

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. in the Special Operations Center at the Berks County Jail, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

The following members were in attendance:

Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt
Commissioner Christian Leinbach
Controller Sandy Graffius
Judge Scott Lash

The following members were absent:

Commissioner Mark Scott
District Attorney John Adams
Sheriff Eric Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

Solicitor Christine Sadler
Human Resources Director Jessica Weaknecht
Chief Administrative Officer Ronald Seaman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 22, 2018 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

Warden Janine Quigley stated the inmate population was 1,115 and pointed out the increase of population compared to the last 6 months and previous year. Of the population reported, 105 inmates were residing at the Community Reentry Center, 7 inmates were being held for Schuylkill County and 45 inmates were technical parole violators from the State. Warden Quigley spoke about the hold on accepting TPV inmates directly from the State due to a recent lockdown. Once the State ensures the inmates' property is searched and items adhere to what is permitted in the Berks County Jail, the Warden will accept TPV inmates again. She expected to hear back from the State within a week.

The Warden provided the Board with a corrected population report for September.

Warden Quigley stated the information regarding the request for additional correctional officer positions, due to a PREA investigation, had been sent to the Position Control Committee the week prior.

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Chief Deputy Jeffrey Smith updated the Board on the status of the staffing. There were 7 correctional officer vacancies. Testing was scheduled for September 13, 2018. Four candidates were scheduled for the academy on September 26, 2018. The next testing was scheduled for November 13, 2018 and the academy will tentatively begin January 30, 2019.

Deputy Warden Kyle Russell notified the Board about the meeting scheduled with Westcott Electric Company on September 19 and September 20, to close the infrastructure and security project.

Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith mentioned the upcoming meeting with the Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Collaborative Committee to review the status of their sequential intercept map with the project coordinators. Additionally, there was training on criminogenic risk factors and assessments to determine offenders' needs. The goal was to provide training to community providers so they had a better understanding of the unique characteristics and needs of the offender population to better provide care upon release into the community.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

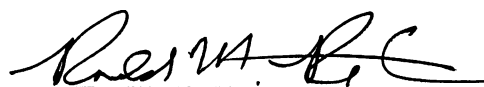
None.

COMMENTS FROM THE JAIL BOARD

Commissioner Leinbach spoke about the plan to have a structural facilities maintenance tour of the 1933 portion of the Jail with Warden Quigley and Ryan Hunter, Facilities and Operations Director. The tour will focus on the structural concerns, such as leaks and HVAC system issues. Commissioner Leinbach pointed out that the concerns were not about health and safety of the inmates. He noted that the decision must be made sooner than originally anticipated. The tour is expected to last 4 hours and will be scheduled in the upcoming weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:12 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting will be held October 10, 2018 in the Commissioners' Board Room on the 13th Floor of the Berks County Services Center.



Ronald Rutkowski, Deputy Controller
on behalf of Sandy Graffius, Secretary