

**LUZERNE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
BOARD MEETING**

NOVEMBER 14, 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, Controller Walter Griffith, and District Attorney Jackie Carroll. Also in attendance were Attorney Steve Menn, County Solicitor, County Manager Doug Pape, Collective Bargaining Officer Max Blaskiewicz, Tony Seiwell Union Business Manager and Tom Borum, Union Representative.

(Absent: Commissioner Urban, Sheriff Gilligan and Judge Tina Gartley)

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Petrilla called for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by District Attorney Carroll to approve the Minutes from the Facility Board Meetings held on October 18, 2011.

MOTION CARRIED. (4/0)

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by District Attorney Carroll to **RATIFY and CONFIRM** payment of the bills for October, 2011 totaling \$1,788,692.72.

MOTION CARRIED. (4/0)

Warden Piazza noted the Facility's population as follows:

Males: 392 Female: 84 Work Release: 45 Pre Work Release: 16
Weekenders: 01 Minimal Offenders Unit: 78 Housed at other Institutions: 04
Miscellaneous Out Count: 85

Total Population: 705

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by District Attorney Carroll to appoint David Duke, Stephen Modrow, John Ulishney and Stephan Wengen to the position of Correctional Officer Trainees, effective 11/28/2011 at an annual salary of \$26,539.09

Controller Griffith asked if these were replacements.

Warden Piazza stated they are.

MOTION CARRIED. (6/0)

It was moved by District Attorney Carroll and seconded by Commissioner Cooney to reinstate Raphael Rostock to the position of Correctional Officer Trainee effective 11/28/11.

MOTION CARRIED.

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by Commissioner Petrilla to appoint Catherine Lee to the position of Nurse, effective 11/28/11, at an annual salary of \$46,571.81.

Controller Griffith asked if this was a replacement.

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Warden Piazza stated it is.

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by District Attorney Carroll to approve a leave of absence, without pay, effective October 14, 2011, for Correctional Officer Thomas Borum to conduct full time business as a Union Representative, in accordance with Article XX; Leave of Absence of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED. (3/1 – Controller Griffith voted no)

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by District Attorney Carroll to create one (1) Deputy Warden's position, effective 11/14/11.

MOTION CARRIED. (4/0)

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by District Attorney Carroll to approve sending Treatment Coordinator and Counselor Robert Hetro to the Housing Symposium to be held in Harrisburg, PA on November 14. There is no fee for this conference and a County vehicle will be utilized.

MOTION CARRIED. (4/0)

It was moved by District Attorney Carroll and seconded by Controller Griffith to approve sending Treatment Coordinator Grace Franks to the Joining Forces Conference: Prioritizing Needs and Linking Veterans and their Families to Community Resources being held at Genetti's Conference Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA on November 16. There is no fee for this conference and a County vehicle will be utilized if available.

MOTION CARRIED. (4/0)

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by District Attorney Carroll to approve sending Treatment Coordinator Grace Franks and DRC Directory Jennifer Lombardo to the 19th Annual Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference from November 29 through December 1, 2011 at the Holiday Inn, Harrisburg, PA. Registration of \$275.00, hotel accommodations at a rate of \$86.00 per night, and expenses will be reimbursed. A County vehicle will be utilized if available.

Warden Piazza informed Board Members they will be sharing a room and the cost will be reimbursed through the DRC Grant.

MOTION CARRIED. (4/0)

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by District Attorney Carroll to approve sending Lieutenant Sherry Souchick, Training Sergeant William Beecham and Correctional Officer George Wolfe to the PA Department of Corrections Training Academy from November 14 through November 18 to attend Restrictive Housing Unit Training. Reimbursement will be made for hotel accommodations at a rate of \$75.00 per night plus expenses. A County vehicle will be utilized if available.

MOTION CARRIED. (4/0)

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.

Warden Piazza informed Board Members that Captain Rockovich got \$160,431.00 for the SCAAP Grant, which is the highest in the month.

