

# **BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES**

## **OCTOBER 10, 2018**

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Board Room on the 13th Floor of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

The following members were in attendance:

Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt  
District Attorney John Adams  
Sheriff Eric Weaknecht  
Judge Scott Lash  
Deputy Controller Ronald Rutkowski on  
behalf of Sandy Graffius

The following members were absent:

Commissioner Christian Leinbach  
Commissioner Mark Scott  
Controller Sandra Graffius

The following County staff also attended:

Solicitor Christine Sadler  
Human Resources Director Jessica Weaknecht  
Chief Administrative Officer Ronald Seaman

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The September 12, 2018 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS**

Warden Janine Quigley stated that the current inmate population was 1,127. Of the population reported, 28 inmates were technical parole violators from the State. The Warden explained why the TPV population was low. She stated until they could ensure that the State would search the property of the individual, according to Berks County's permissible items list, they would delay accepting new TPV inmates. This was due to issues that occurred in the State. She reported that the State agreed on October 9, 2018 to transfer inmates with permissible items only. The Warden added that this was a practice already done by the Berks County Jail for the State.

The Warden spoke about the Forensic Conference held at State College, sponsored by CCAP and DHS, on December 3, 2018. She stated 13 people from Berks County planned to attend. She added that they will end with teams discussing how to move individuals with mental health issues through the process more quickly. The Warden specified that these are individuals who need competency restored, need treatment and are involved in the criminal justice system.

**BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES  
OCTOBER 10, 2018**

2

Chief Deputy Jeffrey Smith updated the Board on the status of the staffing. There were 4 correctional officer vacancies; 3 custodial positions and 1 maintenance position. Three candidates were in the academy with a tentative graduation date of December 14, 2018. The next testing was scheduled for November 13, 2018 and the academy will begin January 30, 2019.

Deputy Warden Kyle Russell updated the Board about the meeting with Westcott Electric Company. He stated that Westcott was able to complete all undisputed punch list items that were outstanding for the infrastructure and security project which Deputy Russell expects to close soon.

Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith announced that BCPS was awarded a Justice Systems Grant to conduct a new 10 week program called "Working Towards Change." This program will provide cognitive behavioral classroom work to inmates, 6 hours a week. They plan to choose inmates by using the ORAZ system to determine who has an employment need and consult with APO to find out their length of stay.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Sadler updated the Board on the CGI assessment. She stated that they were working through a large quantity of documents provided by the Jail and almost all interviews were completed. Solicitor Sadler stated that the time frame to complete the assessment was 6-9 months and will continue keeping the Board updated.

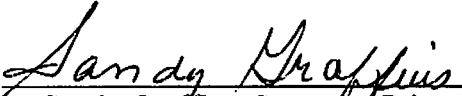
**COMMENTS FROM THE JAIL BOARD**

Commissioner Barnhardt noted that the 2019 meetings were moved to the last Wednesday of each month to accommodate schedules. He also noted the December meeting was rescheduled to December 19, 2018.

1. A motion was made by District Attorney Adams, seconded by Judge Scott, and all voted unanimously to approve the 2019 Berks County Prison Board meeting schedule. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 9:08 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting will be held November 14, 2018 in the Commissioners' Board Room on the 13th Floor of the Berks County Services Center.

  
Sandy Graffius, Secretary Prison