

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES

APRIL 10, 2024

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. at the Commissioners Boardroom 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:

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

The following member were absent:

District Attorney John Adams
Commissioner Christian Leinbach
Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

Deputy Warden of Custody, Bradley Roberts
Solicitor Christine Sadler
Warden Jeffrey Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the March 13, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

INMATE POPULATION: Warden Jeffrey Smith stated the inmate population is 721. There is 1 juvenile at Lehigh County and 7 juveniles at Wayne County.

The average population is 710 inmates. There are 1032 total commitments and 1082 discharges.

There are 21 inmates sentenced to an SCI. Fourteen are ready to be transported between now and April 30th. Seven inmates are awaiting a transport date.

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

- Recreation yards, T111 repair, and yard doors– details are being worked out with vendors.
- Working with vendors for the exterior painting and window replacement at the mansion – all other work will be done in-house.
- Lighting assessment was conducted – generated a significant workorders.
- Parking lot paving and driveway widening project – Surveying and utility marking is currently underway to complete the bid package.

PROGRAMS: Warden Smith updated the Board on the mental health roster. There are currently 93 D roster inmates in custody. This makes up 13% of the total population. The C and D rosters make up for 66% of the population. There are 32 inmates that are fully sentenced and eligible for work release on their sentencing order. There are 29 trustee classified inmates for March. There were 11 new trustee inmates approved in March.

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

- 25 Correctional Officer vacancies
- 6 Sergeant vacancies
- 12 candidates in the academy with a tentative graduation date of April 15th
- 6 candidates in the background phase
- Another academy is starting April 24th
- Correctional Officer testing will be held on April 16th.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

County Solicitor Christine Sadler had nothing to report and no need for executive session.

COMMENTS FROM THE JAIL BOARD


Judge Lash commented on a letter he received. Warden Smith investigated the allegations and 90% is unfounded. Warden Smith did respond to the letter stating that he is going to research the allegations. He will now respond with his findings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Judge Lash to adjourn at 9:06 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 08, 2024.



Joseph Rudderow, Prison Board Secretary