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Warden Piazza also advised Board Members that we put \$76,889.74 into the ACT 22 escrow account. There are still some questions we are discussing Act 22 with Geisinger on Friday to see what impact it will have on our contract with them. He has also been looking into membership in to the PIMCC that is the part of CCAP that will be handling the escrow account. It primarily means to us if an inmate qualifies under Act 22 the pays the state portion of the hospital bill which is approximately half the cost Act 22 will draw the funds from the Federal Government to pay the rest of it but it's all be management through CCAP and PIMCC. I contacted them today to see what it will cost us because it says you don't have to be a member but right now the administrative cost are for the first one hundred thousand dollars they bill the County 3.75% from one hundred thousand to five hundred thousand of cost to medicare it's 3%, five hundred to a million goes down to 2% over a million is one percent and if you're a member it's zero. So I'm trying to figure out exactly what our cost is.

Commissioner Cooney asked what the member cost.

Warden Piazza stated he doesn't know, I think it's 4.75% from all indications. They are talking about knocking that down because they didn't anticipate it being so high.

Commissioner Cooney asked 4.75% of what number.

Warden Piazza stated the amount that we charged to the medicare fund. If it's one hundred thousand dollars it'll be about five thousand just to manage it. I have a call into them to see if we should become a member I want to look at the whole picture with Geisinger and go from there.

Commissioner Cooney asked what the premium with Geisinger is every year.

Warden Piazza stated it's almost five million a year.

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney and seconded by Commissioner Petrilla to **APPROVE** purchasing a Slicer and Warming Cabinet.
MOTION CARRIED. (4/0)

Frank Pugliese informed Board Members that we still have not received any bids for Onion Soup Mix, after speaking with the Warden we don't use that much so we will just purchase it on the open market.

Warden Piazza informed Board Members that the water storage tanks are finally in and the roof on the Minimal Offenders Building is finally getting finished.

Commissioner Petrilla called for **PUBLIC COMMENT** on all Non-Agenda items.

Terry Morgan, Times Leader Reporter, asked Commissioner Petrilla to explain the Deputy Warden's position a little more, what is the salary going to be, why is it needed and how many deputy wardens are needed.

Commissioner Petrilla stated the Deputy Wardens position is obviously something that is very important in the absence of the Warden, as far as the salary, that won't be determined until Salary Board meets after the Commissioner's Meeting on Wednesday and that will be determined at that time.

Ms. Morgan asked if the Salary Board has to create that position.

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Commissioner Petrilla stated they will set the salary for it.

Ms. Morgan asked how many Deputy Wardens will you have.

Commissioner Petrilla said one.

Ms. Morgan stated you use to have two. You don't have any right now?

Commissioner Petrilla stated no one is filling the position of Deputy Warden right now.

Controller Griffith stated he just wanted to have our Solicitor look into the fact that next year we won't have a Prison Board and he doesn't know, from the research done just briefly, it doesn't look like the Statute doesn't allow the Home Rule Charter to eliminate the Prison Board. I'm thinking of the past two years that I've been sitting on this Board the great work that we've done to make everybody accountable and keep the budget and spending down and I'm just concerned about next year not having a Prison Board. The Home Rule Charter has eliminated that ability to have a Prison Board next year and I think our Solicitor should look into that to see if that's within their right to do that as a Home Rule Charter because I don't believe it is. I think the State Statute says that you must have a Prison Board. With that being said I am just a little bit concerned about the ability of a County Manager to take on the task of running a prison as well as guiding and directing the Warden of something that took seven members of this Board to do for the past two years and have done well for the last two years doing it. If I could get the Solicitor to do that, if it requires a motion I will be happy to go off the Agenda or ask for a Motion to go off the Agenda.

Attorney Steve Menn stated he doesn't believe it requires a motion. I will tell you that Walter and I discussed that briefly the other day and I intended to look into it and I'm going to suggest also to the Board that if we have a new transition team coming in and when a County Manager is in place, if I'm still here I will be happy to work with them to address the issues. I'll look into in to but I think it's going to need to be addressed by them.

Controller Griffith asked if we could get something from yourself before the next meeting as to whether we have any ability to look at the State Statute to see if it's required or not.

Attorney Menn stated he would be happy to look at it.

It was moved by moved by Controller Griffith and seconded by District Attorey Carroll to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED. (4/0)

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Grimes
Recording Secretary