

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Fayette County Prison Board was called to order on Wednesday, November 27, 2013 at 10:45am at the Fayette County Prison, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401 by Commissioner Ambrosini.

Roll Call:

**The Following Board Members were Present at the Time of Roll Call:**

District Attorney Jack Heneks  
Controller Sean Lally  
Commissioner Alfred F. Ambrosini  
Commissioner Vincent Zapotosky  
Commissioner Angela M. Zimmerlink

**The Following Board Member was Present after Roll Call:**

None

**The Following Board Member was absent at the Time of Roll Call:**

Sheriff Gary Brownfield

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of September 2013 Meeting Minutes:

**Moved by Commissioner Zimmerlink and Seconded by Commissioner Zapotosky:**

<b>Sheriff Brownfield</b>	-	<b>Absent</b>
<b>District Attorney Heneks</b>	-	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Controller Lally</b>	-	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Commissioner Ambrosini</b>	-	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Commissioner Zapotosky</b>	-	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Commissioner Zimmerlink</b>	-	<b>Aye</b>

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

Public Comment:

**Kathleen Jones** commented on agenda item eight. She said she has concerns with abuse and illegally drugging of inmates to force construction of a new prison. She has a problem with the Warden not allowing her chapel visits.

**District Attorney Heneks** said she is allowed to address but not state guilty of. This is clearly improper.

**Warden Miller** stated her comments are false.

**Commissioner Zapotosky** asked if there was follow up with Ms. Jones after meeting with her in September.

**Warden Brian Miller** answered no.

**Commissioner Zapotosky** asked if a determination was made with the items discussed at the meeting.

**Warden Brian Miller** answered yes but does not know to what extent he can elaborate on them. He said she is accusing the prison of drugging inmates and they are not.

**Commissioner Ambrosini** stated it is beyond the capability of the jail to force drugs or medical treatment on anybody.

**Kathleen Jones** stated it took two weeks for an inmate to know what drugs he was being given, then it was too late for him to be take off, and she has proof.

**Commissioner Ambrosini** stated the board has accountability and cannot force inmates to take drugs against their will.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** asked what the policy is for use of the chapel at the Fayette county Prison.

**Warden Brian Miller** answered the chapel is used for contact visits and church services. If someone wants to use the chapel they are to contact the Chaplin either verbally or in writing. The Chaplin does the scheduling and runs it past the warden. Requirements are asked for.

**Kathleen Jones** said she has been told she is not allowed to use the chapel.

**Warden Brian Miller** asked Kathleen Jones if received a 30 minute clergy visit last week.

**Kathleen Jones** answered she received a 20 minute visit via phone with guards screaming and cursing in the background but not in the chapel.

**Warden Brian Miller** stated she can use the chapel if it is not being used.

**Commissioner Zapotosky** informed Kathleen Jones to possibly request the meeting in writing so there are no disputes.

**Warden Brian Miller** asked Kathleen Jones if she reported the guards who were cursing at her.

**Kathleen Jones** answered the guards were not cursing at her and she informed The Chaplin of it.

Approval of November 2013 Bills:

**Moved by Controller Lally and Seconded by District Attorney Heneks:**

**Sheriff Brownfield** - **Absent**

**District Attorney Heneks** - **Aye**

**Controller Lally** - **Aye**

**Commissioner Ambrosini** - **Aye**

**Commissioner Zapotosky** - **Aye**

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** - **Aye**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

Population Report:

**Warden Brian Miller** reported the following:

245 Inmates are housed in Fayette County Prison (207 Males and 38 Females)

38 Inmates are housed Outside of Fayette County Prison

2 Inmates are housed in Bedford County Prison

16 Inmates are housed in Butler County Prison

2 Inmates are housed in Cambria County Prison

5 Inmates are housed in Center County Prison

13 Inmates are housed in Greene County Prison (5 Males and 8 Females)

\$2,280 is the daily cost and \$68,400 is the monthly cost with the numbers provided above.

Court Administrator:

**Commissioner Zapotosky** and **District Attorney Heneks** stated their interests in receiving more information pertaining to the lease agreements for central court.

**District Attorney Heneks** discussed the need for central court is causing issues with schedules of the magistrates, judges, public defenders, and district attorney's.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** said the prison board has no say over that and it is between the public defender, district attorney, the court administrator, and the president judge.

**District Attorney Heneks** stated he agrees but yet a central court could help with scheduling issues.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** said the it's not necessary the place but the dates

**District Attorney Heneks** agreed and stated there are two different issues.

Personnel:

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** said she called Dominick and he said he had no personnel issues. She asked him about the email he sent regarding a corrections officer and Dominick stated he is not prepared to discuss it with the prison board. She asked about another issues concerning FMLA.

**Controller Lally** stated he has not heard anything concerning the FMLA being extended over the period.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** asked about corrections officer Mike Hicks' status on his concern with workers com and how it has been handled.

**Warden Brian Miller** said it is being resolved through HR.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** said she would like to know the status of the DOC inspections.

**Warden Brian Miller** said he is waiting on a final report but it should be ready in mid-January.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** asked how much of the policies have been written and addressed.

**Warden Brian Miller** answered around 40%.

Public Comment:

**William Jones** stated he has questions and comments. He asked if the numbers and reasons inmates are incarcerated are published anywhere. He would like to know non-violent verses violent inmates because they believe the prison is being forcibly overcrowded due to the new prison issue. He said he was aware of the medications an inmate was on because he lived with him prior to incarnation and they are not what he is now on. The inmate is being forced to take drugs. He said the inmate asked why he was being given them and was told not to worry about it. He was told what they were two weeks later.

**Kathleen Jones** asked for the inmates records.

**District Attorney Heneks** said that could be a prisoner's violation of HIPPA.

**Commissioner Zapotosky** said only the prisoner can discuss or release their records.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** stated the solicitors should be contacted to make sure there are no issues the jail is not following.

**Warden Brian Miller** said to please do that so this can be laid to rest.

**William Jones** stated they have documentation with everything that has been said and information from prison personnel from other counties on how Fayette County treats their inmates which is appalling.

**District Attorney Heneks** said that is called double hear say.

**Kathleen Jones** stated this is not court and if he don't like it he can sue her.

**William Jones** said he has on video Jack calling him sex offender. He is a Veteran and took major offense to that because it is false.

**Warden Brian Miller** stated that has nothing to do with the Prison Board.

**Commissioner Ambrosini** said he would appreciate the discussion staying civil.

**William Jones** stated he would like answer to the first question he asked.

**Warden Brian Miller** said that information should be on the county website but he'll have to check. He said it is also on UJS public website the information could be on.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** stated the president judge and the court administrator has asked for more specific jail reports so the courts can determine what inmates may be eligible for day reporting.

**Warden Brian Miller** said they are working on that.

**Kathleen Jones** stated for public records the gentleman in question is in prison because he cannot afford to pay child support.

**William Jones** said the man has had employment opportunities closed on him.

**Attorney Jack Heneks** stated that is hear say. The district attorney's office is not involved in any domestic relations issues so any child support related order is not involved with his office.

**District Attorney Heneks** said since he missed the initial vote on the prison due to attending a Penn State conference on multi-disciplinary child abuse on September 25<sup>th</sup> during the prison board meeting. He would like to state for the record that he is in favor and has been in favor of a new prison. He whole heartedly supports that. He has went through two months of drug and alcohol discussions with doctors and recovering addicts. He has grown to understand the need to have a facility to have an active drug and alcohol component. There is a day reporting center

but there needs to be something in house that the prison does not have right now. The inevitable is being postponed by sentencing the individuals who have drug and alcohol problems. He is fully in support of the prison and cannot wait for it to be built. It will certainly help the district attorney's office. He sees the concerns Fayette County residents have with how drugs have taken over. Parents and neighbors are being robbed by family members. Retail thefts have increased to feed their habits. Those are the fears going on in the community right now. A jail is going to be a step in the direction to show Fayette County's committed to get an outcome to benefit the community that will outweigh the cost of building it.

**Commissioner Zapotosky** conversed about the intense discussions held at the CCAP concerning the plaguing drug problems throughout Pennsylvania.

**Commissioner Ambrosini** said finally there is enough leadership to make the right decisions even though they are tough and complicated decisions. All opportunities are taken advantage of to help people. Innovation programing designed to help people in the facilities can be developed and implemented and can be a model for Pennsylvania.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** stated she invites anyone to read the September 2007 minutes of the prison board on how issues were addressed unanimously with her lead.

Adjournment:

**Moved by District Attorney Heneks and Seconded by Controller Lally:**

**Sheriff Brownfield** - **Absent**

**District Attorney Heneks** - **Aye**

**Controller Lally** - **Aye**

**Commissioner Ambrosini** - **Aye**

**Commissioner Zapotosky** - **Aye**

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** - **Aye**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**