

Prison Board Minutes
1/21/21 for the December 2020 Report

Members in attendance: Commissioner Josh Maxwell, Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Commissioner Michelle Kichline, Judge John Hall, District Attorney Deborah Ryan, Sheriff Fredda Maddox and Controller Margaret Reif.

Other attendees: Warden Ron Phillips, County Administrator Robert Kagel, Chief of Probation/Parole Chris Murphy, Deputy County Administrator Brianne Zanin, Assistant County Solicitor Michelle Barone, Director of Inmate Services George Roberts.

Public attendees: None

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Maxwell called the meeting of the Chester County Prison Board to order at 1:03 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Kichline, seconded Commissioner Moskowitz and carried to accept the minutes of the Prison Board Meeting of December 17, 2020.

* Due to the Board participating via web Zoom or via telephone, approval of the minutes must be done by a roll call vote of the Board. Vote was complete and passed.

III. Monthly Report

General/Prison Population Information:

Warden Phillips presented:

The December Report noting that the average daily inmate population was 610 as compared to 745 in 2019. This is approximately a 16% reduction in population from last year.

The Warden pointed out that on December 31, 2020 there were 594 inmates, the following were held for:

- a. County sentenced inmates: 94
- b. State sentenced inmates serving their sentence at Chester County Prison: 4
- c. Approximately 65% of the inmate population is held for court or preliminary hearing, 17% serving sentence, 4% are held on a Balance of Max and 13% miscellaneous.

Inmate Programs:

The Warden reported that due to COVID the only programs are juvenile educational through the Intermediate Unit.

Finance:

The Warden stated that IFR and Bookkeeping fees have been suspended throughout the pandemic.

Staff Development:

6 attended weapons training 0 staff graduated from the training Academy in December. 6 are scheduled for the Academy in January. The Warden stated that there are currently 23 open Correctional Officer and 12 Supervisor positions for a total of 35.

New Business:

None noted

Updates:

The Warden provided COVID related statistics:

Staff confirmed positive: 42

Staff recovered: 34

Inmates confirmed positive: 79

Inmates recovered: 77

The majority of the positive inmates were housed in minimum security and are males. It was also noted that the majority became positive while incarcerated.

Warden Phillips told the Board the Intake process precautionary measures continue and that the rapid test would be incorporated into the current procedure. He also stated that

PPES and cleaning all remained in effect, we are following all healthcare recommendations.

The Warden stated that as of today count is 610 and this time last year count was 737 about a 17% decrease.

Other Prison Board Matters:

Judge Hall inquired about the Educational Program for inmates inquiring if they get some type of incentive or reward if they pursue the GED path and whether or not the inmate was aware of the incentive if they participated in these classes and if there is something specific for getting a GED.

The Warden responded informing the board that by inmates participating in these classes which include all general programs Drug & Alcohol, Self Help and GED, the incentive would be enhanced earned time.

Commissioner Maxwell asked the Judge would he like to see a specific incentive for GED, Judge Hall responded yes stressing the importance of obtaining a GED. Commissioner Maxwell also asked if options for enhanced rewards could be further looked into for GED.

Chris Murphy briefly explained the incentives that Adult Probation has in place for Parole Violators who complete Cognitive Behavior and that would be something to look into for a proposed incentive.

Judge Hall asked Chris what was that incentive, Chris responded good time and that Judge MacElree said that they could get good time and that the Board of Judges approved good time for Parole Violators who completed the CBT classes. Judge Hall said great idea and if Chris can look into those who did not have a GED. Chris also offered Polycam units that can be used.

Public Comment:

None

IV. Adjournment

It was moved by Controller Reif and seconded by Commissioner Kichline and carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 pm.

** As noted earlier, due to the Board participating via web Zoom or via telephone, approval must be done by a roll call vote of the Board. Vote was complete and approved.*