

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

October 9, 2024

Board Members Present:

Thomas C. Chernisky, Commissioner
Scott W. Hunt, President Commissioner
Gregory J. Neugebauer, District Attorney
Keith Rager, Commissioner
Don Robertson, Sheriff
Kristine Segear, First Deputy Controller

Others Present:

Chris Smith, Warden
Craig Descavish, First Deputy Warden
George Rozum, Second Deputy Warden
Nicole Arrington, Court Administrator
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, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on September 11, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed. District Attorney Neugebauer abstained.

Public Comment:

None.

Presentation and Approval of Invoices:

Kristine Segear presented the following bills and Invoice Status Report for approval:

Prison bills paid after the Meeting held September 11, 2024:

Retirement Fund	\$32,859.26
Retirement Fund	\$29,302.35
UPMC Health Plan	\$92,679.88
UPMC Health Plan	\$1,195.00
UPMC Dental	\$81.30
Symetra Life Insurance	\$531.76
Wells Fargo	\$150.20
Cambria County Commissioners	\$31.45
CamTran	\$618.14
Ebensburg Borough	\$44,348.30
Penelec	\$23,657.29
Workplace Health	\$40.00
Pro Disposal	\$776.11
Staples	\$727.19
United Energy	\$742.61
Kyle Brawley	\$67.00
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$585.00
Mainline Newspaper	\$427.00
Total:	\$228,819.84

Invoice Status Report:

October 4, 2024, Invoices Totaling	\$423,817.09
Canteen Fund Bills Paid after September, 2024, Meeting	\$3,381.70
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$45,440.70

Motion was made by District Attorney Neugebauer to approve the bills and the Invoice Status Report, as funds are available, prioritizing food.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

Personnel:

1. Brock Shirk, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective September 24, 2024.
2. Jylian Baker, remove Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective October 4, 2024.
3. Melissa Elias, hire Full-time Administrative Assistant, effective October 14, 2024.
4. Hire the following individuals as Full-Time Correctional Officer I's, effective October 14, 2024.

Thomas Davis
Tyler Long

Jonathan Regala

William Muir

Warden Smith reported:

1. MAJOR MAINTENANCE/FACILITIES UPDATES:
 - a. **Kronos Time Keeping Software** – The final stages of beta testing revealed that additional programming is required to make the software operate as needed. The go-live date has been postponed.
 - b. **Air Purification System** – On October 2, 2024, Administration met with Germ Solutions to review the five (5) months of testing data collected. The results of the system are showing that bacteria pathogens in the air and on surfaces have reduced ninety-nine percent (99%) from the baseline test. Fungi pathogens have reduced ninety-six percent (96%), and MRSA pathogens have reduced ninety-two percent (92%). Germ Solutions will be compiling a formal report to present to the County after one or two more testing cycles.
 - c. **Housing Unit HD** – The Prison is currently in the process of rehabbing Housing Unit HD. All four (4) quadrants of the unit are being thoroughly cleaned, entirely painted, and any maintenance that needs handled is being taken care of.
2. Some of the Board Members are aware that the Prison sometimes uses the PA State Surplus to purchase slightly used or new items at a very deep discount. Penn State University also has a surplus warehouse that offers slightly used and discounted items. Last week, the Prison purchased thirty-five (35) used office chairs, three (3) used lockers, and two (2) used filing cabinets for a total of \$215.00, saving several thousand dollars versus buying new.
3. The FCC ruling regarding the rate reductions in inmate telephone calls and video visits that the Board was previously informed about was formally published in the Federal Register on September 20, 2024, making it law. However, fourteen (14) state attorney generals have filed an appeal. On October 3, 2024, the Warden spoke to the Viapath representative

concerning the law and its effects on Cambria County's Agreement. According to Viapath, there is language built into the law that bases the compliance date on a combination of facility type and current contract expiration date. Based upon Cambria County being a County facility with a phone provider agreement that does not expire until 2028, the County does not have to be in compliance with the new rates until April 1, 2026, pending there is no stay issued by the Court. If the County must gain compliance, the costs will be significant, including a loss of all phone and video visit revenue in the amount of \$175,000.00 per year. The Prison would also have to start paying for phone software and support that is currently built into the Agreement at no cost.

4. The majority of this past month has been spent interviewing candidates to fill the positions of Correctional Officers, Administrative Assistant, and Fiscal Specialist, as well as completing the Prison's and the Central Booking Center's annual budgets, which were submitted on October 2, 2024.

Statistical Report:

Report is attached.

September, 2024

Average Daily Population for September, 2024	387
Housing Revenue for September, 2024	\$208,035.00
Year to Date Revenue as of September, 2024	\$1,943,889.00

Food Service Report:

During the month of September, the Prison worked on how to properly store products in the food industry along with the practice of FIFO, the First In First Out, method of stock rotation used to insure the proper rotation of products.

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 September, 2024:

1. Twenty-nine (29) staff members completed in-person one-day Annual Training.
2. Fourteen (14) staff members completed PREA Online Training.
3. Twenty-two (22) staff members completed Use of Force Online Training.
4. Thirteen (13) staff members completed NucTech Body Scanner Recertification.
5. Officers Erin Turek and Lauren Ecklund completed forty (40) hours of CIT Training.

6. **Officer Vincenzo Scott completed twenty-four (24) hours of training in Central and Floor Control Operations and twenty-four (24) hours of training in Intake and Property Operations.**
7. **Officer Russell Smith completed sixteen (16) hours of training in Central and Maximum Control Operations.**
8. **Officer William Irvin completed twenty-four (24) hours of training in Central Booking Operations.**
9. **Officer Zackary Bell completed twenty-four (24) hours of training in Prison Kitchen Operations.**
10. **Officer Brayden Bobby completed twenty-four (24) hours of training in Central and Floor Control Operations.**
11. **Officer Kenneth Ramos completed twenty-four (24) hours of training in Intake and Property Operations.**
12. **Officer Alexander Short completed sixteen (16) hours of training in Maximum and Floor Control Operations.**
13. **Officer Tanya Deyarmin completed eight (8) hours of training in Maximum Control Operations.**
14. **Officer Jordan Ford completed sixteen (16) hours of training in Maximum and Floor Control Operations.**
15. **Officer Jared McCready completed sixteen (16) hours of training in Prison Kitchen Operations.**
16. **Officer Hunter Renney completed thirty-two (32) hours of training in Maximum and Floor Control Operations.**
17. **Officer Matteson Speed completed sixteen (16) hours of training in Floor Control Operations.**
18. **Officer Richard Corson completed eight (8) hours of training in Prison Lobby Operations.**

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 Chernisky to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.