

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES
BERKS COUNTY SERVICES CENTER
COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
NOVEMBER 4, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

The following members were in attendance:

Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt
Commissioner Christian Leinbach
Controller Sandy Graffius
District Attorney John Adams
Chief Deputy Sheriff Bryant Semenza, on behalf of Sheriff Eric Weaknecht

The following members were absent:

Commissioner Mark Scott
Judge Scott Lash

The following County staff also attended:

Solicitor Christine Sadler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the October 14, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

WARDEN REPORT:

Warden Quigley reviewed the Board on the NACo's Stepping Up Initiative. The Warden mentioned the similar local resolution the county passed in November to implement the program.

The Warden has been assessing and implementing improvements to the Mental Health services at the Jail:

Warden Quigley stated that the Prime Care contract was extended and a licensed professional counselor and mental health RN were added to the staff this year.

The Warden informed the Board of the upcoming meeting with the Criminal Justice and Community Representatives to conduct a mental health mapping for the County (scheduled for mid-November); sponsored by the Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

The Warden discussed the changes in policy regarding mental health inmates in the Department of Corrections and State Facilities in PA and explained how the Jail has taken steps to implement those changes. DA John Adams added that he made an informal request to require approval before arresting potential mental health individuals.

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2015

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Deputy Jeffrey Smith indicated there are 4 correctional officer vacancies and 10 cadets currently in the Academy. A job fair was held on October 28, 2015. The next testing is scheduled for November 13, 2015 and the next academy is tentatively scheduled for January 20, 2016.

Deputy Kyle Russell spoke about the status of the current infrastructure and security upgrade project. The project is expected to close within the next several weeks. Deputy Russell mentioned the Conditions Assessment, awarded to Kimball, had begun on November 4, 2015. A discussion ensued regarding the necessity of these renovations.

Deputy Stephanie Smith spoke about the Re-entry Strategic Planning event in October which established subcommittees including the Workforce Development Committee and the Rehabilitation Committee. The next meeting is to be held in December 2015.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

GOOD & WELFARE: Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned at 9:20 a.m. into the Executive Session which adjourned at 9:24 a.m. The next Prison Board meeting will be December 9, 2015 at the Special Operations Center at the Berks County Jail.

Sandy Graffius, Secretary Prison Board