

Fayette County Prison Board  
Minutes of February 27, 2019 Meeting

A meeting of the Prison Board took place on Wednesday, February 27, 2019. It was held in the Commissioners' Conference Room.

The meeting was Called to Order at 9:20 am by Sheriff Custer. At Roll Call the following members were present and constituted a quorum: Sheriff James Custer, Commissioner Vince Vicites, Commissioner Dave Lohr, Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink, Judge Steve Leskinen and Controller Scott Abraham. Members absent at roll call were: DA Rich Bower. (Note: Sheriff Custer was subsequently called out of the meeting sometime after 9:44 am, while in Executive Session, but continued as part of the meeting via cell phone). Also present were: Attorney Jack Purcell, HR Director Cristi Spiker, Warden Jeff Myers, and Assistant Chief Adult Probation Officer Jim Kovacs.

Sheriff Custer led the Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 2019 Meeting, which was held on February 8, 2019

Moved by Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink and seconded by Commissioner Dave Lohr to approve the meeting minutes of January 2019 Meeting, which was held on February 8, 2019.

Sheriff Custer	aye
Commissioner Vicites	aye
Commissioner Lohr	aye
Commissioner Zimmerlink	aye
Judge Steve Leskinen	aye
Controller Abraham	aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 6-0

Approval of the February Bills

Moved by Controller Scott Abraham and seconded by Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink to approve the February bills.

Sheriff Custer	aye
Commissioner Vicites	aye
Commissioner Lohr	aye
Commissioner Zimmerlink	aye
Judge Steve Leskinen	aye
Controller Abraham	aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 6-0

Population Report for January 2019

Warden Jeff Myers reported at present there are a total of 198 inmates, with 163 males and 35 females in-house. There are an additional 3 inmates (2 male and 1 female) housed outside of Fayette County, in Greene County. Warden Myers noted that, in the current month, there were 129 new inmates received, with 127 inmates released.

#### Update on Maintenance Repair

Warden Jeff Myers provided the report as attached. He noted that maintenance in the prison is ongoing. Sometime tonight, they will begin the process of painting in the prison, with steam cleaning to follow. In addition, an Officer has been placed in the laundry facility to monitor items as they come and go from the laundry. Since implementing this system, there have been fewer problems with inmates flushing blankets and the like. Further, next week the Warden will purchase a heat stamp machine, at a cost of \$700. This will be used to place an identifying number or mark on items assigned to individual cells, to better track to which cell an item belongs.

#### Intermediate Punishment Program Report

Jim Kovacs of Adult Probation reviewed his report as attached. For the month of January, there were 215 clients on probation, for a total of 4782 days. Kovacs further noted that this was one of the busiest months ever. The total cost to the County was \$19384.94, with 90 installations and 116 disconnects. Commissioner Lohr inquired as to whether there have been any major issues. Kovacs responded that there have been no major issues.

Courts: None.

#### New/Old Business:

Moved by Commissioner Dave Lohr and seconded by Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink to consider entering into an agreement with the PA Department of Corrections for utilizing their drug search teams at the Fayette County Prison. Warden Jeff Myers noted that the contract was not included as part of the agenda materials due to the sensitive nature of the contract. The contract was offered for review by Prison Board Members.

Sheriff Custer	aye
Commissioner Vicites	aye
Commissioner Lohr	aye
Commissioner Zimmerlink	aye
Judge Steve Leskinen	aye
Controller Abraham	aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 6-0

Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink revisited the topic of GTL (the phone supplier for the prison) providing 37 tablets for use by prisoners, at no cost to the County. Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink referenced an article that had appeared in the local paper regarding issues with how this would be implemented in the prison. Concerns raised include: 1) the cost to inmates – especially indigent inmates (there is no charge to the County, but inmates would be charged for usage), 2) the limited number of tablets compared to the number of inmates, and 3) potential liability issues.

Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink suggested that these concerns be reviewed with the CCAP Attorneys who are currently handling the lawsuit with the prison. Warden Jeff Myers said he would do so and reminded the Board that tablets will have appropriate restrictions installed.

Commissioner Dave Lohr asked about Warden Jeff Myers to verify that there would be no expense to the County. Warden Jeff Myers responded that this was correct.

Commissioner Vince Vicites inquired about the benefits to the tablets. Warden Jeff Myers cited the following: Prisoners can engage in face-to-face visits with friends and families without their visitors having to go through the hassle of coming in to the prison, prisoners will have access to appropriate educational programming, prisoners can use tablets for emailing family members, and prisoners can use the tablets to access appropriate entertainment (e.g. music). Warden Jeff Myers further noted that the use of tablets for these purposes in prisons is a growing trend.

Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink questioned privacy issues with the use of tablets. Warden Jeff Myers responded that he will check with the State Department of Corrections (DOC) on this concern because the State DOC has been doing this the longest.

### Personnel

Moved Commissioner Dave Lohr and seconded by Commissioner Vince Vicites to go into Executive Session.

Sheriff Custer	aye
Commissioner Vicites	aye
Commissioner Lohr	aye
Commissioner Zimmerlink	aye
Judge Steve Leskinen	aye
Controller Abraham	aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 6-0

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:44 am. During Executive Session, the Board discussed two items on the agenda as well as the following: 1) discipline for a management employee, 2) the status of 2 non-union employees for not being present at their assigned times, 3) the status of a recently filed lawsuit (filed under the name "Lubic"), and 4) amending the agenda to include the Director of Inmate Welfare Barry Croftchek. While in Executive Session, Sheriff Jim Custer was called out of the meeting but continued to participate via cell phone.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:47 am.

Moved by Commissioner Dave Lohr and seconded by Commissioner Vince Vicites to amend the agenda to include the Director of Inmate Welfare Barry Croftchek.

Sheriff Custer	aye
Commissioner Vicites	aye
Commissioner Lohr	aye
Commissioner Zimmerlink	aye
Judge Leskinen	aye
Controller Abraham	aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 6-0

Moved by Commissioner Dave Lohr and seconded by Commissioner Vince Vicites to accept the resignation of Part-Time Correctional Officer Duaine Sullenberger, effective February 27, 2019.

Sheriff Custer aye  
Commissioner Vicites aye  
Commissioner Lohr aye  
Commissioner Zimmerlink aye  
Judge Leskinen aye  
Controller Abraham aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 6-0

Moved by Commissioner Dave Lohr and seconded by Commissioner Vince Vicites to terminate Part-Time Correctional Officer Geoffrey Welsh, effective February 27, 2019.

Sheriff Custer aye  
Commissioner Vicites aye  
Commissioner Lohr aye  
Commissioner Zimmerlink aye  
Judge Leskinen aye  
Controller Abraham aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 6-0

Moved by Commissioner Dave Lohr and seconded by Commissioner Vince Vicites to terminate Director of Inmate Welfare Barry Croftchek, effective February 27, 2019.

Sheriff Custer aye  
Commissioner Vicites aye  
Commissioner Lohr aye  
Commissioner Zimmerlink aye  
Judge Leskinen aye  
Controller Abraham aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 6-0

Public Comment: None

Moved by Commissioner Dave Lohr and seconded by Commissioner Vince Vicites to adjourn meeting

Sheriff Custer aye  
Commissioner Vicites aye  
Commissioner Lohr aye  
Commissioner Zimmerlink aye  
DA Bower aye  
Controller Abraham aye

Motion Passed 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra K. Evans-Rhodes

Chief of Staff for Commissioner Dave Lohr