

**BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES  
JULY 10, 2024**

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Board Room 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:

District Attorney John Adams  
Judge Scott Lash  
Commissioner Christian Leinbach  
Commissioner Michael Rivera  
Commissioner Dante Santoni, Jr.  
Controller Joe Rudderow

The following member were absent:

Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

First Assistant County Solicitor Cody Kauffman  
Deputy Warden of Custody Bradley Roberts  
Warden Jeffrey Smith  
Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith  
Deputy Warden Franco Tassone Jr.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the June 12, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS**

INMATE POPULATION: Warden Jeffrey Smith stated the inmate population is 747. There is 1 juvenile at Lehigh County and 3 juveniles at Wayne County.

The average year to date population is 747 inmates. There are 1995 total commitments and 2011 discharges.

There are 31 inmates sentenced to an SCI. Twenty-four inmates are ready to be transported between now and July 23rd. Seven inmates are awaiting a transport date.

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

- Jail is in the process of implementing new technology throughout the facility
- Improvements to weapon accountability system
- Increased coverage of the facility's emergency duress system
- Enhancements to vehicle conditions and accountability
- More access to Law Library for the inmates
- Maintenance and facility workflow improvements utilizing tablets
- Cost-savings with the new laundry system (approximately \$100K)

STAFFING: Deputy Warden Roberts updated the Board on the status of the staffing:

- 23 Correctional Officer vacancies
- 7 Sergeant vacancies
- 5 cadets in the academy with a tentative graduation date of July 17th
- 7 cadets in the background check phase with a July 30th testing
- Next CO testing is scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>

PROGRAMS: Deputy Warden Smith updated the Board on the mental health roster. There are currently 96 D roster inmates in custody. This makes up 13% of the total population. The C and D rosters make up for 62% of the population. Seventeen inmates that were fully sentenced and eligible for work release last month. The average trustee population is 26. Twelve individuals became trustees last month. The work release program is currently suspended.

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

- Dolan Construction is in the process of getting a final quote for windows for the mansion
- Exercise fencing quotes were received, waiting for approval
- Received drawings for kitchen doors, other doors are being built
- Employee locker room project will be measured and quoted on July 12<sup>th</sup>
- T 1-11 repair quotes were received
- Multi-purpose project will be building 6 more rooms, materials will be delivered week of July 22<sup>nd</sup>
- WDC walkthrough will be on July 11<sup>th</sup> which will end phase one
- Plans for paving of the parking lot were received and waiting for approval

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Judge Lash to adjourn at 9:08 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 14, 2024.



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**Joseph Rudderow, Controller  
Prison Board Secretary**