

Minutes

MEETING OF BOARD OF INSPECTORS FOR THE POTTER COUNTY JAIL July 11, 2023, Gunzburger Building

CALL TO ORDER - Paul Heimel, Chair

ROLL CALL – Members Glenn Drake, Andy Watson, Stephen Minor, Barry Hayman, Nancy Grupp, Paul Heimel, all present. Administrator Jessica Giebel, present. Warden Angela Milford, absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

MINUTES – May 5, 2023; B. Hayman moved to approve; G. Drake seconded; all in favor. S. Minor and A. Watson, abstained.

GUEST SPEAKER – *Robert Reed, Pa. Attorney General's Office*

Discussed the role of jail management in re-entry strategy and services. Grants and technical assistance are available to support services provided in a jail to reduce recidivism by providing mental health and addiction treatment as well as other services. Mr. Reed recommended that Potter County follow the recommendations of the Pennsylvania Re-entry Council to develop a plan that meets the county's objectives.

OLD BUSINESS –

Beacon Software Solutions contract for advanced data collection, management and reporting services. G. Drake moved to approve; N. Grupp seconded; all in favor.

Re-entry Coalition Update: Potter County is already providing some re-entry services. Resurrection of the county's Re-entry Committee will be the topic for the next meeting of the county's Criminal Justice Advisory Board. Robert Reed will be guest speaker.

NEW BUSINESS --

Election of officers for August 2023 through July 2024

-Chair: A. Watson moved that Paul Heimel remain chair, B. Hayman seconded; all in favor. P. Heimel abstained.

-Vice Chair: N. Grupp moved that position be filled by the elected sheriff in 2024 and continue through 2023 with Glenn Drake, S. Minor seconded; all in favor.

-Secretary: G. Drake moved to keep Nancy Grupp as secretary; A. Watson seconded; all in favor.

-Controller: S. Minor moved to keep Barry Hayman as controller through his term and then pass on to his successor in office; N. Grupp seconded; all in favor.

Deputy Warden Vacancy

Commissioner Hayman cited several reasons that he believes the board should fill the position – it was recommended in the PCoRP Risk Management Assessment; it provides a separate level of management and accountability at the jail, and it reduces the burden on the Warden position.

Sheriff Drake expressed his opposition, citing the expense and other factors. He said he believes a higher priority is to address the shortage of Corrections Officers.

District Attorney Watson said he favors filling the position.

Judge Minor said he had carefully weighed many factors. He said he would support the motion only with the caveat that the Warden be fully involved in the selection process. S. Minor moved to approve the posting; B. Hayman seconded; roll call:

N. Grupp – yes; B. Hayman – yes; A. Watson – yes; G. Drake – no; P. Heimel – yes; S. Minor – yes. Motion carries.

REPORT FROM WARDEN –

--Warden Milford reported there are 27 inmates at the jail, with two serving on weekends only. Three inmates are engaged in work release. Seven Potter County females are housed in other counties.

--Two worship services are being held on weekends and a Bible study session is available weekly. Parenting classes are being held semiweekly and Potter County Human Services is offering life skills training – job interviewing, money management, nutrition and other topics.

--Installation of new video surveillance system planned for the week of July 10.

--A new ramp and railing on the North East Street side is nearing completion.

--Potter County Jail received a 100-percent compliance rating in the most recent Pa. Dept. of Corrections inspection.

GENERAL DISCUSSION –

S. Minor inquired about the use of the computer tablets provided to inmates through the county's contract with Encartele. He was advised that the tablets have been purchased.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Public meeting temporarily adjourned at 12:03 pm, to discuss personnel. MEETING REOPENED AT 12:17 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – N. Grupp moved to approve; G. Drake seconded; all in favor.

NEXT MEETING – September 1, 2023 - noon