

**BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. at the Commissioners Boardroom and Microsoft Teams Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Michael Rivera called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

The following members were in attendance:

Commissioner Christian Leinbach
Commissioner Michael Rivera
Commissioner Dante Santoni, Jr.
Secretary Joe Rudderow

The following member were absent:

District Attorney John Adams
Judge Scott Lash
Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

Deputy Warden of Operations, John Gradiska
Solicitor Christine Sadler
Warden Jeffrey Smith
Deputy Warden of Custody, Bradley Roberts
Deputy Warden of Treatment, Stephanie Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the January 10, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

INMATE POPULATION: Warden Jeffrey Smith stated the inmate population is 743. There are 5 juveniles at Wayne County and 1 juvenile at Lehigh County.

Year to date the average population is 780 inmates. There is 463 total commitments and 476 discharges.

There are 37 inmates sentenced to an SCI. Eleven are ready to be transported between now and February 27th. Twenty-six inmates are awaiting a transport date.

PROJECT UPDATES: Warden Smith updated the board on the current projects:

- The rear dormers were repaired on the mansion. Working on obtaining window replacements and painting quotes.
- Working with the vendor to replace the yard doors on housing units.
- Working on obtaining quotes for additional fenced recreation yards.
- Additional stainless steel shower inserts were installed on 2 more housing units.
- Parking lot paving, widening, and sealing project is going out to bid.

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

- 23 Correctional Officer vacancies
- 6 Sergeant vacancies
- 12 new candidates in the academy with a tentative graduation date of April 15th
- Correctional Officer testing was held on February 15th.

PROGRAMS: Warden Smith updated the Board on the mental health roster. There are currently 122 D roster inmates in custody. There are 396 C roster inmates in custody. There were 6 inmates eligible for work release in the month of January. At the end of January there was 30 trustee classified inmates. Those inmates, after jail review are determined to be eligible for work release and eligible to work on the grounds.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

County Solicitor Christine Sadler has nothing to report in regular session. There are 2 updates for executive session with no action needed.

COMMENTS FROM THE JAIL BOARD

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Rivera to adjourn at 9:08 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Rudderow', is written over a horizontal line.

Joseph Rudderow, Prison Board Secretary