



County of Lackawanna

Lackawanna County
Administration Building
200 Adams Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania
18503

Meeting Minutes Prison Board

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

12:00 PM

Commissioner's Conference Room

Call To Order

Commissioner Corey D. O'Brien called the meeting to order at 12:04pm.

Present 6 - Corey D. O'Brien, Andrew Jarbola, Gary DiBileo, Patrick O'Malley, Judge Vito Geroulo, and Mark McAndrew

Absent 1 - Jim Wansacz

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by District Attorney Andrew Jarbola, seconded by Commissioner Patrick O'Malley, that this be Dispense with the Reading and Approve as Prepared. The motion carried by the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Corey D. O'Brien, Andrew Jarbola, Gary DiBileo, Patrick O'Malley, Judge Vito Geroulo, and Mark McAndrew

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board (Agenda Items Only)

Motions

[14-1061](#)

Motion to approve all current payables for the Community Corrections Center, Juvenile Detention Center, and the Prison.

Attachments: [3H502JLZ.pdf0](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Corey D. O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Patrick O'Malley, that this Motion be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Corey D. O'Brien, Andrew Jarbola, Gary DiBileo, Patrick O'Malley, Judge Vito Geroulo, and Mark McAndrew

Reports

[14-1064](#)

Controller's Report

Attachments: [Controllers Prison Report 11192014](#)

A motion was made by Judge Vito Geroulo, seconded by Sheriff Mark McAndrew, that this Report be Accepted as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Corey D. O'Brien, Andrew Jarbola, Gary DiBileo, Patrick O'Malley, Judge Vito Geroulo, and Mark McAndrew

[14-1062](#)

Community Corrections Center Report

Attachments: [Prison Bd Report - October 2014](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Patrick O'Malley, seconded by Judge Vito Geroulo, that this Report be Accepted as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Corey D. O'Brien, Andrew Jarbola, Gary DiBileo, Patrick O'Malley, Judge Vito Geroulo, and Mark McAndrew

[14-1063](#)

Warden's Report

Attachments: [Warden's Report 11-2014](#)
[OT Comparison 2014](#)
[Prison Board Report Yearly Comparison](#)
[Women's Work Release Report 10-2014](#)
[comm serv report 10-2014](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Patrick O'Malley, seconded by Controller Gary DiBileo, that this Report be Accepted as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

Controller Gary DiBileo: the rash of suicides we have had at the facility, can you comment on the morale of the prison employees? And the overtime at the prison, the little feedback I get, overtime is an additional shift basically.

Warden: whenever there is a death or a suicide at the prison it always affects the staff. We have had counsel present. Another impact on morale, is the ongoing CBA negotiations. And when 20% of your staff is utilizing FMLA, that's 20% of your staff that's not there; it is as high as it has been.

Commissioner Corey O'Brien: doctors notes revived, and cannot work over 40 hours a week, get on intermitting FMLA, so when mandated, they produce the note, which then puts a wears on the other officers. Im not suggested that they aren't entitled to it, just suggesting that that wears on the scheduling and the facility.

Judge Vito Geroulo: I do have concerns on the impact that would be felt by the CO's that have to cut somebody down- have there been requests made by CO's in that situation to see a doctor- a protocol to follow? Time off for the individual in that situation, as it could impact good judgments, or perhaps be put in a similar situation.

Warden: absolutely- they are referred through the Worker's Compensation process, to Mr. Jones.

Commissioner Corey O'Brien: Rick Jones, Insurance/Workers Compensation Dept. prescribes them to the appropriate doctor for care. So that it is paid for, under our insurance.

Judge Vito Geroulo: is there room for a new protocol, as those who suffer may be reluctant to come forward; situation, you must go through this process, you must see these doctors, must sit down and then a determination will be made on them carrying a weapon and transporting a prisoner, you know, 10 hours after a situation like that has occurred.

Warden: sure, a critical incident team; it takes the formation of that with the approved doctor from the list.

Commissioner Corey O'Brien: one of the things I am thinking about, that the Judge was saying, like police departments, a policy being if an officer discharges a weapon then you are on desk duty, maybe something like that, where there are automatically put on another assignment and have provided that care for them, and then when confident they are ready to return to their normal shift.

Warden: unfortunately at the Prison, there are very few positions that are not stressful. 80% are dealing with the inmates.

Commissioner Corey O'Brien: what we are talking about, is figure it out.

Judge Vito Geroulo: can't continue to say that 'this is how it's been done', we have had a rash of serious incidents, it has got to have an impact on the employees, as it has an impact on the inmates who would find themselves so desperate that they would do this. But, I think we would be remiss if we just say, we have had a bad run of things, but we have to be reviewing our procedures, which ties in with the letter I sent to you after the last Board meeting, asking what recommendations were made by the Federal Government with their prisons, and are we going to do the same.

Commissioner Corey O'Brien: is there a State protocol? Other facilities in the Commonwealth have to have a policy with respect to traumatic incident. Has to be some protocols out there with respect to how we treat our professionals. What does the State do? Federal Government do? We need a new policy.

Warden: the State has psych staff in every prison-they have that manpower available to them- they have that kind of staff on duty.

Commissioner Corey O'Brien: right, but just because we don't have that kind of staff on duty, doesn't mean we can't engage a professional in our local community to provide the services when the service is needed. To assist, individuals can be referred.

Judge Vito Geroulo: we should be looking at what policies are in place at other county prisons. It would be immoral for us to not do something about this situation. What are we doing about our procedures to make sure we are not dealing with a suicide a month? How does this keep happening?

Commissioner Corey O'Brien: we would like you (Warden) to work on this, and make sure that we are doing everything we can, that everyone receive the appropriate treatment. So please look into that, and draft up a policy, that we can discuss.

Controller Gary DiBileo: I think it is time for us to be pro-active, to make sure our prisoners and staff are as safe as possible.

Aye: 6 - Corey D. O'Brien, Andrew Jarbola, Gary DiBileo, Patrick O'Malley, Judge Vito Geroulo, and Mark McAndrew

[14-1065](#)

Motion to order and direct the Warden to solicit three plans from comprehensive counties, to compare the procedures of their suicide prevention, so that we can compare.

A motion was made by Judge Vito Geroulo, seconded by Commissioner Corey D. O'Brien, that this Motion be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Corey D. O'Brien, Andrew Jarbola, Gary DiBileo, Patrick O'Malley, Judge Vito Geroulo, and Mark McAndrew

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

(Regarding the request for Executive Session) Solicitor David Solfanelli: security concerns involves several areas, investigations, personnel and procedures that effect the security and wellbeing of the prison, that as a public matter create a risk.

Commissioner Corey O'Brien: Motion to enter into executive session. Sheriff Mark McAndrew seconded the motion. Vote 6-0.
Public meeting resumed at 12:55pm.

Member's Other Business

Adjournment

A motion was made by Controller Gary DiBileo, seconded by Judge Vito Geroulo, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Corey D. O'Brien, Andrew Jarbola, Gary DiBileo, Patrick O'Malley, Judge Vito Geroulo, and Mark McAndrew