WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016

A MEETING OF THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY PRISON BOARD WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016 AT 11:00 AM IN THE COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM.

ATTENDING: PRESIDENT JUDGE WILLIAM BALDWIN; COMMISSIONER GEORGE F. HALCOVAGE, JR.; COMMISSIONER FRANK J. STAUDENMEIER; COMMISSIONER GARY HESS; CONTROLLER JOY; DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHRISTINE HOLMAN; SHERIFF GROODY; COUNTY SOLICITOR AL MARSHALL; AND INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GARY BENDER.

ALSO ATTENDING: DEPUTY SHERIFF, BRIAN TOBIN; WARDEN GENE BERDANIER; HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR/RISK MANAGER, MARTINA CHWASTIAK; PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, PAUL FETTEROLF; FRANK KOMYKOSKI, PRIMECARE VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF PRIMECARE.

SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY COMMISSIONER HALCOVAGE AND BEGAN WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER HALCOVAGE ASKED IF EVERYONE HAD TIME TO READ OVER THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2016 PRISON BOARD MEETING AND IF THERE WERE ANY ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS.

MOTION

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER STAUDENMEIER, AND SECONDED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY HOLMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

STATE OF PRISON REPORT

WARDEN BERDANIER GAVE THE FOLLOWING STATE OF PRISON REPORT:

FINANCIAL REPORT:

BUDGET INFORMATION FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2016:

REVENUE:

$ 1,560	-	ROOM & BOARD FROM THE WORK RELEASE PROGRAM
$ 6,121.49	-	REIMBURSED EXPENDITURE
$ 3,200	-	SOCIAL SECURITY

TOTAL REVENUE - $10,881.49

EXPENDITURES:

$225,573.47	-	SALARIES/WAGES
$ 23,628.04	-	OVERTIME
$ 700	-	IN LIEU OF BENEFITS
$ 6,411.39	-	MATERIALS & SUPPLIES
$ 1,732.90	-	CLOTHING & BEDDING
$ 26,411.91	-	GROCERIES
$ 2,224.35	-	CLEANING SUPPLIES
$ 13,961.99	-	FUEL, ELECTRIC, WATER & SEWER
$ 82,100	-	TEMPORARY HOUSING
$ 80,860.28	-	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
$ 1,182.26	-	TRAVEL EXPENSES
$ 1,165.36	-	OTHER
$ 727.55	-	NON-PAYROLL COMMISSIONS & EXPENSES
$ 6,188.51	-	MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
$ 8,599.70	-	MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS
$ 77.00	-	COPIER-CAPITAL LEASES

TOTAL EXPENDITURES - $481,544.71

PHYSICAL PLANT:

PAINTING OF GENERAL HALLWAYS AND OTHER AREAS ARE BEING COMPLETED.

BOTH COUNTY VEHICLES WERE INSPECTED AT STS.

WACOR ELECTRONICS WAS CONTACTED TO ADDRESS A COMPUTER CONCERN IN B CONTROL ROOM.

GTL WAS ON SITE TO REPAIR SOME INMATE PHONES. PARTS WERE ORDERED AND SERVICE WILL BE COMPLETED SOON.

PATCHED SOME MINOR CONCRETE AREAS IN CELLS AND CELL BLOCK AREAS AS NEEDED.

BASKETBALL RIM IN F YARD NEEDED TO BE WELDED.

THE STAFF PARKING LOT/MAIN DRIVEWAY LEADING TO THE SECURE FRONT GATE ENTRANCE, IS IN POOR CONDITION. I WILL CONTACT THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR FOR A PLAN OF ACTION DIRECTION.

THE STEAMER IN THE KITCHEN WAS REPAIRED BY K&D. THE STEAMER HAS BEEN REPAIRED NUMEROUS TIMES AS MENTIONED AT PRIOR MEETINGS. I HAVE SPOKEN TO THE GENERAL MANAGER OF TRINITY FOOD SERVICES AND HE HAS PROPOSED TO REPLACE SOME NECESSARY KITCHEN EQUIPMENT AS PART OF AN ADDENDUM TO OUR CURRENT FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT. NO DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME BUT A MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED.

