

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES

DECEMBER 16, 2020

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. in a Microsoft Teams Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

District Attorney John Adams called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

The following members were in attendance:

- District Attorney John Adams
- Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt
- Commissioner Christian Leinbach
- Chief Deputy Ron Rutkowski
- Judge Scott Lash
- Sheriff Eric Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

- Human Resources Director Jessica Weaknecht
- Solicitor Christine Sadler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the October 28, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

INMATE POPULATION: Warden Janine Quigley stated the inmate population was 700. Of the population reported, 671 were male and 74 were female. Twenty-seven individuals were moved from the county to the state system. There are 30 more scheduled to move out by the end of the year. Because of COVID there are restrictions in place for visitation and have to be extremely cautious and careful within the jail. The inmates have tablets that can have video and packages to mail home in hopes of allowing them to keep in touch with loved ones, but everyone is still cautious with movement in the facility. One staff member tested positive and three inmates.

The county was accredited again and received credit for several years from the National Commission on Corrections Health Care. They have high standards for healthcare in jails and it is a very high bar to meet. And the accreditation will be good through 2023.

Lehigh County can take our juveniles for a rate of 450.00 a day. Three juveniles are currently at Chester County.

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STAFFING: Chief Deputy Warden Jeffrey Smith updated the Board on the status of the staffing; there were 12 correctional officer vacancies; 11 custodial and 1 maintenance. Testing will be done today and the next correctional officer testing will be scheduled for January or February 2021. The current academy will be graduating on January 12, 2021.

FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE PROJECTS: Deputy Warden Mike Buono updated the Board on maintenance projects.

Moving forward on the multipurpose room as of now the framing is up for the room. Part of the project will have an office dedicated to the Sheriff's Department for fingerprinting and live scans. Having a room in the jail will reduce transports for the Sheriff's department.

Delta painting project is moving forward. There are issues with the vendor and have not been really satisfied with some of the work that has been done and a walkthrough is scheduled.

Commissioner Leinbach questioned the time it is taking to complete the multipurpose room project. Mr. Buono explained the long delay with getting materials and lumber that is needed to build the room and once the materials arrive the project would be finished up. Commissioner Leinbach thought this project was a priority and does not understand the hold up. Mr. Buono explained that there was also a project manager changed during the project the person that started the project is no longer with the company. The project manager will be out today for final measurement and Mr. Buono will have a discussion on the time to get the equipment and hopes to get this job completed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Sadler required an executive session for few items which did not require action from the Board.

COMMENTS FROM THE JAIL BOARD

None.

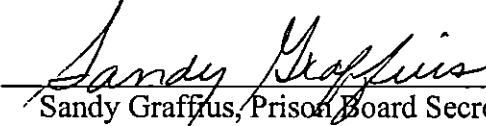
PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, second by Commissioner Leinbach to adjourn at 9:11 A.M into Executive session which adjourned at 9:30 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting will be held in a Microsoft Teams Meeting on January 27, 2021.

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Sandy Graffius, Prison Board Secretary