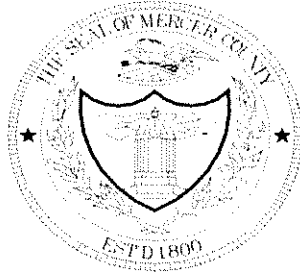


## MERCER COUNTY PRISON BOARD

Thomas W. Amundsen, President  
Bruce Rosa, Vice President  
Robert G. Yeatts, Secretary  
Pete Acker  
Matthew McConnell  
Timothy M. McGonigle  
Scott E. Boyd



## MERCER COUNTY PRISON

Erna L. Craig, Warden  
Joseph Reichard, Deputy Warden/Operations  
Mac McDuffie, Deputy Warden/Security

55 Thompson Road  
Mercer, PA 16137  
Telephone: 724-662-2700  
Fax: 724-662-1047

### *COUNTY OF MERCER*

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Prison Board President Thomas Amundsen called to order the October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Mercer County Prison Board meeting with roll call:

#### **Members Present:**

Controller Thomas Amundsen, President  
Sheriff Bruce Rosa, Vice President  
Judge Robert Yeatts, Secretary  
Pete Acker, District Attorney  
Timothy McGonigle, Commissioner  
Matthew McConnell, Commissioner  
Scott Boyd, Commissioner

#### **Members Absent:**

None

#### **Others Present:**

Warden Erna Craig  
Deputy Warden Reichard, Operations  
William McClure, IPP Director  
Amy Landfair, Parole Officer Supervisor  
Sharin Robb, Administrative Assistant

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Prison Board President Thomas Amundsen asks for a motion to approve the August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Matthew McConnell makes the motion and it was seconded by District Attorney Pete Acker. Voice vote was unanimous, motion carried.

#### **Wardens Report:**

Warden Craig begins by stating there were 195 commitments and 184 releases in the month of August. She states for the month of September there were 161 commitments and 197 releases. Warden Craig states the average population for August was 236 with September's being 224. There were 249 video hearings held in August and 219 held in September.

Warden Craig states that she currently has 18 inmates awaiting transfer to the state however, the jail has been put on hold until late December. She states there will possibly be a couple smaller trips before December and that she is unsure what the holdup actually is. Deputy Warden Reichard states that almost all other counties have approximately the same number of inmates awaiting a state transfer.

Warden Craig states that she completed a five year study from January 2016 to December 2020 regarding the mental health population. She states that 13,827 inmates were incarcerated between those five years with 1,007 of them being placed on suicide watch. Warden Craig states that 10,269 were placed under a mental health watch that required counseling and monitoring by a licensed mental health worker. She states 3,218 inmates received a serious diagnosis for a severe mental illness which required tele-psychiatry and psychiatric medications. Warden Craig thanks the Board of Commissioners for approving a second mental health worker for the jail. She states that mental health worker Michealynn has reported for the month of August that 25 suicidal inmates have spent 116 days in the Booking Department which averages out to 4.5 days per inmate. Warden Craig states that there are three cells in Booking that are modified to house suicidal inmates and that those cells are constantly full. She states that Booking is being utilized as a mental health unit and she foresees the jail having an actual unit being added on in the years ahead.

Warden Craig states that she is currently down nine full time positions with no part time officers. She states that the jail has to mandate officers to work overtime in order to cover the unfilled shifts. Warden Craig states that it has been a battle with the union and since the mandate, three officers have walked out. District Attorney Pete Acker asks if hiring and retention bonuses were ever discussed. Commissioner Matthew McConnell states that a bonus would have to be negotiated into the union contract before ever being offered. Deputy Warden Reichard states that the county has started hiring officers for full time positions instead of the normal part time position.

Prison Board President Thomas Amundsen asks for a motion to approve the Wardens Report. District Attorney Pete Acker makes the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Matthew McConnell. Voice vote was unanimous, motion carried.

#### **IPP Report:**

IPP Director William McClure begins by stating for the month of September there were 663 total clients which included 60 successful completions, 9 failures/revocations and 12 revocation hearings. He continues to say that there were 514 community service hours completed which resulted in a savings to the work sites of \$3,727. Director McClure states that there were 121 jail reviews done and also had three participants complete dui school. He continues by stating there were 170 drug screens completed which included 10 positive, 159 negative and one no show.

IPP Director William McClure states that back in August's Prison Board meeting, it was approved for Sarah Fusco and Leo Rhan to attend the PA Treatment Court Professionals Training by using funds from the county however, they received a scholarship that paid for the entire training.

IPP Director William McClure continues by stating the AOPC had confirmed the Supreme Courts accreditation that IPP Coordinator Sarah Fusco had applied for. He states that they will receive a certificate effective September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania which will certify that the Mercer County Drug Treatment Court is in compliance for program operation. Director McClure states that there will be an accreditation and graduation ceremony held on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 1pm that everybody is welcome to attend.

Prison Board President Thomas Amundsen asks for a motion to approve the IPP report. District Attorney Pete Acker makes the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Timothy McGonigle. Voice vote was unanimous, motion carried.

#### **Old Business:**

Commissioner Matthew McConnell follows up on the plumbing situation at the jail by stating that another plumber has been called out to assess and it seems that another three or four pumps may be needed. He states that he believes the problem has been identified and a solution is on it way.

**New Business:**

None.

Prison Board President Thomas Amundsen asks for a motion to go into executive session. District Attorney Pete Acker makes the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Scott Boyd. Voice vote was unanimous, motion carried.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Rosa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Respectfully submitted,

Judge Robert Yeatts  
Mercer County Prison  
Board Secretary