POPULATION REPORT:

A CENSUS REPORT WAS PROVIDED TO BOARD MEMBERS AND ATTACHED TO THEIR AGENDAS.

THE TOTAL AVERAGE INMATE POPULATION FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2016 WAS 214 INMATES.

THE AVERAGE MALE POPULATION WAS AT 171, AND THE AVERAGE FEMALE POPULATION WAS 43.

THE PEAK INMATE CENSUS FOR JULY, 2016 WAS 221 INMATES, AND THE PEAK FEMALE INMATE CENSUS WAS 48 INMATES.

TODAY'S TOTAL POPULATION IS 202 INMATES WITH 154 BEING MALE INMATES AND 48 BEING FEMALE INMATES.

AT THE TIME OF THIS REPORT, WARDEN BERDANIER SAID 45 INMATES ARE BEING HOUSED ELSEWHERE: 25 IN DELAWARE COUNTY; 13 IN COLUMBIA COUNTY AND 7 IN CENTRE COUNTY.

MEDICAL REPORT:

A 2016 STATISTICAL REPORT FROM PRIMECARE MEDICAL, INC. FOR THE MONTH OF JULY IS ATTACHED TO THE BOARD MEMBERS' AGENDAS.

THERE WERE 155 COMMITMENTS PROCESSED BY THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.
THERE WERE 10 X-RAYS AND 16 EKG'S TAKEN IN-HOUSE BY MOBILE X-RAY IMAGING, INC.
THERE WERE NO HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS.
THERE WERE 5 OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS.
THERE WERE 27 INMATES SEEN BY THE DOCTOR AT SICK CALL.
THERE WERE 96 INMATES SEEN BY THE NURSE PRACTITIONER/PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT.
THERE WERE 168 INMATES SEEN BY THE NURSE AT SICK CALL.
THERE WERE 30 INMATES SEEN BY THE DENTIST.

WARDEN BERDANIER INFORMED THE BOARD THAT AFTER READING THE MEDICAL REPORT IF ANYONE HAS ANY QUESTIONS TO PLEASE CONTACT HIM.

PROGRAMMING:

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ADULT PROBATION/ PAROLE DEPARTMENT
WORK RELEASE REPORT FOR JULY, 2016

THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS SUBMITTED BY WORK RELEASE COORDINATOR, JOSEPH F. HUTH:

ELEVEN (11) INMATES PARTICIPATED IN THE WORK RELEASE PROGRAM FIVE (5) INMATES PARTICIPATED IN THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND INMATES UTILIZED AS UTILITY WORK FOR THE PRISON OCCUPIED TWO (2) BEDS. SIX (6) INMATES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE THESE BEDS SHOULD BECOME AVAILABLE BY MONTHS END. THERE WERE NO (0) INMATES REMOVED FROM THE PROGRAM FOR VIOLATION OF PRISON OR WORK RELEASE POLICY. TWO (2) FEMALE INMATES PARTICIPATED IN THE WORK RELEASE PROGRAM. TWO (2) MALES AND ONE (1) FEMALE ARE AWAITING APPROVAL/ADMITTANCE TO THE WORK RELEASE PROGRAM. THREE (3) MALE DEFENDANTS ARE AWAITING APPROVAL/ADMITTANCE TO THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

MONTHLY REVENUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:	ROOM AND BOARD	COSTS AND FINES
JULY 2016:	$1,560.00	$460.00
TOTAL TO DATE (YEAR 2016):	$23,368.00	$7,510.00

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ADULT PROBATION/PAROLE DEPARTMENT
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM REPORT FOR JULY, 2016

THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS SUBMITTED BY VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COORDINATOR, JASON MACUNAS:

THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM COMPLETED TWENTY (20) JOBS IN EIGHTEEN (18) WORKING DAYS FOR THE MONTH. THERE WERE THIRTEEN (13) COMMUNITY SERVICE JOBS AND TWO (2) JOBS WERE COMPLETED FOR THE COUNTY. FIVE (5) JOBS WERE COMPLETED FOR SENIOR SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ADULT PROBATION/ PAROLE DEPARTMENT
PRE RELEASE REPORT FOR JULY, 2016

THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS SUBMITTED BY SUPERVISOR, LYNN HOLDEN:

A TOTAL OF ELEVEN (11) OFFENDERS WERE PLACED ON THE PRE-RELEASE STATUS DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 2016. A TOTAL OF SIXTY-TWO (62) TOTAL OFFENDERS WERE ACTIVE ON PRE-RELEASE STATUS SAVING ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE (1259) TOTAL JAIL DAYS AT THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY PRISON. THIRTEEN (13) PARTICIPANTS WERE REMOVED FOR VIOLATIONS. APPROXIMATELY THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN (3,777) ALCOHOL TESTS WERE ADMINISTERED AND SIXTY-ONE (61) DRUG TESTS WERE TAKEN ON SIXTY-TWO (62) PARTICIPANTS ON PRE-RELEASE STATUS.

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM UPDATE.

WARDEN BERDANIER INTRODUCED KASEY L. BALDWIN, THE PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR OF THE LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM WHO GAVE THE FOLLOWING UPDATE OF THE PROGRAM:

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ADULT PROBATION
THE COURAGE TO CHANGE PROGRAM
RESIDENTIAL - SCP

THE COURAGE TO CHANGE PROGRAM (CTCP) - RESIDENTIAL - IS ONE OF TWO INTERACTIVE JOURNALING PROGRAMS THAT THE ADULT PROBATION OFFICE UTILIZES AS A “STEP-DOWN” TOOL OR CLASS FOR DEFENDANT’S THAT ARE SERIOUS ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE, THEIR RECOVERY PROGRAM AND PERMANENTLY TURNING THEIR LIVES AROUND FOR THE BETTER. (THE OTHER JOURNALING PROGRAM BEING “BREAKING THE CYCLE” - NONRESIDENTIAL RELAPSE AND RECOVERY). THIS PROGRAM IS A PARTICIPANT-DIRECTED APPROACH DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE THERAPEUTIC ALLIANCE WHILE BRINGING STRUCTURE AND CONSISTENCY TO SERVICE DELIVERY. INTERACTIVE JOURNALING IS ALSO A GREAT TOOL FOR DEVELOPING A TRUSTWORTHY AND RESPECTED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AN OFFICER AND A DEFENDANT, ALLOWING BOTH TO SEE EACH OTHER’S EXPECTATIONS WHEN ENTERING INTO SUPERVISION. PARTICIPANTS WILL DEVELOP AND LEAVE WITH A PERSONALIZED ROADMAP TO SUCCESS ESTABLISHING NECESSARY FOUNDATIONS AND SETTING REALISTIC GOALS. THIS CLASS IS STRICTLY VOLUNTEER BY ALL DEFENDANTS PER REQUEST OF ADMISSION. HOWEVER, THEY ARE ASKED TO SIGN A “COMMITMENT CONTRACT” STATING THEY AGREE TO ACTIVELY JOURNAL AND PARTICIPATE IN EACH SCHEDULED CLASS AS WELL AS COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS. THE CONTRACT ALSO LAYS OUT THE GROUND RULES OF THE CLASS, EXPLAINING ANY WRITE-UPS, MINOR OR MAJOR, WILL BE SUBJECT TO AN AUTOMATIC DISMISSAL FROM CLASS WITH NO EXCEPTIONS TO RETURN. CLASS COMPLETION IS BASED ON CLASS PARTICIPATION.

CLASS CONSIST OF A SERIES OF 10 INTERACTIVE JOURNALS:

I START WITH THE ORIENTATION AND GETTING STARTED BOOKLET, DISCUSS THE CLIENT’S EXPECTATIONS OF CLASS AND WHAT WE, AS THE PROBATION OFFICE, EXPECT FROM THEM.

