The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Joshua Parsons at 9:15 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Lancaster County Administrative Office Building.

Members Present: Commissioner Joshua Parsons, Commissioner Ray D’Agostino, Commissioner Craig Lehman, President Judge David Ashworth, District Attorney Heather Adams, Sheriff Christopher Leppler, and Controller Brian Hurter.


Commissioner Parsons stated that the first order of business is the Prison Board reorganization:

Commissioner D’Agostino moved to approve that Commissioner Joshua Parsons be nominated as Chairman of the Prison Board. Commissioner Lehman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Controller Hurter moved to approve unanimously that Commissioner Ray D’Agostino be nominated as Vice Chairman of the Prison Board. Commissioner Lehman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

President Judge Ashworth moved to approve that Controller Brian Hurter be nominated as Secretary of the Prison Board. Sheriff Leppler seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Controller Hurter moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2019 Prison Board Meeting. Commissioner Parsons seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Cheryl Steberger, Warden; Robert Wolfe, Deputy Warden for Operations; Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services; William Aberts, Major/Security Operations; Tammy Moyer, Director of Administration; and Charlie Douts, Director of Facilities Management; gave reports on their areas of responsibility. All of these reports, including operations and statistical information, are posted on the County’s website.
Cheryl Steberger, Warden, welcomed the newly elected Prison Board members: President Judge David Ashworth, District Attorney Heather Adams, and Commissioner Ray D’Agostino.

Warden Steberger reported that the next PrisonStat meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Lancaster County Administrative Office Building.

Warden Steberger reported that the population as of this morning is 708. She reported that the average population at the Prison in December 2018 was 871 and was 785 in December 2019. She reported that on December 31, 2019 the population was 706. Warden Steberger stated that during 2019 there were 6,006 inmates who entered the Prison and 6,206 inmates were released.

Warden Steberger welcomed the new class of correctional officers that were in attendance.

Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that most of the staff are trained in the new Guardian Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system.

Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services, provided an update on the expanded vivitrol grant. He stated that they have given 62 injections since the grant was received in July 2019. He reported that right now they have a recidivism rate of 16.3% at 90 days in the vivitrol program. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that they work closely with the RASE Project and T.W. Ponessa to make sure these individuals receive follow up treatment when they are released.

Commissioner Parsons noted that Matthew Wagner has joined the Lancaster County Joining Forces Steering Committee.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that they have two vacancies. He stated that they are interviewing for the Inmate Trustee Coordinator position and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Case Management position has been posted to the website.

Matthew Wagner, Reentry Program Manager, provided an update on reentry services. He reported that they are now on their sixth reentry class. He stated that there has been a total of 32 participants in the program to date. Mr. Wagner stated that the 23
individuals who have completed the class have been released, with one person returning on a new charge.

Mr. Wagner reported that Marisol Garcia continues to meet with individuals in the community two days per week at the Adult Probation & Parole Office and Career Link offering support services and helping individuals navigate the community services available. He reported that they are partnering with a professor at F&M College to work on some job inquiry interest surveys with the individuals in the reentry class, as well as offering ongoing vocational support after they are released.

Mr. Wagner reported that he and Christina Fluegel are active members of the Lancaster County Reentry Coalition and meet monthly with the group.

Mr. Wagner reported that they will be starting a pilot program with the Lancaster General Hospital (LGH) to reach out to people who have gone to the Downtown Family Medicine Office at some point in their lives to reconnect them with a primary care physician. The pilot will start with individuals from the reentry class and may be expanded to individuals in the vivitrol program.

Mr. Wagner reported that he and Christina Fluegel are also active members of Bethany Christian Services and the Renew program, which is an intensive care management program for expectant mothers who have substance abuse disorders.

William Aberts, Major/Security Operations, reported the officer of the month for December: Third Shift, Officer Charles Horn. Officer Horn was unable to attend the meeting.

Major Aberts reported that the control panel project is at a standstill due to vendor complications. He stated that a meeting is scheduled for today at 2:00 p.m. with the vendor.

Major Aberts reported that the camera project is continuing to progress nicely. He stated that IB Abel has begun to install the cameras in the facility and expects all the cameras will be operational by mid-March.

Major Aberts provided an update on the Guardian Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) project. He reported that the devices are working well, and they are currently working out bugs and programming issues.

Major Aberts reported that shelves will be installed for the radio chargers tomorrow. He stated that once the shelves are installed, they will receive the new radios from the vendor and distribute them to the staff.
Tammy Moyer, Director of Administration, reported that the Board of Commissioners approved the installation of inmate tablets and digital mail on December 24, 2019. She stated that Cody Scheid is the project manager for this program. She reported the go-live date for this project will be in May 2020.

Ms. Moyer reported that a Fiscal Technician position has been posted on the website.

Charlie Douts, Director of Facilities Management, reported that all of the vacant positions have been filled with outside contractors except for one electrician position.

Mr. Douts reported that there were four capital items approved in the Facilities 2020 budget, which were $29,000 for the 1021B door replacement, $20,000 for the ice machine replacement, $33,000 for the kitchen steam kettle replacement, and $25,000 for the kitchen tilt skillet replacement. He stated that they have more maintenance items listed in their budget and are hopeful the County will consider some of these projects.

In business from guests, Neil Ward, Have A Heart, made a comment regarding “Ban the Box” and gave his opinion on why the County should remove the question from County applications. He stated that he would like to see the County have a resolution to adopt “Ban the Box”.

Controller Hurter moved to adjourn at 9:42 a.m. Commissioner Lehman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Lancaster County Prison Board will be February 20, 2020 at 9:15 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Lancaster County Administrative Office Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K. Hurter
Secretary