

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
December 9, 2013
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Sheriff Jonathan Held, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Courtney, Commissioner Kopas, District Attorney John Peck, and Controller Jeff Balzer.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jonathan Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2013 was made by Commissioner Kopas, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 584 in-house, 606 total. The average population for November 2013 was 603 in-house and 625 total. This compares to November of 2012 when the average was 549 in-house and 571 total.

Average length of stay for November 2013 is 45.45 days as compared to November 2012 which was 47.06 days. In November 2013 there were 340 commitments and 353 releases, compared to 330 commitments and 341 releases in November 2012. There were 3982 commitments from January 1, 2013 to November 30, 2013 compared to 3704 during the same period in 2012. Commitments are up 8 per cent.

There was one rental billed in November 2013. \$109.80 was collected from Federal Bureau of Prisons. Fines collected in November for Clerk of Courts was \$8,201.74 bringing the total of monies collected for Clerk of Courts in 2013 to \$ 40,960.22.

In November, 60 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 7 were performed by Judge Hathaway, and 40 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 13 out of county bench warrants were served.

Wexford reported two cases of MRSA.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the November 2013 cost per meal was \$.87 compared to \$ 1.25 in November 2012.

Correspondence is ongoing between Mark Gesalman and "Pay my Jailer" trying to develop language about collections and determining what both sides are willing to accept.

The Warden reported that the inmates are expected to be returning in January and February 2014, 2 to 3 days per week to take down all the lights at Overly's Country Christmas display. The staff there has been very pleased with the help from the inmates and the jail personnel.

Correction officers are expected to attend mental health training on December 16 and December 17, 2013.

We will be getting reimbursed with Act 81 monies for prisoners doing 1- 5 years that are on work release. This reimbursement will be \$ 98.00 per day.

The Warden attended the American Red Cross Banquet as Amibeth Ellis and Christopher Waltz received the Certificate of Merit Life Saving Award. The Warden believes that the money used to facilitate training at the prison is definitely worth it.

The FCC is going to impose a rate cap of \$.12 per minute for intra-state calls as well as possible elimination of all commissions. FCC's new proposed rules may threaten the ability of inmate calling providers to supply features associated with inmate calling services as well as pay to commissions to the facility. Phone companies won't have contracts anymore and will then lose money. GTL has filed a petition with the FCC to stay the ruling but FCC denied it.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to reconvene in public session, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

The Warden asked the Board to accept the retirement of full time Corrections officers Glenn Gilmore, Robert Biller and Regis Michael. Commissioner Kopas made the motion seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.