

Minutes

MEETING OF BOARD OF INSPECTORS FOR THE POTTER COUNTY JAIL September 3, 2021, Gunzburger Building

CALL TO ORDER - Paul Heimel, Chair

MOMENT OF SILENCE/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – Members Glenn Drake, Andy Watson, Barry Hayman, Nancy Grupp, Paul Heimel, all present; Warden Angie Milford, present; Administrator Jessica Giebel, present; Solicitor Tom Shaffer, present; Member Stephen Minor was detained in court and arrived during the meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - (limited to 3 minutes per person)

Update from the Chair--Chairman Heimel announced that, going forward, public comments will be limited to items appearing on each month's meeting agenda, which will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of convening. This policy is being enacted to make the conduct of meetings more efficient, while respecting the other responsibilities of Jail Board members in their elective positions. In view of the policy, Secretary Grupp has advised that, to facilitate any additional public comment, anyone who wishes to share information or commentary, or ask questions on matters not appearing on each month's meeting agenda, will be able to do so through a dedicated email address, by phone, or in writing.

--Citizen Kim Goodenough expressed her opposition to the board's selection in August 2021 of a female to serve as warden in a male-only jail.

--Citizen Dan Cowburn questioned response time to emailed questions/concerns that do not appear on the agenda. Secretary Grupp responded that responses should be provided within 24 hours. If appropriate, items will be added to an upcoming meeting agenda.

MINUTES - August 6, 2021 Organizational Meeting -- B. Hayman moved, A. Watson second; all in favor

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS -

--Julia Alday from Cost Management Plus reviewed a proposed contract for providing telepsychiatry services at the jail through a contracted provider. She also reviewed Cost Management's ongoing services to Potter County, which have resulted in reduced expenses for medical care; and she advised of upcoming training opportunities for electronic record-keeping requirements and other topics.

--Colleen Wilber, chair of the county's Re-entry Work Group, provided a written summary of the group's preliminary mission statement and ongoing efforts to coordinate and support services provided in the jail to decrease recidivism by addressing factors that can lead to offenders continuing to violate the law upon their release.

WARDEN ANGELA MILFORD/REPORT & UPDATES

--Current jail census is 44, with 1 inmate on weekends, 5 on work release and 1 engaged in community service. Potter County is holding six out-of-county inmates. There are 13 Potter County females being held by contract in other jails.

--Warden Milford said discussions are being held with A Way Out and Narcotics Anonymous to provide services at the jail. She noted that COVID-19 coronavirus restrictions have limited personal contacts. A process will be put in place to provide COVID-19 vaccinations for those inmates who request them. She is awaiting confirmation from UPMC Cole on details.

GENERAL DISCUSSION - (issues, concerns, suggestions by members)

--Judge Minor expressed his support for enhancing services in the jail, which is an important consideration in the sentencing process. He pointed out that it's important for those with addiction to continue to follow the 12-Step Program while incarcerated and post-release.

--Members discussed the status of the current programs and options for in the areas of counseling, faith-based services, employment, literacy, life skills and addiction/mental health treatment.

--Dawn Dovensky, Clinical Social Worker, who sees inmates now as needed confirmed the need for psychiatric services at the jail.

--Former Warden Glenn Drake said the jail's inmate intake system needs to be updated. He also advised that an electronic record-keeping system should be a priority for the board and will likely be state-mandated at some point.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - (if warranted)

NEXT MEETING - October 1, 2021

ADJOURNMENT - G. Drake moved, B. Hayman second; all in favor.