

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

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 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 Michael Rivera  
Commissioner Dante Santoni, Jr.  
District Attorney John Adams  
Secretary Joe Rudderow  
Judge Scott Lash

The following member were absent:

Commissioner Christian Leinbach  
Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

Solicitor Christine Sadler  
Warden Jeffrey Smith  
Deputy Warden- Custody Bradley Roberts

**REORGANIZATION**

Reorganization was voted on for the Prison Board members for 2024.

Chairman- Judge Scott Lash

Vice Chairman- Commissioner Michael Rivera

Secretary- Joe Rudderow, Controller

Solicitor- Christine Sadler, Solicitor

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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**JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS**

**INMATE POPULATION:** Warden Jeffrey Smith stated the inmate population is 780. There are 4 juveniles at Wayne County and 1 juvenile at Lehigh County.

Year end stats for 2023 the average population was 759 inmates. The average length of stay was 151 days. There was 3,995 total commits and 3,993 discharges.

There are 34 inmates sentenced to an SCI. Eighteen are ready to be transported between and January 30<sup>th</sup>. Ten inmates are awaiting a transport date. Six are not ready for transport.

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

- The sewer pumps have been installed at the FCRC
- Doors and Sally-port were replaced at the front entrance into the secure perimeter of the jail
- The front dormers were replaced on the mansion. Will be working on the rear soon
- The porches were repaired at the mansion
- The new washer and dryer were installed in the jail's main laundry

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

- 35 Correctional Officer vacancies
- 6 Sergeant vacancies
- 13 new candidates starting at the academy January 24<sup>th</sup>
- Correctional Officer testing was held on January 8th
- Next testing is not scheduled

**PROGRAMS:** Warden Smith updated the Board on the mental health roster. There are currently 93 D roster. There were 11 inmates eligible for work release in the month of December.

Warden Smith updated the board on a new program working with Charles Jackson who has a company called The Reality Check Project. Mr. Jackson is with lived experience; he is a previous incarcerated person. He uses a model of peer lead group strategies to interact with inmates and help them find new skills with communication, pro social skills, coping skills, and reentry planning. The jail has been working with the Solicitors office for a contract with Mr. Jackson and should be listed on the Commissioners agenda this week. Judge Lash commented on Mr. Jackson that is he has a wonderful attitude and will be a great asset. This will be funded out of the inmate welfare budget.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE JAIL BOARD**

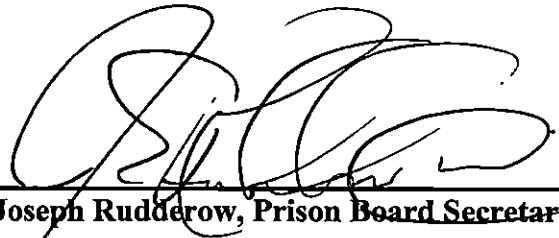
Judge Lash welcomed the new Prison board members. Commissioner Dante Santoni and Controller, Joe Rudderow.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Judge Scott Lash to adjourn at 9:10 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 14, 2024.



**Joseph Rudderow, Prison Board Secretary**