



Prison Board
Don Myers, President
Katie Charlton, Vice President
Jason Renshaw, Secretary

William, J. Rupert
Pat Fabian
Myra L. Miller
James J. Panchik

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County Jail
COUNTY OF ARMSTRONG

February 2022

ARMSTRONG COUNTY PRISON BOARD

A meeting of the Armstrong County Prison Board was called to order on Thursday, February 10th, 2022 at 8:32am. Meeting held in the Commissioner's Conference Room.

Members Present: Commissioner Myers, Controller Miller, Judge Panchik, District Attorney Katie Charlton, Commissioner Fabian, Commissioner Renshaw

Others Present: Warden Shaffer, Deputy Warden Hicks, Chief Administrator – A. Poole, Madison Veri

Absent: Sheriff Frank Pitzer

Guests: Abby Karg (Leader Times), Solicitor Sacco

Commissioner Myers announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

On a motion by Controller Miller, seconded by District Attorney Charlton and carried unanimously; the minutes for January 13th, 2022 Prison Board Meeting were approved.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORTS

On a motion by Controller Miller, seconded by District Attorney Charlton and carried unanimously; the Financial Reports January 2022 were approved.

WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's Report was presented by Warden Shaffer.

Commissioner Fabian asked Deputy Warden Hicks if she could include the running totals of MAT statistics from the creation of the program. Warden Shaffer wanted to note that we found a supplier to provide us with the Sublocade shot. We are still unsure of the start date.

On a motion by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by Controller Miller and carried unanimously; the Warden's Report for January was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Siren Tested on February 10th, 2022

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Staff Trainings** – Warden Shaffer said the Defensive Tactics make up trainings were completed. He is also hoping to start sending officers to the state DOC training when staffing is up.

2. **Prison Board Solicitor - Invoice** – Solicitor invoice is \$1,093.75.

On a motion by Judge Panchik, seconded by Commissioner Fabian and carried unanimously; the approval of the Solicitor Invoice.

3. **Policy 1-8A Arrestee Program** – Deputy Warden Hicks stated this is an update to the current policy. Upon Solicitor review, it was found this policy satisfies the minimum requirements of Title 37

On a motion by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by Commissioner Renshaw and carried unanimously; the approval of Policy 1-8A Arrestee Program.

4. **Policy 2-42 Staff Lockers** – Deputy Warden Hicks stated this is an update to the current policy. Upon Solicitor review, it was found this policy satisfies the minimum requirements of Title 37

On a motion by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by Commissioner Renshaw and carried unanimously; the approval of Policy 2-24 Staff Lockers.

5. **Security Door Window** – Warden Shaffer asked if this purchase could come out of maintenance fund since the Inmate Relief Fund would not cover it. He reiterated how this would increase the safety for the officers. Commissioner Fabian said the doors can be measured to receive a quote and he can figure out what money is available for the purchase.

District Attorney Charlton asked if Duramate hearing rooms could be added to the agenda for next month to discuss this item again.

6. **CSG** – Commissioner Myers asked if the board would be interested to explore this option and other models for a potential private/public relationship. Judge Panchik said he would never support prisoners for profit. He views it as morally wrong and unsafe. District Attorney Charlton said she agrees with the Judge. Private jails have a lot of safety concerns. Her research has shown overall that privatization does not work and the rest of the country is moving away from this due to the issues that have occurred. She also said she is not confident the cost savings are going to be what they're say they are. Controller Miller agreed with District Attorney Charlton that she is not sure about the numbers as well. She also doesn't think the tradeoff will be worth it because of the potential security issues.

Commissioner Fabian said he hasn't decided one way or another yet. He did suggest forming an exploratory committee of Prison Board members and jail employees to explore other facilities. Commissioner Renshaw said he does not see an issue with looking into it. Commissioner Myers thanked everyone for their comments. He also said it is one of his responsibilities to look into cost savings to save money for the budget and tax payer dollars. He said it seems like the majority of the board does not want to pursue this option, but he encourages everyone to find other ways to save money. He is also on board to create a committee to study other public jails to see if there are resources we don't have. District Attorney Charlton said it could be useful to see what other jails have and what they implement. Warden Shaffer did want to note that our jail is below the average cost to house an inmate in Pennsylvania. Commissioner Renshaw wanted clarification on how and when to present information to the board. He asked if the Commissioners would be able to explore things and then present them to the board or does the board have to get approval before they can explore? Solicitor Sacco said the board would have to approve the exploration first unless a committee is formed and the board approves of it. District Attorney Charlton said she liked Commissioner Fabian's idea of forming a committee. She said we should explore other jails that are similarly situated to ours to look at their numbers and services. Commissioner Myers said to add this as an agenda item to the next board for further discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

Warden Shaffer called for an executive session at 9:21 am; Motioned by Commissioner Fabian seconded by Controller Miller and carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened from executive session at 9:47 am; Motioned by Controller Miller, seconded by Commissioner Renshaw and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was motioned by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by District Attorney Charlton and carried unanimously; the Board adjourned at 9:50 AM.

The next Armstrong County Prison Board meeting will be held on March 10th, 2022 at 8:30am in the Commissioner's Conference Room.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY PRISON BOARD



Commissioner Jason Renshaw, Secretary