



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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PRISON BOARD MINUTES

November 29, 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, November 29, 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

The Prison Board met in Executive Session on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, to discuss personnel and legal matters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Michelle Kichline made a motion to approve the Prison Board minutes from the last meeting on October 25, 2023. President Judge John Hall seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to approve the minutes from the October 25, 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 November 29, 2023, Prison Board Meeting agenda.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

6. MONTHLY REPORT

Acting Warden Holland presented the monthly update on the Prison for October 2023, noting that the average daily inmate population was 697, as compared to 614 in the previous year.

MONTHLY REPORT

The Acting Warden noted that on October 31, 2023, there were 700 inmates, held for the following:

- County sentenced inmates: 105
- State sentenced inmates serving their sentence at Chester County Prison: 4
- Approximately 359 inmates held for court, 128 for preliminary hearing, and 30 inmates held on a Balance of Max.
- 37 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 1,353 arrestees were brought in, of which 662 made bail and 687 were committed. 130 arrestees were brought to Central Booking in October by 48 different agencies.

The Correctional Center for October had an average daily population of 27, as compared to 26 this time last year.

For Security, there were 3 transports to SCI in October for a total number of 23 inmates transported to SCI.

There were 42 medical transports, 10 of which were to the emergency room.

There were no Correctional Emergency Unit activations this month.

There were 78 inmate disciplinary actions for major misconduct. There were 34 inmates housed on the restricted housing unit.

There were 210 Video Conferencing Hearings in October.

The Acting Warden reported the following medical updates:

- Inmates seen at sick call: 440
- Inmates on prescription or “over-the-counter” medications: 395 or 57%
- Inmates on psychotropic medications: 280 or 41%
- Inmates on suicide watch: 62 or 9%

The Acting Warden reported the following mental health updates:

- Seriously Mentally Ill Individuals: 72 (55 male, 17 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.: 2

Programming, including Anger Management, Depression/Anxiety Management, Drug and Alcohol, Dual Diagnosis, Crime Victims, GED, Personal Medicine, Wellness Recovery Action Program, Stable Pathways, and Thinking for a Change, continues as scheduled at the Prison with 164 participants currently.

Acting Warden Holland reported that in the month of October a total of \$6,577.75 was collected for inmate booking fees and a total of \$2,100.89 was collected for inmate financial responsibilities.

Lastly, it was reported that the Prison currently has 3 staff members who completed the training academy, 5 additional officers graduated November 17, 1 officer will graduate with the next academy class that 2 officers are scheduled to begin on December 11. 68 officers participated in additional training including Weapons Qualifications, Correctional Emergency Unit, CPR/Basic First Aid, P.R.E.A. Investigator, Mental Health First Aid/CIT, and Custody Level Policy.

Taken and Transcribed by Amy Cuthbertson

Acting Warden Holland recognized the following for years of service: CO Hallman (15 years), MJR Taylor (42 years), and CPL Francis (31 years). The October Employee of the Month was CO Juarez. A record 4,057 lbs. of vegetables grown were donated to local food banks.

7. PRISON SECURITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

Acting Warden Holland reported that installation of all new razor wire has been completed. County Facilities has visited on site to look at enclosing gable ends and are currently discussing additional or alternate ways to enclose yards. Enhancements to Policies and Procedures are ongoing. Discussions with vendors regarding fencing and camera improvements continue.

PRISON SECURITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

8. DISCUSSION

Controller Reif asked for clarification on the Dual Diagnosis Program. George Roberts, Deputy Warden of Treatment, reported the program serves both a mental health and addiction diagnosis.

DISCUSSION

President Judge Hall requested an update on the COVID and FLU vaccine incentives. Acting Warden Holland reported the prison is awaiting COVID vaccine distribution for implementation and notes COVID cases currently at zero for the facility and there are no notable spike in flu cases. Further discussion highlighted good time offering to inmates for receiving vaccines.

Commissioner Maxwell requested clarification on Acting Warden Holland's thoughts on presenting monthly reports differently. Acting Warden Holland reports highlighting additional programs and engaging members of Prison Board to attend graduation ceremonies of programs as well as offering opportunities for prison staff to meet the board.

Acting Warden Holland reported there has been a decrease in applicants, but expects the number to return to normal after the holidays and with the renewal of Indeed advertising and enhanced outreach, including attending Pocopson Township meetings.

Commissioner Maxwell reported the newly elected Prison Board members are scheduled to tour the prison and meet with Acting Warden Holland in early December.

Commissioner Moskowitz requested an update on additional cameras at the facility. Acting Warden Holland reported initial estimates were for 50-75 additional cameras, but there may be more given internal improvements and newer radar technology.

President Judge Hall requested information regarding the protocol for storm preparations. Acting Warden Holland reported there are several generators on site and COs are assigned to stay on site as needed.

Controller Reif requested an update on the Reentry Coalition. Chris Pawlowski, Director of Probation, Parole, and Pretrial Services reported the Reentry Strategic Plan will be presented to the Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) in early January 2024 asking them to accept the plan as

written. An Executive Committee including Michelle Venema as Chair, Joyce Chester as Vice Chair, a secretary from Probation, Parole, and Pretrial Services, two re-entrants, Chris Pawlowski, Bill Shaw, and Nathan Schenker, will be recommended if Strategic Plan accepted by CJAB.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Hoopman thanked Acting Warden Holland for attending the Pocopson Township Board of Supervisors meeting and for his efforts to rebuild trust in the community. Ms. Hoopman addressed concerns regarding uncertain staffing positions and finalization of safety improvement plans.

There was no further public comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Moskowitz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by District Attorney Ryan. Motion carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM.