

# **Minutes**

## **MEETING OF BOARD OF INSPECTORS FOR THE POTTER COUNTY JAIL May 5, 2023, Gunzburger Building**

CALL TO ORDER - Paul Heimel, Chair

ROLL CALL – Members Nancy Grupp, Barry Hayman, Glenn Drake, Paul Heimel, all present. Stephen Minor and Andy Watson, absent. Administrator Jessica Giebel, present. Warden Angela Milford, present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

MINUTES – March 3, 2023; G. Drake moved to approve; B. Hayman seconded; all in favor.

GUEST SPEAKER – Mark Higgins, Centre County Prison Board  
Centre County’s Prison Board was re-energized approximately 10 years ago. More services were provided and coordination improved between departments and the court system. As a result of this coordinated approach and teamwork, the number of inmates who reoffended following release from prison fell by upwards of 50 percent. A ripple effect has been a better relationship among county departments. Having a more engaged Prison Board brings with it additional perspectives and scrutiny that reduce the risk of litigation and diffuse issues that could otherwise fester. eyes on potential issues and litigation. Centre County has created a full-time re-entry specialist position and developed partnerships with employers in the community for placement of inmates who are emerging with work skills.

### NEW BUSINESS

*Ken Horne, Beacon Software Solutions*

Mr. Horne met with Warden Milford to review data software that Beacon offers in seven other counties. Training is provided to staff and technical support is available 24/7. The system is capable of generating a wide variety of reports based on users’ needs. Mr. Horne was advised to draft a contract for review by the Jail Board and the Board of Commissioners.

*Harry Wilson/Encartele*

Jail Board members recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve for approval of Encartele’s contract proposal to provide computer tablets and services in the jail. Mr. Wilson answered members’ questions about the fees and the percentage of revenue collected from inmates by Encartele and remitted to the county. Board

members believe that a system should be in place for expending the funds. Among options discussed were assisting low-income inmates with data usage fees and GD training expenses. Discussions will continue.

#### OLD BUSINESS –

Chair Heimel reported that the county received a draft report from the consultants who conducted a workshop on implementing additional re-entry services for jail inmates. Once the team has received input from Potter County, a final implementation plan will be submitted.

#### REPORT FROM WARDEN –

--Warden Milford reported there are 26 inmates at the jail, with one serving on work release. There are 10 females being housed in other counties.

--Two worship services and a Bible study session are being held weekly.

--Group drug and alcohol sessions are being held. Narcotics Anonymous recovery meetings are coming in the future.

--Potter County Human Services is providing programs such as parenting skills, life skills and job interview skills. GED training is also available.

--Wiring has been installed for the new video surveillance system.

--A new handicapped accessibility ramp is being constructed.

--Body scanner options are being.

--Job openings for the jail will now be posted via the Indeed online hiring platform.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION –

Sheriff Drake said he supports the acquisition of a thumbprint scanning system for corrections officers' time keeping. Further research will be conducted.

NEXT MEETING – July 7, 2023 - noon

ADJOURNMENT – G. Drake moved to approve; B. Hayman seconded; all in favor.