

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2018

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Board room on the 13th Floor of the Berks County Services Center, 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
District Attorney John Adams

The following members were absent:

Commissioner Mark Scott
Sheriff Eric Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

Solicitor Christine Sadler
Chief Administrative Officer Ronald Seaman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 13, 2017 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

Warden Janine Quigley stated the inmate population was 1,033. Of the population reported, 95 inmates were residing at the Community Reentry Center, 16 inmates were being held for Schuylkill County, 36 inmates were technical parole violators from the State and 2 juveniles were being held in Chester County prison. In 2017, the Jail had just under 7,000 commitments and nearly the same amount of discharges.

Chief Deputy Warden Jeffrey Smith updated the Board on the status of the staffing. There were no correctional officer vacancies. Seven cadets were in the academy and scheduled to graduate February 16, 2018. Interviews with new applicants were conducted. The passing applicants will be added to a waiting list. A discussion took place about the low percentage of vacancies.

Deputy Warden Kyle Russell reported the progress of the Guardian RFID project. The contract for the offender management movement system had been executed. The system is expected to be launched at the end of March 2018, once training is finalized with staff. This project is an initiative of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP).

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Deputy Russell updated the Board on the progress of the video visitation project. The installation of computers in the housing units was in process and the staff was being trained on the software. The program was expected to be launched throughout the Jail in February 2018. The program will initially be used for internal purposes; however, video visitation may be used for the public in the future.

The Warden spoke about her visit to the Berks Connection/Pretrial Services (BCPS) to look at their new program funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The new program is a computer based learning center designed to assist released offenders with job searches, resume building, classroom training, construction trade training, targeted needs treatment and courses, and more. Participants learning the construction trade hands-on through Habitat for Humanity also receive a stipend for transportation. The Warden hopes to integrate a furlough system into the Community Reentry Center (CRC) using this program. The Warden and Solicitor Sadler were working through the details to potentially utilize this program.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The Solicitor stated she was waiting for arbitration awards and noted there were no upcoming arbitrations scheduled for 2018.

COMMENTS FROM THE JAIL BOARD

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:10 a.m. The next Prison Board meeting will be held February 14, 2018 in the Commissioners' Board Room on the 13th Floor of the Berks County Services Center.


Sandy Graffius, Secretary Prison Board