

LAWRENCE COUNTY PRISON BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF October 22, 2024

The Lawrence County Prison Board Meeting Wednesday, August 21, 2024, was called to order by **Chairman District Attorney Joshua Lamancusa**, at 12:00 pm at the Lawrence County Commissioners' Conference Room. Vanessa Bayless called the roll of those in attendance: **Commissioner Kennedy, District Attorney Lamancusa, Controller Prestopine, Sheriff Quahliero, Commissioner Sainato, and Commissioner Vogler**. LCC Warden Michael Mahlmeister, LCC Deputy Warden Spielvogel, LCC Deputy Warden Simmons were also in attendance. The meeting was recorded and notice of the use of audio recording equipment was disclosed to those present. Those wishing to comment during the proceedings were advised that each shall be allotted five minutes.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Quahliero and seconded by Commissioner Sainato to approve the minutes of August 21, 2024. Motion carried. 6-0.

POPULATION REPORT/PERSONNEL/REVENUE REPORT

Warden Mahlmeister gave the population report. There are currently 156 inmates, with (15) inmates out at other facilities. (12) inmates are from out of county, with (27) inmates being female, with (2) from Washington County. There are 3 juvenile inmates.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion made by Controller Prestopine, seconded by Sheriff Quahliero to approve the payment of the bills. Motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Warden Mahlmeister explained that the new Livescan machine is a piece of equipment that reads fingerprints linked to state identification databases to verify a person's identity.

Deputy Simmons and Warden Mahlmeister picked up a Livescan machine from Ellwood City Police Department and it is now operable. The State police are

working with the jail to schedule training on its use. The intelligence officer will be Administrator of the machine with no additional cost in salary. A fee of \$200 (max \$250) for entities (prisoners) will be assessed per use.

The District Attorney's office conducted and concluded the jail overdose death investigation. Charges were brought against 5 people. Charges will be filed when the Supervisor returns from training either at the end of this week or next week.

NEW BUSINESS

DA Lamancusa received two letters, from the Malloy Law Firm, one addressed to the District Attorney's Office on October 17, and one addressed to the Prison Board on October 22, 2024. These letters were related to the death of former inmate Donald J. Walter. DA Lamancusa will pass these letters on to Attorney Medure and our insurance company for further review and provide a copy of the letter to each prison board member.

DA Lamancusa has received a citizen request to explain the process and procedure related to placing money in an inmate's account. The Warden explained that there are four ways that an inmate can receive money: (1) kiosk is located outside the facility; (2) if an inmate has money on them when being incarcerated the money goes into their account, (3) a money order can be sent in, and (4) there is an 1-800 number you can call and use a credit card. The board had discussions on other ways to place money on the inmates' files and they decided that the above methods are sufficient.

Revenue to the jail facility in 2024 for housing out of county inmates is \$802,845. If the jail stopped collecting money today, the balance would be \$876,345, the expected revenue at the beginning of 2024 was \$800,000. The board requested a feasibility study on the cost of housing juveniles at the jail versus not providing that service.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sainato, seconded by Controller Prestopine to conduct a cost study analysis. Motion carried 6-0.

DA Lamancusa received a request from a member of a religious group to hold baptisms in the jail. Deputy Warden Spielvogel stated the female inmate group is completing a bible study at the jail and to complete the study they are requesting a full immersion baptism. Discussion was held between the board regarding feasibility and legality. The Warden stated full immersion baptisms are completed at the state and a tank can be brought in. DA Lamancusa stated he will contact Attorney Medure for further discussion.

DA Lamancusa received a letter from the department of corrections regarding the jail inspection. Items they recommended to be corrected have been addressed. The state will send a final letter stating the jail is in full compliance.

DA Lamancusa stated that the jail is in need of a part time maintenance apprentice position. DA Lamancusa and Controller Prestopine will work on a resolution to propose to the salary board. The rate shall be \$15.50/hr.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

12:35pm adjourned to have an executive session for personnel

Motion made by DA Lamancusa, seconded by Commissioner Vogler to approve the Executive Session. Motion carried 6-0.

1:10pm out of Executive Session.

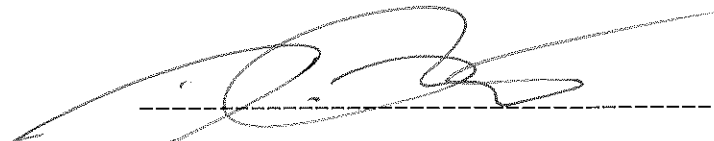
Motion made by Sheriff Quahliero, seconded by Controller Prestopine to come out of executive session. Commissioner Kennedy stepped out of the meeting.

On August 2nd, 2024, Officer Berger and on August 19th, 2024, Officer Lapowsky were terminated.

Motion made by Commissioner Vogler, seconded by Sheriff Quahliero to accept the terminations. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Controller Prestopine and seconded by Commissioner Sainato to adjourn the Lawrence County Prison Board meeting dated Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 1:14 PM. Motion carried 6-0.



Dave Prestopine, Secretary