THE ORIENTATION BOOKLET WILL HELP YOU GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELATIONSHIP YOU WILL HAVE WITH YOUR OFFICER AND SEE OUR GOALS WE WANT TO SEE YOU HIT IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD SUCCESSFULLY.

GETTING STARTED BOOKLET WILL CONDUCT A SELF-EXPLORATION OF WHO YOU ARE, HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT YOURSELVES AND WEIGH THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF CHANGE. IT PROVIDES PROVEN STRATEGIES FOR SELF-CHANGE AND WILL CONCLUDE WITH A DEVELOPED READINESS STATEMENT FROM YOURSELF IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD.

AFTER THESE TWO BOOKLETS ARE COMPLETE WE WILL MOVE INTO THE "BIG SIX" SERIES:

SOCIAL VALUES: IDENTIFY THEIR VALUES AND WHERE THEY; HELP DEVELOP POSITIVE VALUES.

SELF-CONTROL: EXPLORE CONNECTION BETWEEN CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR AND SELF-CONTROL. WE WILL EXPLORE STRATEGIES FOR HANDLING DIFFICULT EMOTIONS.

RESPONSIBLE THINKING: EXAMINE THEIR THINKING AND EXPLORE CHANGING HABITS.

PEER RELATIONSHIPS: ADDRESSES RISKS RELATED TO CRIMINAL PEERS. PARTICIPANTS CONSIDER THEIR PAST AND PRESENT RELATIONSHIPS, HOW TO HANDLE PEER PRESSURE AND HOW TO BUILD A POSITIVE NETWORK.

FAMILY TIES: WE WILL EVALUATE CURRENT FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND THE ROLE YOU PLAY IN YOUR FAMILY.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: EXPLORE THE RISKS OF USE, REFLECT ON CURRENT USE AND WEIGH THE COST OF THEIR USE. YOU WILL LEARN STRATEGIES TO STAY ON A PATH OF RECOVERY.

ONCE THE BIG SIX SERIES IS COMPLETE YOU WILL MOVE INTO THE REMAINING BOOKLETS:

SUCCESSFUL LIVING

FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCES. HERE, CLIENTS WILL GOAL WRITE AND EXPLORE STRATEGIES OF IMPORTANT LIFE AREAS SUCH AS FINANCES, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, HEALTH, ETC.

IN LIEU OF VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THIS CLASS, DEFENDANTS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR "GOOD TIME" OR PERHAPS A LIGHTER SENTENCE COME PLEA AGREEMENTS (ESPECIALLY SEEING IT IS OUTRAGEOUSLY HOT IN THE CLASSROOM WITHOUT AIR CONDONING - THEY STILL SHOW WITH A SMILE ON THEIR FACE). NOT EVERYONE IS ACCEPTED INTO CLASS. ACCEPTED PARTICIPANTS ARE BASED ON PAST PAROLE/PROBATION HISTORY REPORTS, HOW SERIOUS THE CLIENT IS ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE AND ACTIVELY GETTING INVOLVED IN THEIR RECOVERY PROGRAM AS WELL AS COMMUNITY. THOSE WHO ARE NOT APPROVED UPON FIRST REQUEST OF ADMISSION ARE CERTAINLY WELCOME TO SUBMIT ANOTHER REQUEST TO BE IN CLASS THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE THEY WERE NOT ACCEPTED.

THIS CLASS IS INSTRUCTED IN A POSITIVE MANNER - TEACHING THEM TO BE RESOURCEFUL, ACCOUNTABLE, AND GRATEFUL FOR THEIR LIVES AND WHAT THEY HAVE. AND THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE MUCH, I ASSURE THEM THAT, WE, THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY PROBATION OFFICE AND COURT SYSTEM DO CARE ABOUT THEM
AND TO "TRUST THE PROCESS."

COMMISSIONER HALCOVAGE ASKED KASEY IF THIS PROGRAM WILL HELP CONTROL THE RECIDIVISM AND LOWER THAT NUMBER BY GIVING THE INMATES SOME SOFT SKILLS WHO ARE IN THE PROGRAM.

