

LAWRENCE COUNTY PRISON BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF August 21, 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, Judge Motto, Controller Prestopine, Sheriff Quahliero, Commissioner Sainato, and Commissioner Vogler**. LCC Warden Michael Mahlmeister, LCC Deputy Warden Spielvogel, LCC Deputy Warden Simmons and no one from the New Castle News 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. Sainato and seconded by Mr. Quahliero to approve the minutes of July 17, 2024. Motion carried. 7-0.

POPULATION REPORT/PERSONNEL/REVENUE REPORT

Warden Mahlmeister gave the population report. There are currently 156 inmates, with (17) inmates out at other facilities. (12) inmates are from out of county, with (8) inmates being female, with (2) from Washington County, (1) from Mercer County and (1) from Crawford County. There are 2 juvenile inmates. There are 150 beds available.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion made by Judge Motto, seconded by Mr. Prestopine to approve the payment of the bills. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

The Warden gave an update on the camera system. It is currently being worked on. They are completing (1) unit per week. Next week the company should wrap up the work and the Jail can start working out the “bugs” of the system.

The Warden stated the camera system is going very well and the staff is very receptive to the new system. All work should be done within the next (2) weeks.

The Jail Work Program was drafted prior to COVID. Josh has spoken with the Warden and the plan is to use low risk, low level offenders to complete public initiatives. Obviously, security and safety to guard the inmates will need to be reviewed and worked out. Josh will send a draft of the plan out to the members and they can respond by email. Other counties, including at one time, Lawrence County, has used this program in the past. Once the finalized copy is complete, Josh will send to the members and discussion can be held at a public meeting. This may be a good program to use at our County owned parks, utilizing savings, as we currently pay for our parks cleanup. The program will be open to the entire County.

On August 8th, a Jail inspection was conducted. The Warden was absent due to medical issues, however Deputy Warden Simmons and Deputy Warden Spielvogel were in attendance. Deputy Simmons stated the inspection went very well. They were in 100% compliance on documents. They are currently awaiting the preliminary findings and once those are submitted they will address the issues. Deputy Simmons stated it is a short list compared to other years and the best inspection in 28 years since he has worked at the Jail.

Regarding the fire suppression system, the Warden has spoken to County Administrator Venasco and has received (2) quotes. One company is working on becoming Costars. Josh stated that there is a direct link from the Jail to the 911 system.

NEW BUSINESS

The Warden updated everyone on the replacement of old broken non security doors and windows. He stated that the time frame to finish the doors is 3-4 months out. He also stated that the employees at the Jail are a great group of people and employees are doing the training they need to do to move the Jail forward.

Lisa Zarilla gave an update on the no cost extension grant. Josh stated this is medicated assisted treatment grant money that was already awarded and is an extension of 9 months to spend \$127,000.00.

Josh gave an update on LiveScan. This is a scanning process done at the Jail to determine the inmates' identity. Police officers in the County would like to utilize this for the inmates that are being directly incarcerated into our Jail. Josh will work on a proposal and that distributed to the Board.

There is a part time maintenance position open at the Jail that will be funded by the existing budget. Josh will distribute the form to the Board and then request a Salary Board meeting.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if there was an ambulance at the Jail a couple weeks ago? What happened and why wasn't the Board notified? Josh stated there was an ambulance called and that the matter is being investigated. Discussion was held on whether or not the Board wants to receive notifications for emergency situations vs. non emergency situations. Discussion was held on a weekly report update to the Board as well. The decision was made to do a blanket notification to all (7) members and then throttle the notifications back where/when needed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Debbie Wachter from the New Castle News is watching from home. Josh will answer her questions after the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Quahliero, seconded by Mr. Prestopine to adjourn the Lawrence County Prison Board meeting dated Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 12:30 PM. Motion carried 7-0.

Dave Prestopine, Secretary