14, 2024

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
Donald Robertson, Sheriff

Others Present:

Chris Smith, Warden
George Rozum, Second Deputy Warden

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on July 10, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic and passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

None.

Presentation and Approval of Invoices:

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

Prison bills paid after the Meeting held July 10, 2024:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Retirement Fund | \$31,451.25 |
| Retirement Fund | \$33,544.21 |
| Retirement Fund | \$31,497.47 |
| UPMC Health Plan | \$92,988.75 |
| UPMC Health Plan | \$5,046.16 |
| UPMC Dental | \$81.30 |
| UPMC Dental | \$81.30 |
| Symetra Life Insurance | \$515.02 |
| Symetra Life Insurance | \$509.82 |
| Mainline Newspapers | \$675.60 |
| Tribune Democrat | \$675.00 |
| FNB Visa | \$29.56 |
| Mainline Newspapers | \$67.48 |
| CamTran | \$613.66 |
| Ebensburg Borough | \$40,690.80 |
| Wells Fargo | \$295.10 |
| Penelec | \$23,484.14 |
| Ricoh | \$209.00 |
| Wells Fargo | \$150.20 |
| United Energy | \$871.01 |
| Kyle Brawley | \$67.00 |
| Shane Davis | \$100.50 |
| William Irvin | \$61.64 |
| Workplace Health | \$260.00 |
| Peoples | \$779.96 |
| Workplace Health | \$530.00 |

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Pro Disposal | \$776.11 |
| Total: | \$266,052.04 |

Invoice Status Report:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| August 9, 2024, 95 Invoices Totaling | \$325,497.19 |
| Canteen Fund Bills Paid after July, 2024, Meeting | \$10,497.09 |
| Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid | \$58,360.15 |

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

Motion was seconded by District Attorney Neugebauer and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

The Warden requested an Executive Session.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to convene an Executive Session at 10:33 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:

- 1. Mark Sanford, remove Full-Time Captain from payroll, effective August 3, 2024.**
- 2. Tammy St. Clair, remove Full-Time Executive Assistant from payroll, effective August 7, 2024.**
- 3. Kristen Glavach, transfer from Full-Time Lieutenant to Full-Time Captain, effective August 25, 2024.**
- 4. Justin Seigworth, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective August 10, 2024.**

Warden Smith reported:

- 1. MAJOR MAINTENANCE/FACILITIES UPDATES:**
 - a. Kronos Time Keeping Software – The software is in the final stages of testing. The go-live date is anticipated to be within the next one to two payroll periods.**
 - b. Air Purification System – The project is currently in the data collection/air monitoring phase. Significant improvements in bacterial counts have been seen in the data collected from the first testing samples compared to the baseline samples.**
- 2. Prison Administration and Medical Administration participated in a webinar held by the Department of Justice, on July 23, 2024, regarding correctional facilities' obligations to provide medications for opioid use disorder, under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Solicitor Repak also had staff participate in the webinar.**

Basically, there are two types of Medication Assisted Treatment, (MAT); 'continuation,' which is the continuation of the treatment for incarcerated individuals who were prescribed the treatment by an outside doctor prior to coming to jail, and 'induction,' which is the screening of all new inmates to see if they meet the criteria for treatment and then starting them, under a physician's orders, on treatment during their incarceration.

Currently, the Prison offers only 'continuation,' which was sufficient under previous Department of Justice guidance. Based on the new information received from the webinar and a Department of Justice Memo, (a copy of which was attached to the Board's packets), it is the opinion of myself, Solicitor Repak, (Memorandum previously emailed to all Board Members), and PrimeCare's Chief Medical Officer, (letter attached), that the Prison now needs to also implement 'induction' of MAT to avoid future litigation. This is expected to significantly increase the MAT-related per-diem costs. In addition, PrimeCare will probably need to hire another nurse to conduct MAT, which would require an addendum to the County's contract. The Warden requested that the Board approve the MAT Program be expanded to include the 'induction' of MAT for new inmate commitments that qualify.

Motion was made by President Judge Fleming to approve expanding the MAT Program to include 'induction' to new inmate commitments that may qualify.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and approved. Controller Cernic voted no.

