

# **BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES**

## **APRIL 12, 2023**

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, April 12, 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 Christine Sadler  
Warden Jeffrey Smith  
Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the March 8, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS**

**INMATE POPULATION:** Warden Jeffrey Smith stated the inmate population is 774. Several factors are contributing to the increase in population- increase in Writs, Court Commits, and County Parole Violations. Fifty-Six inmates sentenced to an SCI. Forty-eight are waiting for a transport date and 8 are pending other circumstances.

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

- Sewer pumps at the former CRC has been repaired
- Concrete was poured in A/B yard – able to use now
- Front door of warehouse was installed

- Water lines of the pump house were capped
- Transfer switch and breaker replacement at the FCRC – parts are due in June

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

- 35 Correctional Officer vacancies
- 8 Cadets currently in the academy which will graduate on May 12th
- Next Testing Date – Monday, April 24th
- Next Academy start date will be sometime in June
  - We will combine the candidates from March, April, and May testing sessions

PROGRAMS: Chief Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith updated the Board on programing. This week there was 92 D roster inmates, seriously mentally ill, in population. In March there was 13 inmates that were sentenced and eligible for work release.

#### **SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

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

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE JAIL BOARD**

District Attorney John Adams commented that a vice chair was not selected for Prison Board. Commissioner Christian Leinbach made a motion to nominate Commissioner Michael Rivera as Vice Chair. Secretary Sandy Graffius seconded that motion.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Judge Scott Lash to adjourn at 9:07 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 10, 2023.

  
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Sandra Graffius, Prison Board Secretary