

Minutes

MEETING OF BOARD OF INSPECTORS FOR THE POTTER COUNTY JAIL May 1, 2026; noon; Gunzburger Building – Front Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER - Paul Heimel, Chair at 12:00 pm

MOMENT OF SILENCE/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL- Members Paul Heimel, Nancy Grupp, Robert Rossman, Stephen Minor, Kevin Siska, Administrator Jessica Giebel; present. Andy Watson; Absent. Recording Secretary Paige Barroqueiro, Warden Ricky Hurler, and Jail Nurse Rachel Baker; present.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - (limited to 3 minutes per person)

MINUTES – April 10, 2026; N. Grupp moved to approve; K. Siska seconded; all in favor.

GUEST SPEAKER – None

REPORT FROM WARDEN/DEPUTY WARDEN

- There are currently 31 inmates, 1 in McKean County, 4 Females in other facilities, 2 on work release, and 2 completing community service.
- Some 23 inmates are on medication. 2 are receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment and 10 are seeing the psychotherapist
- Officers completed fire drill training, and one officer is at the Academy. Warden Hurler completed generational workforce and conflict resolution training in Harrisburg.

RE-ENTRY SERVICES/STEPPING UP UPDATE

- Potter County Human Services Mental Health Director Kayla Wright introduced Kiara Perkins who will be taking over for Pat Harris as the Housing Specialist upon his retirement this summer. Director Wright also reported on the Re-Entry subcommittee meeting that has been working with Career Link to continue to expand offerings for inmates.
- Commissioner Heimel asked Human Services Administrator Thomas Patterson to tell the board about his research into a Program Coordinator. Administrator Patterson reported that he reached out to other Counties researching how having a Program Coordinator assigned at sentencing has affected inmates' success upon release. This Program Coordinator would work closely with the Public Defender and can act as an advocate for the inmate and reduce recidivism. Funding for the position would be available through the Indigent Defense Grant and could fall under the Human

Services Mental Health Department. Judge Minor questioned whether this position would be a county employee or contracted, and if Inmates that aren't covered by the Public Defender would still be able to utilize this resource. Patterson clarified that the hope is that this position would be a hired county employee and would have the ability to help inmates including those not falling under the Public Defender.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Personnel – no updates

Facilities – Sheriff Siska reported that the key box has been ordered as well as the challenge coins for the Corrections Officers

Operations/Policies & Procedures – Commissioner Heimel reported that new Encartele contracts have been sent to the Solicitor for review.

NEW BUSINESS – In honor of May being Mental Health Awareness Month, Warden Hurler did a walkthrough of how mental health is addressed in the Jail. Upon intake, evaluation forms are filled out by the intake officer and are then referred to Dawn Dovensky (counselor at the jail). Officers are trained annually in filling out these intake forms along with their various monthly training. After intake, inmates go under a 24-hour observation. Dawn provides therapy to those inmates who need it and substance abuse services are also provided.

OLD BUSINESS – The Ophelia OUD Contract is still under review, and an update will be provided next month.

PERSONNEL - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION - *(issues, concerns, suggestions by members)*

EXECUTIVE SESSION - At 12: 52 PM the board went into an executive session to discuss a security/safety matter. At 1:00PM the executive session ended and the regular meeting reconvened.

NEXT MEETING – June 5, 2026

ADJOURNMENT - N. Grupp moved; K. Siska seconded. All in favor.