

# LUZERNE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY BOARD MEETING

**July 13, 2011**

The Luzerne County Correctional Facility Board met on the above date in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Luzerne County Court House. The following Board Members were present: Commissioner Maryanne Petrilla, Commissioner Thomas Cooney, Commissioner Steve Urban, Controller Walter Griffith, and Sheriff Gilligan. Also in attendance were Attorney Steve Menn, County Solicitor, Doug Pape, and Tom Borum, Local 1310.

(Absent: District Attorney Jackie Musto-Carroll Judge Tina Gartley)

Commissioner Petrilla called the Meeting to **ORDER**.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Petrilla opened the Meeting to the **PUBLIC**.

Charles Hatchko, Jenkins Township, requested to address the Board, stating I was a guard for over sixteen years, Captain Larson and Tom Borum will tell you that. I thinking hiring, making Luzerne County Correctional Facility a dumping ground for retired stated correctional people in administrative qualities is absolutely ludicrous. First of all your paying a new lieutenant almost fifty four thousand plus benefits, they opt their insurance out, they opt their insurance they get another approximately fifteen hundred, I don't know, I don't have a contract. We got County Corrections Guard are trained at the same facility State Prison Guards are trained at, it use to be Elizabethtown and then prior to that Camp Hill. What I'm saying is you hire within your telling me people with sixteen years don't have the capacity to fill administrative jobs in Luzerne County Prison. It's absolutely ludicrous. A new guard starts at twenty six thousand dollars that's a savings of twenty eight thousand dollars the first year almost fifty thousand dollars and I'll tell you what I'm going to bring it up to the public this is tax payers money you're throwing out the window by hiring friends of prison guards from the State. That's all I have to say.

Commissioner Petrilla asked if we could address this.

Warden Piazza addressed Mr. Hatchko, stating I interviewed, I put out a notice for people within the prison to apply for the Lieutenant's job and people outside. A Lieutenant right now makes less that a Corporal because of the Union raises. No one from the inside wants to take a Lieutenant's position. And if they do they are first year employees because then they get a big bump from twenty eight to fifty three. Now listen this is the impropriety of the system. Mr. Larson has thirty three years of corrections he cannot retire and get medical coverage because he's a management employee. You have to be in the union twenty years to retire to get medical coverage, he can't retire. Tom Borum as a CO works twenty years he can go out and get medical coverage.

Mr. Hatchko stated when he's 57 Joe, I know the contract ok.

Commissioner Petrilla stated the point here we're trying to make is the people inside don't want the job because they make more money in the Union.

Mr. Hatchko stated he wasn't aware of that.

Warden Piazza informed him as a Union Member they get shift differential, longevity, they get over time. Management people do not get that and they have to pay ten percent of the premium for their health care while they are management, the Union pays nothing.

Mr. Hatchko stated he wasn't aware of that.

Warden Piazza stated all you have to do is ask me.

**Facility Board Meeting  
July 13, 2011  
Page II**

Mr. Hatchko stated he wasn't aware of that I thought the people were passing them over deliberately.

Warden Piazza stated I would love to get somebody. I have asked some people inside that are good Sergeants that they said I don't want it because if I go out of the Union I lose all my benefits.

Mr. Hatchko stated you know people are under the assumption that local prison guards get training, ask Captain Larson, as good as anybody. Every year you have to get trained in this and that. I was just under the assumption that you were just hiring State. All right thank you.

Terry Morgan, Times Leader stated she has several questions does she want them done now or later.

Commissioner Petrilla stated not during the meeting it's either now or after the meeting.

Ms. Morgan ask if we could get any additional information on the lady that was found deceased.

Commissioner Petrilla stated its non-agenda so we'll certainly meet with you after the meeting to address that.

Ms. Morgan stated there is a suicide listed under the statistics.

Warden Piazza stated that was listed in error there has not been a manner of death given by the investigation yet.

Commissioner Petrilla stated we will gladly research how much information can be released.

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by Commissioner Urban to approve the Minutes from the Facility Board Meetings held on June 13, 2011.

**MOTION CARRIED. (5/0)**

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by Sheriff Gilligan to **RATIFY and CONFIRM** payment of the bills for June, 2011 totaling \$1,940,605.83.

**MOTION CARRIED. (5/0)**

Warden Piazza noted the Facility's population as follows:

Males: 392 Female: 62 Work Release: 67 Pre Work Release: 20  
Weekenders: 02 Minimal Offenders Unit: 89 Housed at other Institutions: 07  
Miscellaneous Out Count: 95

Total Population: 734

It was moved by Commissioner Urban and seconded by Controller Griffith to accept the resignation of Full Time Correctional Officer Thomas Waskiewicz, effective 6/01/11.

**MOTION CARRIED. (5/0)**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban and seconded by Commissioner Cooney to approve sending Training Corporal William Beecham to the PA Department of Corrections Training Academy for the Training for Staff Trainers Course July 18 through July 22, 2011, in Elizabethtown, PA. Reimbursement for hotel accommodations at a rate of \$69.95 per night and expenses will be made to Corporal Beecham.

**MOTION CARRIED. (5/0)**

**Facility Board Meeting  
July 13, 2011  
Page III**

It was moved by Sheriff Gilligan and seconded by Commissioner Urban to approve the appointment of James Youngkin to the managerial position of Lieutenant, effective 8/01/11 at an annual salary of \$53,271.00

Controller Griffith asked if this was approved by Salary Board.

Warden Piazza informed him it was and this is the position to replace the Chef Supervisor.

**MOTION CARRIED. (5/0)**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban and seconded by Sheriff Gilligan to approve the appointment of Lorraine Brody, Ryan Cragle, Margaret Haydock, Joseph Petrosky, Raphael Rostock and Charles Smith Jr. to the position of Correctional Officer Trainee, effective 8/01/11 at an annual salary of \$26,539.09.

**MOTION CARRIED. (5/0)**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban and seconded by Commissioner Cooney to go **OFF** the Agenda

**MOTION CARRIED. (5/0)**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban and seconded by Sheriff Gilligan to terminate Counselor David Wydo, with cause, effective 7/13/11.

The Meeting was opened to the public for questions.

**MOTION CARRIED. (5/0)**

Warden Piazza advised Members of the Financial Reimbursement.

Warden Piazza advised Members on the status of the Commissary.

Warden Piazza advised Members on the Monthly statistics.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban and seconded by Commissioner Cooney to **APPROVE** purchasing the following items from the approved low bidders; Bedding, Mattresses, Personal Care Items, and Clothing.

**MOTION CARRIED. (5/0)**

It was moved by moved by Commissioner Urban and seconded by Commissioner Cooney to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED. (5/0)**

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Grimes  
Recording Secretary