

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES  
BERKS COUNTY SERVICES CENTER  
COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
APRIL 13, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following members were in attendance:

Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt  
Commissioner Christian Leinbach  
Commissioner Mark Scott  
Controller Sandy Graffius  
Sheriff Eric Weaknecht  
District Attorney John Adams  
Judge Scott Lash

The following County staff also attended:

Solicitor Christine Sadler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The March 9, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

WARDEN REPORT:

Warden Janine Quigley reminded the Board that the Berks County team will be participating in the Stepping Up Initiative event in Washington, DC in the upcoming week.

Warden Quigley spoke about the Berks County Jail System's Memorial and Employee Recognition Service on May 4, 2016 at the Berks County Ag Center.

Warden Quigley recited the Ronald Reagan's Proclamation honoring National Correctional Officers' and Employees' Week:

*"Correctional officers have the difficult and often dangerous assignment of ensuring the custody, safety and well-being of the over 600,000 inmates in our Nation's prisons and jails. Their position is essential to the day-to-day operations of these institutions; without them it would be impossible to achieve the foremost institutional goals of security and control.*

*Historically, correctional officers have been viewed as "guards," occupying isolated and misunderstood positions in prisons and jails. In recent years, the duties of these officers have become increasingly complex and demanding. They are called upon to fill, simultaneously, custodial, supervisory and counseling roles. The professionalism, dedication and courage exhibited by these officers throughout the performance of these demanding and often conflicting roles deserve our utmost respect."*

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Deputy Warden Jeffrey Smith reported the staffing update: Five cadets graduated from the academy, reaching a full complement of staff. There are two temporary correctional officer vacancies and ten candidates awaiting their psychological evaluations for March testing.

Deputy Warden Kyle Russell updated the Board on the following renovation projects:

- Private Interview Rooms – Seeking quotes for purchase and assembly of modular office building of prefabricated design that can be disassembled and relocated in the future, if necessary. The pricing for the modular building with shipping is approximately \$34,000.

Mr. Adams moved, second by Mr. Lash to advocate to see to it that the Commissioners find the necessary funds and the expenditure to build these modules for the Professional Offices. Motion carried.

- Infrastructure and Security - Communicating with contractors regarding the outstanding items on punch list.
- Security Assessment – Waiting for final draft from Burns McDonnell.
- Conditions Assessment – Coordinating dates to close out project.

Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith reported that another inmate has earned their GED using the computer based GED testing program.

Deputy Smith reported that the Council On Chemical Abuse applied for a grant to start a medication assistance treatment program within the County Jail. This program offers treatment for opiate addicts while incarcerated and will continue within the community post release.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

GOOD & WELFARE: Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned at 9:12 a.m. into the Executive Session which adjourned at 9:35 a.m. The next Prison Board meeting will be May 11, 2016 in the Commissioners' Board Room, Berks County Services Center.

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Sandy Graffius, Secretary Prison Board