

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2024

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. at the County of Berks Jail and Microsoft Teams Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

Judge Scott Lash called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

The following members were in attendance:

District Attorney John Adams
Judge Scott Lash
Commissioner Christian Leinbach
Commissioner Michael Rivera
Commissioner Dante Santoni, Jr.
Controller Joe Rudderow

The following member were absent:

Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

Deputy Warden of Custody Bradley Roberts
Solicitor Christine Sadler
Warden Jeffrey Smith
Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith
Deputy Warden Franco Tassone Jr

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the May 8, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

INMATE POPULATION: Warden Jeffrey Smith stated the inmate population is 773. There is 1 juvenile at Lehigh County and 3 juveniles at Wayne County.

The average year to date population is 779 inmates. There are 1706 total commitments and 1681 discharges.

There are 42 inmates sentenced to an SCI. Thirty inmates are ready to be transported between now and June 27th. Twelve inmates are awaiting a transport date.

STAFFING: Deputy Warden Roberts updated the Board on the status of the staffing:

- 22 Correctional Officer vacancies
- 6 Sergeant vacancies
- 5 cadets in the academy with a tentative graduation date of July 17th
- 4 cadets in the background check phase with an April 16th testing
- Conducting interviews for the June 3rd testing date
- Next CO testing is scheduled for July 30th

PROGRAMS: Deputy Warden Smith updated the Board on the mental health roster. There are currently 102 D roster inmates in custody. This makes up 13% of the total population. The C and D rosters make up for 65% of the population. Twenty-one inmates that were fully sentenced and eligible for work release last month. An Average trustee population of 29. Eighteen individuals that became trustees last month.

PROJECT UPDATES: Deputy Warden Tassone updated the board on the current projects:

- Paving will be done around the warehouse and behind the SOG center
- Replacing T1-11 on the gable ends at the woodshed at the mansion, fitness center, warehouse and maintenance building
- A quote was requested to replace the T1-11 at the weld shop
- Exterior doors for shop door and J units and kitchen trash doors have been corrected. Measurements were taken to replace 2 yard doors
- The aqua therm materials have been ordered for the tunnels
- Fencing updated quote has been approved to replacement for recreation
- Fencing for repairs of the inner perimeter fences has been approved and will start June 17th
- Quotes are requested on natural gas conversion to remove from the central steam plant
- More repairs will be done on the mansion for painting and window replacement
- Community service finished the airport project with snow fencing and Birdsboro curbing. Cleaning up the airport after WW2 event
- Community service will be painting the access doors to the penthouse, steps to administrative building, removing grass from flag pole

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

County Solicitor Christine Sadler had one item for executive session.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Judge Lash to adjourn at 9:09 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 10, 2024.



**Joseph Rudderow, Controller
Prison Board Secretary**