



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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PRISON BOARD OF INSPECTORS MINUTES

July 24, 2024

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Chester County Prison Board of Inspectors was called to order at 2:01 PM on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, in the Commissioners' Board Room, by Commissioner Josh Maxwell. Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Commissioner Eric Roe, President Judge John Hall, Controller Margaret Reif, Sheriff Kevin Dykes, and District Attorney Chris de Barrena-Sarobe were also present.

CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Maxwell asked Commissioners' Office Intern Yajat Gupta to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Warden Holland recognized CO Specht for 5 years of service, Captain Ham for 23 years of service, Fiscal Manager Bob Pinkos for 23 years of service, and Counselor Iswalt was recognized as June's Employee of the Month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Maxwell announced the Prison Board of Inspectors met in Executive Session on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, to discuss personnel and legal matters.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

District Attorney de Barrena-Sarobe made a motion to approve the Prison Board of Inspectors minutes from the meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2024. President Judge Hall seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to approve the minutes from the Wednesday, June 26, 2024, Prison Board of Inspectors Meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA

Stephanie Hoopman of Pocopson Township expressed thanks to Warden Holland for the monthly updates regarding measures to improve prison security. Ms. Hoopman also expressed concern regarding construction of permanent safety infrastructure improvements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

6. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Moskowitz made a motion to adopt the agenda. District Attorney de Barrena-Sarobe seconded the motion. Motion carried to adopt the Wednesday, July 24, 2024, Prison Board of Inspectors Meeting agenda.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

7. OLD BUSINESS

Warden Holland announced the hiring of Major Jeff Theobold.

OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

a. MONTHLY REPORT

Monthly Report

Warden Holland presented the monthly update on the Prison for June 2024, noting that the average daily inmate population was 714, as compared to 692 in the previous year.

The Warden noted that on June 30, 2024, there were 735 inmates held, and no juvenile offenders housed in the Prison.

Central Booking had 135 arrestees in June. Central Booking had a year-to-date total of 840 arrestees from 43 different agencies, of which 392 made bail, and 448 were committed.

The Correctional Center for June 2024 had an average daily population of 34 residents, the average at this time last year was 45.

For Security, there were 2 transports to a State Correctional Institute (SCI) in June for a total of 18 inmates transported to SCI.

There were 35 medical transports, 10 of which were to the emergency room.

There were no Correctional Emergency Unit activations in June.

There were 55 inmate disciplinary actions for major misconduct. There were 42 inmates housed on the Restricted Housing Unit.

There were 196 Video Conferencing Hearings in June with an approximate cost savings of \$19,600.

The Warden reported the following medical updates:

- Inmates seen at sick call: 502

- Inmates on prescription or “over-the-counter” medications: 59%

- Inmates on psychotropic medications: 36%

- Inmates on suicide watch: 9%

The Warden reported the following mental health updates:

- Serious Mentally Ill Inmates: 77

- Inmates at Norristown State Hospital (NSH): 19

- Inmates awaiting a bed at NSH: 4

- Court Orders received in May for commitment to NSH: 2

Monthly Report (cont.)

Additionally, Warden Holland reported Institutional Programming included Alcohol Anonymous, Anger Management, Community Volunteers in Medicine, Crime Victims, Drug and Alcohol, Dual Diagnostic, Exit, Enter, Employ (E3), Human Trafficking, M-Block Groups, Oral Hygiene, One Page at a Time, Parenting, Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR), Stable Pathways, and Thinking for a Change, with 303 participants.

Warden Holland reported that in the month of June 2024 a total of \$6,440.23 was collected for inmate booking fees and a total of \$1,757.42 was collected for inmate financial responsibilities.

Lastly, it was reported that the Prison had 3 officers go through the Basic Training Academy in the month of June, with 2 officers beginning June 24, 2024. 6 additional officers are having background checks completed and 11 applicants are undergoing the vetting process. 68 officers participated in additional training including Weapons Qualifications, P.R.E.A, Correctional Emergency Unit, FBI LEEDA Command Leadership Institute, Extremism 101, Mental Health First Aid, and Crisis Response and De-Escalation.

b. PRISON SECURITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

Prison Security Improvement Updates

Acting County Administrator Erik Walschburger reported of the \$100,000 awarded to TransSystems for security improvements in 2023, only approximately \$20,000 has been spent. A new RFP was issued for design services and a contract with a new vendor is awaiting final execution.

Warden Holland reported the Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) project should be completed by the end of July 2024. Additional cameras and sensors on the prison roof have been completely installed, tested, and vetted. All fiber and camera equipment has been upgraded to allow cameras to operate in both the control room and the back-up control room. All additional razor wire to the fence and yards has been completed. Vendors have been chosen for additional fence security, including shakers and sound sensors. Countertop replacement in sections 5 and 6 will be completed by the end of September 2024. 4 new air conditioners are being installed in the main jail and the installation of the air scrubbers is complete. The remodeling of the old conference room for the new Psych Tech office has been completed. Training for the selected canines for the new K-9 program will begin in September.

Additionally, Warden Holland reported the location for the new Internal Affairs (IA) office has been chosen and planning is underway to launch the IA Division. The x-ray and scanner system for employees has been installed. Policies and procedures to implement the new x-ray and scanners are currently being drafted.

The hot water heater in the wood shop has been replaced and the demolition and renovation of the old pump room is in progress. Lastly, 2 pilots have been verified by the FAA as drone pilots for the pending Drone Security System.

c. POLICIES

Policies approved

President Judge Hall made a motion to approve the Inmate Welfare Fund Policy. Commissioner Moskowitz seconded the motion. Motion carried to approve the Inmate Welfare Fund Policy.

d. HUMAN RESOURCES MATTERS

Human Resources Matters approved

Commissioner Roe made a motion to approve transfers. Commissioner Moskowitz seconded the motion. Motion carried to approve transfers.

Commissioner Moskowitz made a motion to approve ends of employment. President Judge Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried to approve ends of employment.

e. VOUCHERS AS SUBMITTED BY CONTROLLER

Vouchers approved

Commissioner Moskowitz made a motion to approve the vouchers as submitted by Controller. District Attorney de Barrena-Sarobe seconded the motion. Motion carried to approve the vouchers as submitted by Controller.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Moskowitz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by District Attorney de Barrena-Sarobe. Motion carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:23 PM.