KASEY SAID YES. SHE ALSO INFORMED THE BOARD THAT TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE CLASSES SEEMS TO BE A PROBLEM.

JUDGE BALDWIN INFORMED THE BOARD THAT SINCE WE ARE CONDUCTING THIS PROGRAM IT WILL SAVE MONEY. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SINCE THE PRISON POPULATION IS LOWER, WE WOULD LIKE TO USE THE EXTRA ROOM TO HAVE A THERAPEUTIC WING AT THE PRISON SO THAT THE INMATES WHO ARE TRYING TO BETTER THEMSELVES WILL NOT BE HARASSED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO INTEREST IN CHANGING THEIR LIVES.

AT THIS TIME, WARDEN BERDANIER INFORMED THE BOARD THAT IF THEY HAD ANY QUESTIONS TODAY ON THE REPORTS TO PLEASE CONTACT HIM.

PERSONNEL:

CURRENTLY THERE ARE TWO (2) CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS OFF-DUTY ON EXTENDED MEDICAL LEAVE, AND ONE (1) CORRECTIONAL OFFICER ON RESTRICTED-DUTY STATUS.

VACANCY REPORT: ONE (1) FT, TEN (10) PT CORRECTIONAL OFFICER POSITIONS.

OTHER:

THE NEW COMMISSARY ACCOUNT VENDOR, OASIS COMMISSARY SERVICES, IS READY TO START THE PROCESS TO IMPLEMENT THEIR FINANCIAL PACKAGE CALLED LOCKDOWN. TO WORK WITH THAT SYSTEM IT IS NECESSARY TO OPEN A NEW BANK ACCOUNT. THAT PROCESS IS BEING WORKED ON BY COUNTY OFFICIALS. A KEY FEATURE OF THE NEW PROGRAM IS THAT IT WILL ELIMINATE ISSUING OR PROCESSING CASH OR CHECKS TO RELEASED INMATES BY ISSUING A DEBIT CARD. AS MENTIONED THE LOCKDOWN PROGRAM IS NECESSARY BECAUSE OUR CURRENT INMATE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WILL BE REPLACED WITH THE UNIFIED CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH DOES NOT HAVE A FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS SECTION FOR INMATE ACCOUNTING PURPOSES.

SINCE THERE WAS NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, COMMISSIONER HALCOVAGE CALLED FOR A VOTE TO APPROVE THE PRISON REPORT AS PRESENTED.

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY CONTROLLER JOY, SECONDED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY HOLMAN TO APPROVE THE STATE OF THE PRISON REPORT AS PRESENTED.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

COMMISSIONER STAUDENMEIER, CHAIRMAN OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE INFORMED THE BOARD THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT SEVERAL ITEMS TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL THIS MORNING:

THE FIRST IS TO EXTEND A PERMANENT OFFER FOR HIRE TO DIEGO JIMENEZ, SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA TO FILL A FULL TIME CORRECTIONAL OFFICER POSITION AT THE PRISON. DIEGO HAS PASSED ALL OF THE REQUIRED TESTING AND THAT IS IN THE FORM OF A MOTION.

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER STAUDENMEIER, SECONDED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY HOLMAN TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF DIEGO JIMENEZ, SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA AS A FULL TIME CORRECTIONAL OFFICER AT THE PRISON AS PRESENTED BY CHAIRMAN OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONER STAUDENMEIER.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

SECOND, IS TO EXTEND PERMANENT OFFERS FOR HIRE TO RYAN MEYER, FRACKVILLE, PA SCOTT YAGELINSKI, FRACKVILLE, PA AND GABRIEL BEAULIEU, COAL TOWNSHIP, PA TO FILL THREE VACANT PART TIME CORRECTIONAL OFFICER POSITIONS AT THE PRISON. ALL THREE HAVE PASSED THE REQUIRED TESTING AND THAT IS IN THE FORM OF A MOTION.

