



**Fayette County Jail**  
254 McClellandtown  
Road  
Uniontown, Pennsylvania

**Jail Board of Inspectors**

Sheriff James Custer (Chair)  
Commissioner Scott Dunn  
Commissioner Vincent A. Vicites  
Commissioner Dave Lohr  
Judge Stephen Leskinen  
District Attorney Michael Aubele  
Controller Robb Rhodes

**Minutes**

Fayette County Jail Board of Inspectors  
January 29, 2025 Regular Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Fayette County Jail Board took place on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. It was held in the Commissioners Conference Room at the Fayette County Courthouse, as well as virtually via ZOOM.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 9:19 am by Commissioner Scott Dunn.

At **Roll Call**, the following members were present and constituted a quorum: Commissioner Scott Dunn, Commissioner Vince Vicites, Commissioner Dave Lohr, Controller Robb Rhodes, and Judge Stephen Leskinen. Absent was Sheriff James Custer and District Attorney Michael Aubele.

Also present: Solicitor Jack Purcell, Warden John Lenkey, Adult Probation Officer Jim Kovacs, Juvenile Probation Officer Leroy Townsend, HR Director Cristi Spiker, Jail HR personnel Mel Patty, CYS Director Gina D'Auria (virtual) Drug & Alcohol Director Melissa Ferris (virtual), Mary Over - Chief of Staff for Commissioner Vicites and Tammy Nedrow - Chief of Staff for Commissioner Dunn.

Commissioner Dunn led the **Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**: NONE

**Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2024 Regular Meeting**

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to approve the meeting minutes of the December 18, 2024 Regular meeting.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye

**Motion Carried  
Unanimously** **5-0**

### Approval of January 2025 Bills

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to approve **January 2025 bills**.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

### Warden Population Report for January 2025

Warden Lenkey reported that as of today, there are a total of **200** inmates, with **155** males and **45** females. **Four** inmates are currently housed outside of Fayette County with One male being at Greene, One Male and One Female being at Torrence and One male at Somerset. We are also housing One male from Somerset here. One male juvenile is housed at Camp Hill.

### Adult Probation - Intermediate Punishment Program Report

Adult Probation Officer Jim Kovacs reported that for the month of December 2024 there were a total of 281 active offenders on probation, resulting in 6,687 incarceration days saved. There were 80 electronic monitoring (EM) installations, and 22 disconnects.

The invoice for Restrictive Intermediate Punishment treatment for the month of December 2024 was \$4,606.70 paid to the Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission. Medical Assistance paid a sum of \$4,760.70..

### Juvenile Probation

Juvenile Probation Officer Townsend reported that there are currently **11** juveniles in placement, **1** in detention at Jefferson County and **2** juveniles on electronic monitoring.

### Courts

Judge Leskinen reported that there was a glitch in December trials, increasing the January Trial List. There may be an additional court week in the month of March or April to reduce backlog.

### CYS

Director Gina D'Auria reinforced their support and advised the Warden to call with any needs.

### Drug and Alcohol

Director Melissa Ferris reported a change of personnel servicing the jail however intake is still being handled Monday through Thursday (37-1/2 hours per week) as well as Individual and Group Assessment. She is still trying to hire a Certified Recovery Specialist however all agencies are experiencing the same difficulty.

## Old / New Business

- NONE

### IGNITE

Warden Lenkey reported the February 7<sup>th</sup> start-up of a new class - two phase GED testing with a formal cap & gown ceremony at the next IGNITE graduation (tentatively planned for March 25<sup>th</sup>). HR Director Spiker reported on the work her staff has been doing in teaching interview and self presentation to IGNITE participants. The program has been well received and found to be very rewarding to both the inmates and her staff.

### Personnel

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Full-Time Corrections Officer Eric Shipley, starting rate of \$22.00 per hour, \$45,760.00 annually, effective January 6, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Full-Time Corrections Officer John Kaminsky, starting rate of \$22.00 per hour, \$45,760.00 annually, effective January 6, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Full-Time Corrections Officer Todd Brothers II, starting rate of \$22.00 per hour, \$45,760.00 annually, effective January 6, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Full-Time Corrections Officer Erick Odum, starting rate of \$22.00 per hour, \$45,760.00 annually, effective January 6, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

#### Personnel (Continued)

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Full-Time Corrections Officer Alec Hull, starting rate of \$22.00 per hour, \$45,760.00 annually, effective January 6, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Judge Leskinen** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Hayden Rhodes, starting rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective January 6, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Abstain
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>4-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Delania Kenny, starting rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective January 27, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Connor Watson, starting rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective January 27, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Allen Thomas, starting rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective January 27, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

#### Personnel (Continued)

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Rachel Pike, starting rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective January 27, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Joel Hartsek, starting rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective January 27, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer John Venick, starting rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective January 27, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **resignation** of Full-Time Corrections Officer Henry Cumberland, effective December 27, 2024.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to ratify the **resignation** of Full-Time Corrections Officer Shaun Halfhill, effective January 9, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

### Public Comment

Jessica Hajek-Bates of Community Action reported that they are excited to work with the jail on a re-entry program. There was a Strategic Planning Committee meeting this month and that currently a technical advisor is working on developing an action plan to best utilize the \$900,000 DOJ Grant received.

Commissioner Dunn stated that, effective January 1, 2025, the County and UMWA entered a Contract in which the County invested the jail workforce by increasing wages \$4.00 as a means to recruit and retain personnel for the jail.

### Executive Session

Moved by **Commissioner Dunn** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to enter in Executive Session to discuss personnel. Entered into Executive Session at **9:50** a.m.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Commissioner Dunn** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to leave Executive Session and return to Regular Session. Left Executive Session at **10:46** a.m

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Upon return to Regular Session, Commissioner Dunn reported that 5 personnel matters were discussed with the following actions being taken on 4 of them.

Prior to any motions, Commissioner Dunn also explained that if no verbal response to a motion is given, the vote is automatically recorded as "AYE". Controller Rhodes stated that he was unaware of this and that he did not verbally respond either way to item f. under personnel on the agenda. Controller Rhodes requested that his vote for that motion be amended to reflect and recorded that he ABSTAINED from the vote.

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to **accept** the resignation of Full-Time Corrections Officer Ziameir Smith, effective January 29, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Commissioner Dunn** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to **promote** Part-time Corrections Officer Hayden Rhodes to Full-time status, starting rate of \$22.00 per hour, (\$45,760.00 annually) effective January 29, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	ABSTAIN
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>4-0 with</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	<b>1 abstain</b>

Moved by **Commissioner Lohr** and seconded by **Controller Rhodes** to **approve** the leave of absence request of Corrections Officer Michael Toner through March 29, 2025..

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye

Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to again **deny** the leave of absence request and terminate Corrections Officer Joshua Livingston effective January 29, 2025.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	NAY
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>4-1</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

### **Adjournment**

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Lohr** to adjourn meeting.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Lohr	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Unanimously</b>	

Meeting adjourned at **10:50** a.m.