

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. at the County of Berks Jail and via Microsoft Teams.

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 Dante Santoni, Jr.
District Attorney John Adams
Judge Scott Lash
Controller Joe Rudderow

The following member were absent:

Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

County Solicitor Christine Sadler
Warden Jeffrey Smith
Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith
Deputy Warden Franco Tassone Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the August 14, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

INMATE POPULATION: Warden Jeffrey Smith stated the inmate population is 767. There are 2 juveniles at Lehigh County and 5 juveniles at Wayne County.

The average daily population is 749 inmates. There are 2691 total commitments and 2692 discharges year to date.

There are 24 inmates sentenced to an SCI. Twelve inmates are ready to be transported between now and September 19th. Twelve inmates are awaiting a transport date.

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CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS: Warden Jeffrey Smith updated the board on the current state of affairs:

- Title 37, Chapter 95 Inspection conducted by the Department of Corrections is scheduled to take place on August 27th. The jail is awaiting the preliminary findings.
- There are some intermittent outages with inmate phones. The phone vendor is trying to address the issue. Management has made necessary accommodations to provide access for inmates to contract their loved ones.

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

- 23 Correctional Officer vacancies
- 6 Sergeant vacancies
- 6 Cadets currently in the academy with a tentative graduation date of October 18th.
- 8 candidates currently in the background phase. They will join candidates who are being interviews this week from the August testing session.
- Tentative academy starting on October 30th.
- Next Correctional Officer Testing is Monday, October 28th.

PROGRAMS: Deputy Warden Smith updated the Board on the mental health roster. There are currently 100 D roster inmates in custody. This makes up 13% of the total population. Fifteen inmates that were fully sentenced and eligible for work release last month. The average trustee population is 26. Seven individuals became trustees last month.

PROJECT UPDATES: Deputy Warden Tassone updated the board on the current projects:

- The painting was started at the mansion.
- The fenced in yard recreation areas PO was issued.
- T 1-11 repairs will be started once the materials are received

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

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

JAIL BOARD COMMENTS


Commissioner Michael Rivera recited a poem in honor of September 11th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Judge Lash to adjourn at 9:09 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 9, 2024.



**Joseph Rudderow, Controller
Prison Board Secretary**