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER STAUDENMEIER, SECONDED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY HOLMAN TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF RYAN MEYER, FRACKVILLE, PA; SCOTT YAGELINSKI, FRACKVILLE, PA AND GABRIEL BEAULIEU, COAL TOWNSHIP, PA TO FILL THREE VACANT PART TIME CORRECTIONAL OFFICER POSITIONS AT THE PRISON AS PRESENTED BY CHAIRMAN OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONER STAUDENMEIER.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

THIRD, IS TO EXTEND CONDITIONAL OFFERS TO RYAN HENNING, ASHLAND, PA; WILLIAM KLINGER, FRACKVILLE, PA; MICHAEL WALLACE, TREMONT, PA; ANDREW PHILLIPS, FRACKVILLE, PA AND JENNIFER CRISAFULLI, MINERSVILLE, PA TO FILL THE VACANT PART TIME CORRECTIONAL OFFICER POSITIONS AND THAT IS IN THE FORM OF A MOTION.

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER STAUDENMEIER, SECONDED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHRISTINE HOLMAN TO APPROVE SENDING A CONDITIONAL OFFER TO RYAN HENNING, ASHLAND, PA; WILLIAM KLINGER, FRACKVILLE, PA; MICHAEL WALLACE, TREMONT, PA; ANDREW PHILLIPS, FRACKVILLE, PA AND JENNIFER CRISAFULLI, MINERSVILLE, PA TO FILL THE VACANT PART TIME CORRECTIONAL OFFICER POSITIONS AT THE PRISON AS PRESENTED BY CHAIRMAN OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONER STAUDENMEIER.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

NEW BUSINESS

AT THIS TIME, COMMISSIONER HALCOVAGE TURNED THE MEETING OVER TO INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, GARY BENDER AND ATTORNEY AL MARSHALL WHO GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS AND WHERE WE ARE WITH THE CONCERNS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HAD.

GARY INFORMED THE BOARD THAT AT THE COMMISSIONERS' WORKSESSION THAT WAS HELD TODAY AT 10:00 AM, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVED THE AGREEMENT SET FORTH BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS THAT NOW ALLOWS US TO ACCEPT INMATES WHO ARE SENTENCED BETWEEN SIX MONTHS AND FIVE YEARS. WE NOW HAVE TO KEEP OUR PRISON POPULATION BELOW 277 INMATES.

COUNTY SOLICITOR AL MARSHALL ADDRESSED THE BOARD ALSO AND SAID THAT THIS YEAR IN MAY, THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ISSUED AN ORDER THAT PRECLUDED US FROM ADMITTING NEW PRISONERS THAT HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN SIX MONTHS, BUT LESS THAN FIVE YEARS. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS A HARDSHIP ON THE COUNTY SINCE WE HAD TO TRANSPORT INMATES TO OTHER LOCATIONS. NOW THE POPULATION IS SIGNIFICANTLY DOWN AND WE HAVE SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, THEREFORE THE DEPARTMENT HAS OFFERED A NEW SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WHICH WILL SUPERSEDE THE OLD SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. ONCE THIS IS SIGNED, WE WILL BE ABLE TO RE-ADMIT INMATES WHO HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS, BUT LESS THAN FIVE YEARS. WE WILL NOT HAVE TO SEND THEM TO OTHER PRISONS AT A COST TO THE TAXPAYERS. COUNTY SOLICITOR MARSHALL SAID THAT THE ONLY CONDITIONS NOW ARE THAT WE CONTINUE TO SEND BIWEEKLY CENSUS REPORTS AND THAT THE INMATE POPULATION AT THE PRISON DOES NOT EXCEED THE APPROVED CAPACITY OF 277 INMATES THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017. AT THIS TIME, HE SAID THAT HE HAS REVIEWED THE AGREEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HAVE APPROVED THE NEW AGREEMENT, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HAVE APPROVED IT AND NOW WE ARE ASKING THAT THE PRISON BOARD TO APPROVE IT.

