



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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PRISON BOARD MINUTES

September 20, 2023

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Chester County Prison Board was called to order at 2:34 PM on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 in the Commissioners' Board Room by Commissioner Josh Maxwell. Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Commissioner Michelle Kichline, Sheriff Fredda Maddox, District Attorney Deb Ryan, and Controller Margaret Reif were also present.

CALL TO ORDER

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Maxwell announced that the Prison Board met in Executive Session on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, Friday, September 1, 2023, Wednesday, September 6, 2023, and Wednesday, September 20, 2023 to discuss personnel, legal, and public safety matters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Moskowitz made a motion to approve the Prison Board minutes from the last meeting on August 30, 2023. Commissioner Kichline seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to approve the minutes from the August 30, 2023 Prison Board Meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA

Erin Halsted requested that this evening's Town Hall be available on zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carla Mudrie talked about the recent prison escape.

There was no further public comment on agenda items.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kichline made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Moskowitz seconded the motion. Motion carried to adopt the September 20, 2023 Prison Board Meeting agenda.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

6. Ratification of contract with TransSystems, LLC.

Controller Reif made a motion to ratify a contract in the amount of \$94,000 with TransSystems, LLC for the design of the Prison yard enclosures and improvements. Commissioner Kichline seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to ratify the contract with TransSystems, LLC.

RATIFICATION

- 7. Presentation of TransSystems, LLC, discussion, and possible action on proposed design solutions to fully enclose exterior exercise yards** **PRESENTATION**
Brain Endler, Csaba Balazs, David McRoberts, and Ruchik Vyas with TransSystems, LLC presented three preliminary conceptual design options for the enclosure of the Prison exercise yards, with option one being most enclosed and option three being more open.

Commissioner Moskowitz made a motion to move forward with a fully developed design concept for option one, the full enclosure of the exercise yards. Commissioner Kichline seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to start the design process of option one for the exercise yard enclosure.

- 8. Presentation by Acting Warden Holland, discussion, and possible action on proposed security and policy changes** **PRESENTATION**
Acting Warden Howard Holland outlined immediate changes that were made to the Prison exercise yards to increase security. Acting Warden Holland also asked the Board for their approval on four items; installation of 50-75 additional cameras around the Prison, creation of eight new security camera operator positions, conducting regular drills and table top exercises, and approval of Acting Warden Holland's attendance at various community events and meetings.

Sheriff Maddox made a motion to approve Acting Warden Holland's four action items, which was seconded by Controller Reif. All were in favor; motion carried to move forward with the four action items noted above.

- 9. Public Comment** **PUBLIC COMMENT**
Sally Mininger expressed concerns about the recent prison escape, concerns about the Sheriff's Department, and support for restarting the prison's canine program. **ADJOURNMENT**

Guy Ciarrocchi, Sheila Lerner, Bobbie Surrick, Lynn Strauss, Linda Moore, Holly McDonald, Brian Kerr, Marshall Lerner, Sandy Bowman, and Melinda Davidson expressed concerns about the recent prison escape and the oversight of the Prison Board.

Daryl Cupboard and Laurie Migioni expressed support for law enforcement and expressed concerns about the proposed security changes that were discussed during the meeting.

Susan Miner and Lani Frank expressed support for the Sherriff Department's efforts during the prison escape.

Paula Henkin asked about signing up for ReadyChesco notifications and expressed concerns about the recent prison escape.

Jeff Huckabee expressed appreciation for law enforcement and for the Prison Board's approval of the proposed security changes at the prison.

Carla Mudrie and Jennifer Fen expressed support for the proposed security changes at the prison.

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Ada Nester expressed concerns about the prison's working relationship with ICE.

There was no further public comment.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Kichline made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Moskowitz. Motion carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM.