

MEETING MINUTES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
Board of Prison Inspectors
February 10, 2022

*THE BOARD MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM, BUT WITH
VICE-PRESIDENT NANCY WIEMAN REPRESENTING
THE BOARD ON-SITE AT MCCF*

CALL TO ORDER: The *ZOOM* meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. with an Executive Session. Following that, the public session started with a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: President Andrew Szekely, Vice-president Nancy Wieman, David Reed, Craig Browne, Ted Baird, Solicitor Brian Phillips and Secretary Richard Dresher. **Absent:** William Catania

PRISON STAFF: Warden Sean McGee, Assistant Wardens Marcy D’Orazio, Sean Smith and Tom Berger; Majors Joseph Interrante, Scott Moyer, and; Lieutenant Ronald Baker. **Administrative:** Gary Chesney, Kathy Brighter, Chaplain Kevin Bone and Chaplain Drew Deagler (Ret.). **PrimeCare Medical:** Todd Haskins, Joe Lynch, P.J. McTiernan, Tiffany Morykan and Kelly Ehrich.

PUBIC IN ZOOM MEETING: The public is invited to attend at the facility...when open to visitors again... or on *ZOOM* when meetings are held via that medium. None attended or watched.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES:

Motion to Approve:
Reed

Second:
Wieman

Board Approval:
Unanimous

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bid Approvals: The following are recommendations by Warden McGee for bid approvals. Bids are to be awarded to lowest responsible bidders that meet the specifications and requirements set forth in the request for bid. ***NOTE:*** By County standards, the most qualified bidder is not always the lowest bidder. In some cases, "Highest Rated" or "Best Value to the County," may be awarded a bid. And contracts may be awarded to approved Costar vendors without competitive bids.

As of January 2022, the new threshold dollar amount for large bids is now \$21,900...formerly \$21,300. Anything above that must be approved by the Board and accompanied with a signed resolution.

o Groceries, Meats, and Provisions: One hundred and eighty-four companies were sent a request for bid; 26 downloaded it; and 7 submitted bids. The following are recommended to accept:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Number of Items</u>
-ACE Endico	45
-W. Valarios Produce	35
-Driscoll Foods	20
-Feesers, Inc	9
-Chesapeake Corp.	2
-Godshall's Meats	1
-United Sales USA Corp	<u>1</u>
<i>Total</i>	113

Motion to Approve:
Wieman

Second:
Browne

Board Approval:
Unanimous

APPROVAL OF WAGES, INVOICES, AND MONTHLY REPORTS:

Motion to Approve:
Wieman

Second:
Baird

Board Approval:
Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE: Assistant Warden Smith received an email from lawyer Peter Kratsa thanking him for his accessibility and professionalism in answering questions about the status of MCCF's work release program for incoming inmates,

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PROMOTIONS: Four deserving and qualified staff were promoted:

- o Major Thomas Berger promoted to Assistant Warden for Custody/Security.
- o Lieutenant Pete Sithens promoted to Captain.
- o Sergeant Ronald Baker promoted to Lieutenant.
- o Corporal Rosania McCracken promoted to Sergeant.

RETIREMENTS: Chaplain Drew Deagler retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the inmates and staff. We wish him well in his retirement years.

INTRODUCTION: We welcome Reverend Kevin Bone to MCCF to fill the position left by Chaplain Deagler's retirement. We wish him well in his new position.

COMMENDATIONS: None

WARDEN REPORTS:

Warden McGee:

- o The Covid situation has improved over last month. Only one staff member out. As for inmates, 742 were tested, including 357 PCR and 385 Rapid Antigen tests. One hundred tested "positive." Currently, there are 56 in isolation and 74 in quarantine. Still many challenges.
- o Should Covid remain relatively under control, suggest that the Board meeting be held on-site with only minimal exposure to inmates with some type of limited inspection.
- o Pre-trial services will be fully operational starting February 14th. MCCF will be a central arraignment court location for many police departments. Inmate will be booked and referred to Pre-trial services for their confer. There is pressure to expand to other departments, however there is concern over overloading the Admissions/Discharge Department with too many incoming and outgoing inmates at once. Fear it could increase the potential for error in releases.
- o About 100 winter jackets of all sizes were purchased from Walmart to fill the need of inmates being released into winter weather.

Assistant Warden Sean Smith *Community Corrections Center*

- o **Inmate Video Visits:** Two hundred and ninety four inmates signed up, but only 105 visitors followed through.]
- o **Work Release:** No room and board was returned to the Treasurer. There was a total of 11 inmates on Work Release wearing GPS ankle bracelets and living in the community with officers monitoring their activities.
- o **Community Farm Task Program:** There were no inmates on the farm due to the lower population causing a diminished pool of eligible inmates.

Assistant Warden Thomas Berger *Custody/Security.*

- o **Population:** The inmate population as of meeting day:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL*</u>
February	807	92	899

*Not all housed within the facility.

o Training: There were 1304 hours of training which included 456 in-service and 548 pre-service.

o Tours of the Facility: There were none due to the quarantine.

o Contraband: There have been increased attempts to introduce drugs into the jail via legal appearing mail soaked in K2, liquid cocaine, or liquid marijuana. In the past two months, there are 7 open cases. Four apprehensions were just made which included two outside perpetrators and two inmates. Intended was personal use or for sale within the jail. The staff has initiated several new safeguards such as calling the attorney to verify he/she sent it. Other steps may be taken to inspect incoming legal mail. In the meantime, Board Solicitor Phillips has already discussed MCCF's plans to deter "treated" mail with the County Public Defender's office and the Chairman of the Montco Bar Association. Efforts will be taken by MCCF to not violate any laws

Assistant Warden Marcy D'Orazio

Programs/Administration/Finance/Operations/Female

o Administrative Dispositions: A total of 10 inmates were completed during the month of January and the average length of sentence was 3.4 to 12 months.

o Preliminary Hearing Video Waiver Program: There were 263 *ZOOM* hearings, including 251 Common Pleas and 12 Preliminary Hearings. Such hearings are being held in multiple locations in the jail.

o Professional Video Visits: There were 542 video visits.

o Veterans' Court: There were 5 inmates in the program with no admissions, and no graduations.

o Behavioral Health Court: There were 38 participants with 1 admission and no discharges or graduations.

o Inmate Transfers: Due to Covid spike last month, the DOC was not taking any sentenced inmates. In February, however, the transfers resumed. Currently at MCCF, there are 53 male inmates with completed paperwork; 29 are scheduled; 8 leave on February 14th; and 5 on the 15th. Females will leave on the 17th. Twenty-four inmates have no date yet as to when they go upstate.

o Budget: We are working with the County with the capital budget and considering three main areas of concern:

-Honeywell upgrade of HVAC controls: Current controls are outdated and antiquated with parts unavailable.

-Replacement of HVAC units: This will be a multi-year project starting With two 25-ton units.

-Roof replacement: Will be phased and done over several years. Have been working with the County who has offered assistance and guidance. Hoping to get competitive quotes and the best prices.

INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: Staff completed inspections and reported back to the Board. However, if Covid cases among the inmates subsides further, the Board will meet on-site in March and resume some safe approach to inspections.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: None.

BOARD MEMBER'S AND OTHER REMARKS: None

NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday March 10, 2022

ADJOURNMENT: 9:30 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: *Richard J. Dresher*
Board Secretary