JUDGE BALDWIN SAID THAT PART OF THE AGREEMENT STATES THAT IF WE VIOLATE THE AGREEMENT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS CAN COME IN AND SHUT US DOWN.

COMMISSIONER HALCOVAGE THANKED EVERYONE INVOLVED IN RESOLVING THIS AND FOR WORKING WITH THE OTHER COUNTIES TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. HE ALSO THANKED PRIMECARE FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN MOVING THE INMATES OUT TO OTHER FACILITIES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD BECAUSE THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IS NOT GOING TO GO AWAY. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE SOONER WE CAN GET INMATES BACK TO OUR PRISON THE MORE MONEY WE WILL SAVE THE COUNTY FOR THIS ADDITIONAL EXPENSE.

COMMISSIONER HESS AGREED WITH ALL OF THE COMMENTS THAT COMMISSIONER HALCOVAGE MADE CONCERNING THE 277 MARK, BUT NOW WE NEED TO BE VERY DILIGENT ON THE TRIPLE CELLING ISSUE. HE SAID THAT THAT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAIN ISSUES WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND THE AGREEMENT HAS SEVEN SECTIONS THAT PERTAIN TO THE TRIPLE CELL ISSUE THAT WE WERE CITED ON. HE SAID THAT IF THE POPULATION LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT HAVE TO TRIPLE CELL, WE MIGHT WANT TO LOOK AT TRANSFERRING INMATES OUT SO THAT WE DON'T FALL BACK INTO THAT SAME TRAP. HE FEELS THAT WE SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT WE DO NOT TRIPLE CELL INMATES IF POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT WE NOW NEED TO LOOK AT A LONG TERM SOLUTION.

JUDGE BALDWIN STATED THAT WE NEED TO AUTHORIZE THE WARDEN TO MAKE THE DECISION TO TRANSFER PEOPLE OR IF THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR TRIPLE CELLING DUE TO SPACE. THAT WAY WE WOULD NEVER GET INTO THAT SITUATION AGAIN. THIS HAS BEEN REALLY DEVASTATING AND IT HAS REALLY HURT THE OPERATIONS OF THE COURT SYSTEM AS WELL.

COMMISSIONER HALCOVAGE ASKED THE WARDEN ABOUT THE TRIPLE CELLING ISSUE AT THE PRISON.

WARDEN BERDANIER SAID THAT TRIPLE CELLING HAS BASICALLY BEEN ELIMINATED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF IF SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE IN ISOLATION IN THE FRONT SECTION. THAT HAS BEEN THE ONLY TIME WE HAD TO TRIPLE CELL ANYONE FOR THE LAST COUPLE MONTHS AND IT HAS BEEN RARE. IT IS ONLY TEMPORARY UNTIL THEY ARE SCREENED AND CLEARED AND HAD SOME COUNSELING WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH OFFICE.

MOTION

AT THIS TIME, IT WAS MOVED BY JUDGE BALDWIN, SECONDED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY HOLMAN TO APPROVE THE MOTION FOR THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY PRISON BOARD WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMISSIONERS.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

MOTION

ALSO, IT WAS MOVED BY JUDGE BALDWIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO AUTHORIZE THE WARDEN TO TRANSFER INMATES TO OTHER FACILITIES THAT WE ARE CONTRACTED WITH IF THE PRISON POPULATION EXCEEDS 240 INMATES OR IF TRIPLE CELLING WOULD BE REQUIRED.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

THERE WAS NO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

AT THIS TIME (11:30 AM), COMMISSIONER HALCOVAGE ADJOURNED THE MEETING TO GO INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WHICH WAS REQUESTED BY SHERIFF GROODY TO DISCUSS SECURITY ISSUES AND HE INFORMED EVERYONE THAT NO VOTE WOULD BE TAKEN AFTER THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

ADJOURNMENT

AT THIS TIME (11:52 AM), THE MEETING RECONVENED, AND THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, COMMISSIONER HALCOVAGE ADJOURNED THE MEETING.

ATTEST: _____