

LAWRENCE COUNTY PRISON BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Wednesday, February 28, 2024

The Lawrence County Prison Board Meeting Wednesday, February 28, 2024, was called to order by **Chairman Josh Lamancusa**, at 12:01 pm at the Lawrence County Commissioners Conference Room. Kristine Venasco called the roll. Those in attendance were **Commissioner Kennedy (12:27), Judge Motto, Dave Prestopine, Sheriff Quahliero, Commissioner Sainato, Commissioner Dan Vogler, Warden Michael Mahlmeister, Deputy Warden Simmons, Deputy Warden Spielvogel, Brian Luffey, and Debbie Wachter**. It was stated for the record that the meeting is being taped. Those wishing to speak shall be given five minutes.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

None since the last Prison Board meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Quahliero, seconded by Mr. Prestopine to approve the minutes of December 11, 2023. Motion carried. 6-0.

POPULATION REPORT/PERSONNEL REPORT

The warden reported that there are 147 inmates.

FISCAL

Motion made by Judge Motto, seconded by Mr. Quahliero to approve the bills. Motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Lamancusa noted that under the Prime Care contract, it is a requirement that once the jail hits a certain number of inmates, they must hire a nurse. He wanted to make sure that if that number decreases the county is not paying for a service that is not needed. Mr. Luffey stated that Prime Care takes care of all of that. The county is not billed or paying for services that are not needed.

Mr. Lamancusa stated that the body scanner is up and running. Deputy Warden Simmons added that they have had great success with the scanner. Only inmates are scanned, not officers.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Warden update- The Warden explained that he would like to have an amnesty box placed in the strip search area where the inmate would be allowed to place items in the box, possibly without prosecution. Mr. Lamancusa stated that as a member of the Prison board, he would be in favor of the amnesty box. He explained that as a prosecutor, there wouldn't be a felony charge, but the inmate would still be charged with possession.

Mr. Vogler asked the Warden if there were other counties that have one of these boxes. The Warden said yes.

Mr. Lamancusa explained that the Chiefs of Police would like to have a live scan fingerprint machine at the jail. This gives an instant background check. This would also alleviate a lot of overtime. Ellwood City would like to give their live fingerprint machine to the county. Mr. Lamancusa will represent it when the details are worked out.

Mr. Vogler explained that there are safety grants available to the county that could possibly be used for this machine. Mr. Lamancusa asked the Commissioners if they could reach out to the board when it is time to apply.

Mr. Lamancusa reported that the budgeted revenue for out of county inmates is \$834,000.00. So far, collected revenue is \$194,125.00. The county has billed for January & February \$126,200.00. Revenue generated for January & February is \$434,000.00. The county should hit the budget revenue amount by the summer.

Deputy Warden of Operations Loretta Spielvogel talked about the need for housing juveniles as adults. Since the county jail has the space, it was decided to focus on the Interest of Justice juveniles. Ms. Spielvogel has created a brochure explaining the programming. Currently there are six (6) juvenile inmates that are in a unit that can house twenty-five (25). Ms. Spielvogel has visited Westmoreland County and is planning to visit other counties to explain the programming. Judge Motto explained that the Interest of Justice juveniles' hearings are being done remotely; therefore, the home county does not have to transport.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Mr. Vogler commented that Ms. Spielvogel developed an extensive network of contacts through CCAP during her term as Commissioner. She is very well recognized and thought of.

Mr. Kennedy commented that he had the opportunity to visit and tour the jail. He thanked the Warden, Deputy Wardens, and the staff. He said he is very proud of all of them and the job that they do.

Mr. Lamancusa also thanked the entire staff. He noted that they have very difficult and

dangerous jobs.


Debbie Wachter asked how much money is being spent when we send inmates to other counties versus taking inmates in? Mr. Lamancusa explained that was not factored in since the reason inmates get sent out is not the reason, they are being taken in. The Warden commented that the county is not spending anything.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sainato made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prestopine to adjourn the Lawrence County Prison Board meeting dated Monday, February 28, 2024, at 12:37 PM. Motion carried 7-0.



Dave Prestopine, Secretary