

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES
MAY 10, 2023

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 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:

Commissioner Christian Leinbach
Commissioner Michael Rivera
Commissioner Lucine Sihelnik
Secretary Sandra Graffius
Judge Scott Lash

The following member were absent:

District Attorney John Adams
Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

Solicitor Cody Kauffman
Warden Jeffrey Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the April 12, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

INMATE POPULATION: Warden Jeffrey Smith stated the inmate population is 757. Thirty-six inmates sentenced to an SCI. Twenty-Nine are ready to be transported. Sixteen of those inmates are scheduled for a transfer between now and May 30th.

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

- Working on some issues at the former CRC with the fire system
- Several projects (Rooftop Conduit repair, Transfer Switch at the FCRC, Kitchen HVAC replacement are waiting for parts or the vendor to come on site)

CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS AT THE JAIL: Warden Smith updated the board on the current state of affairs at the jail.

- Community Service program resumed on May 8th.
- New Deputy Warden of Custody will begin May 24th – Promoted Lieutenant Bradley Roberts
 - Will have oversight of Custody and Booking
- This week is National Correctional Officers and Employees Week
- In 1984, President Reagan signed Proclamation 5187, creating this week. It is recognizing the contributions of the correctional officers and personnel who work in jails, prisons, and community corrections across the country.
 - Having a few activities at the jail for the staff to recognize the efforts
 - Memorial Service scheduled on Friday May 10th– Prison Board was invited to attend

STAFFING: Warden Smith updated the Board on the status of the staffing:

- 36 Correctional Officer vacancies
- 8 Cadets graduate on May 11th
- Next Testing Date – Monday, May 15th
- Next Academy will start on June 28th
 - We will combine the candidates from March, April, and May testing sessions
 - There are 6 applicants from that testing

PROGRAMS: Warden Smith updated the Board on programing. There are 14 newly sentenced inmates that are eligible for work release in April.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

County Solicitor Cody Kauffman had nothing to report and no need for executive session.

COMMENTS FROM THE JAIL BOARD

There were no comments from the Jail Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Judge Scott Lash to adjourn at 9:04 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 14, 2023.

Sandy Graffius

Sandra Graffius, Prison Board Secretary