3. On August 1, 2024, the Department of Environmental Protection came in to inspect the Prison's body scanner. This is completed every four (4) years. During the inspection, no issues of non-compliance were found, and the inspector commented that he was impressed with the procedures that the Prison has in place and with the staff's knowledge of both the machine and the regulations governing it. A formal letter of compliance should be received within the next few weeks.

4. Vivitrol is a prescription extended-release injection that is used to treat alcohol dependence and opioid addiction. The Prison has been offering this injection, through a grant-funded program, since 2019, to inmates preparing for release. That grant recently expired. On July 17, 2024, the Prison completed and submitted an application for a new 2024 Vivitrol Grant being offered through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. If the Prison is awarded the funding, in the amount of \$127,590.00, it will allow the Facility to continue offering vivitrol injections to inmates preparing for release.

5. On July 29, 2024, the Facility received the final results from the Department of Corrections' inspection that was held in April, and the Prison, once again, received a full compliance rating, which will exempt the institution from receiving an inspection in 2025. The Warden stated that this makes approximately eleven (11) consecutive inspection cycles, or twenty-two (22) consecutive years, that it received this rating. The Warden acknowledged the entire staff for a job well done and for the time and effort put into insuring that the Facility continues to meet the necessary requirements and standards. Deputy Descavish deserves a special acknowledgment, as he was the point person for this inspection and responsible for the documentation that was submitted. The finalized Inspection Report was attached to the Board's packets.

6. On July 18, 2024, the FCC ruled that there will be caps placed on the fees and rates charged to inmates for telephone calls and video calls. Currently, the Prison's phone calls cost \$.21 per minute for interstate calls, \$.30 per minute for intrastate calls, and \$.40 per minute for video calls. Under the new caps, phone calls must be reduced to \$.07 per minute, and video calls must be reduced to \$.12 per minute. The ruling also affects the fees that Viapath can charge to the inmates and families for using its

services. The Warden has reached out to Viapath to gain more insight into this change, and he was advised that once internal legal discussions have taken place, a meeting with the Prison will be scheduled. However, it is expected that the Prison's commissions will be significantly reduced and may be eliminated altogether. Currently, the Facility was guaranteed a minimum of \$175,000.00 per year in commissions for phone and video calls. This ruling is slated to go into effect in 2025. The Order and press release have been forwarded to Solicitor Repak for his review.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

July, 2024

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Average Daily Population for July, 2024 | 392 |
| Housing Revenue for July, 2024 | \$232,771.50 |
| Year to Date Revenue as of July, 2024 | \$1,506,291.00 |

Food Service Report:

During the month of June, the Prison continued working on basic food service practices and training the inmate workers on preparing, cooking, and serving foods properly. They also reviewed proper thawing methods, the minimum internal cooking temperatures, and the proper way to serve, cool, and reheat food items.

During the month of July, the Facility worked on cleaning and sanitizing in the workplace. The Facility reviewed the difference between cleaning, which is the removal of food and other types of debris from the surface, which can be seen to the human eye, and sanitizing, which reduces the number of microorganisms that cannot be seen to the naked eye.

Food Service Director Callihan also continued working with the Nutrition Group on ways to try to help with rising food costs and shortages.

Medical Report:

Attached.

Training:

The following staff training was completed during the month of July, 2024:

1. Thirteen (13) staff members completed Taser 7 recertification.
2. Cambria County Prison Basic Training Academy No. 24-02 began on July 8, 2024. There are ten (10) Cambria County officers and one (1) Indiana County officer attending. The Academy classroom portion will end August 2, 2024, and the on-the-job portion will end August 16, 2024.
3. Officer Kenneth Ramos completed eight (8) hours of training in Prison Laundry Operations.
4. Officer Vincenzo Scott completed twenty-four (24) hours of training in Floor and Central Control Operations.

Recruitment:

A tour of the Facility was conducted for the Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet students.

Misconduct Report:

There was no information to report.

Miscellaneous:

None.

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to approve the Warden's Report.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Alex M. Ashcom, Chief Clerk