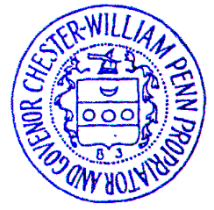




THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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PRISON BOARD MINUTES

October 25, 2023

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Chester County Prison Board was called to order at 2:01 PM on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, in the Commissioners' Board Room by Commissioner Josh Maxwell. Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Commissioner Michelle Kichline, President Judge John Hall, Sheriff Fredda Maddox, District Attorney Deb Ryan, and Controller Margaret Reif were also present.

CALL TO ORDER

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

President Judge John Hall made a motion to approve the Prison Board minutes from the last meeting on September 26, 2023. Commissioner Moskowitz seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2023, Prison Board Meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA

There was no public comment on agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Controller Reif made a motion to adopt the agenda. Sheriff Maddox seconded the motion. Motion carried to adopt the October 25, 2023, Prison Board Meeting agenda.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

6. MONTHLY REPORT

Acting Warden Howard Holland presented the monthly update on the Prison for September 2023, noting that the average daily inmate population was 738, as compared to 631 in the previous year.

MONTHLY REPORT

The Acting Warden noted that on September 30, 2023, there were 717 inmates, held for the following:

- County sentenced inmates: 120
- State sentenced inmates serving their sentence at Chester County Prison: 3
- Approximately 352 inmates held for court, 123 for preliminary hearing, and 34 inmates held on a Balance of Max.
- 43 inmates awaiting transfer to a State Correctional Institute (SCI).

The Acting Warden reported that there were no juvenile offenders housed in the Prison during the month.

For Central Booking, a year-to-date total of 1,223 arrestees were brought in, of which 596 made bail and 623 were committed. 134 arrestees were brought to Central Booking in September by 47 different agencies.

The Correctional Center for September had an average daily population of 37, as compared to 18 this time last year.

For Security, there were 4 transports to SCI in September for a total number of 20 inmates transported to SCI.

There were 39 medical transports, 7 of which were to the emergency room.

There were no Correctional Emergency Unit activations this month.

There were 54 inmate disciplinary actions for major misconduct. There were 33 inmates housed on the restricted housing unit.

There were 206 Video Conferencing Hearings in September.

The Acting Warden reported the following medical updates:

- Inmates seen at sick call: 473
- Inmates on prescription or “over-the-counter” medications: 58%
- Inmates on psychotropic medications: 39%
- Inmates on suicide watch: 8%

The Acting Warden reported the following mental health updates:

- Seriously Mentally Ill Individuals: 71 (53 male, 18 female)
- Inmates at Norristown State Hospital (N.S.H.): 16
- Inmates awaiting a bed at N.S.H.: 2
- New court-ordered commitments to N.S.H.: 1

Acting Warden Holland reported that in the month of September a total of \$6,484.03 was collected for inmate booking fees and a total of \$1,683.34 was collected for inmate financial responsibilities.

Programming, including Anger Management, 21 and Under High School Based Curriculum, New Mornings Re-Entry, Thinking for a Change, and Exit, Enter, Employ (E3) programs, continues as scheduled at the Prison with 195 participants currently.

Lastly, it was reported that the Prison currently has 6 staff members who completed the training academy, 9 are currently in the academy with 11 applicant interviews currently scheduled. 23 officers participated in additional training, 7 of which were weapons qualification training.

Acting Warden Holland recognized CO White, CO Young, and Supervisor Lekowski for marking 5 years of service. CO Swift and CO Gary were recognized for marking 10 years of service. The September Employee of the Month was CO Swift and the Supervisor of the Quarter was Cpl Reagan. There are 47 CO1 staff openings.

7. PRISON SECURITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

Acting Warden Holland reported that all new razor wire has been installed and crews are currently working to complete updates to the sally port entries. Acting Warden Holland has met with potential vendors for additional improvements, including additional cameras.

Acting Warden Holland reported he has met with leadership at the County's Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Drug and Alcohol Departments, Pocopson Home, and others to promote positive interdepartmental relationships.

PRISON SECURITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

8. DISCUSSION

District Attorney Ryan asked for an update on open positions at the prison. Acting Warden Holland reported that there are currently 47 open positions, but with the pending academy graduations that will fall close to 40.

Commissioner Kichline requested an update on potential need for additional staff given an increased inmate population. Acting Warden reported staffing is based on number of positions not number of inmates.

District Attorney Ryan and Controller Reif requested an update on inmate transports to SCI. Acting Warden Holland reported that transports are arranged twice each month with prioritization to transporting the most serious offenders. Acting Warden Holland additionally reported there are a higher number of inmates awaiting transfer as the system catches up with the paperwork.

Commissioner Kichline requested an update on improvements for security for maximum security inmates. Acting Warden Holland reported there is no longer a 30 day wait for SCI transports, new inmate uniforms are in progress, and there has been more communication with the court related staff concerning these inmates.

Commissioner Moskowitz requested an update on review of policies and procedures. Acting Warden Holland reported that the policies have been reviewed. The policies will be refreshed and redistributed. Further, metrics will be introduced to ensure staff are aware of the policies and procedures.

DISCUSSION

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bobbie Surrick of East Bradford Township shared her concerns with supervision at the prison given the negative press surrounding the recent escape.

There was no further public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

10. ADJOURNMENT

Controller Reif made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Moskowitz. Motion carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

ADJOURNMENT