

**Westmoreland County  
Prison Board  
October 21, 2013  
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Kopas, Deputy Sheriff Paul McCommons, District Attorney John Peck, and Controller Jeff Balzer. Commissioner Courtney attended via telephone

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Sheriff McCommons.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2013 was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

Bruno Mediate gave the Adult Probation and Parole Quarterly Report

The population of the prison today is 608 in-house, 627 total. The average population for September 2013 was 574 in-house and 597 total. This compares to September of 2012 when the average was 600 in-house and 621 total.

Average length of stay for September 2013 is 43.70 days as compared to September 2012 which was 45.36 days. In September 2013 there were 364 commitments and 342 releases, compared to 403 commitments and 387 releases in September 2012. There were no rentals billed in September 2013.

In September, 66 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 9 were performed by Judge Hathaway, and 40 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 16 out of county and one US Government bench warrants were served.

Wexford reported four cases of MRSA.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the September 2013 cost per meal was \$.98 compared to \$.99 in September 2012.

Inmate work crews have been sent out to help at Overly's Country Christmas display at Westmoreland County Fairgrounds. The Warden reported that so far the inmates have gone there 6 days and have provided much needed help there. No overtime has been incurred.

A meeting was held with Greg Thomas from Washington County Prison. Washington County utilizes inmates in two ways. Community service work is performed such as painting and yard work and is supervised by individuals not from the prison. The necessary paper work is completed by the individual organizations. In addition, they have an 8 to 10 man crew that they utilize from the weekender work release crew. Washington County budgets \$300,000 for manpower, vehicles, and tools to perform this work within the community.

There is ongoing communication with "Pay my jailer" concerning the language of the contract. For example, when an inmate reenters the jail and he has been on a delinquent list given to "pay my jailer", a percentage of the monies the inmate would have on his person upon reentering the jail, would be collected by the company,

The Warden disagrees with the language of the agreement and is working with Mark Gesalman to get the language changed.

The Prison now requires medical documentation declaring that a person that has been previously tased has been examined and deemed physically fit for commitment. Failure to provide this documentation will result in refusal of commitment to the Prison until proper documentation has been provided.

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

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

District Attorney Peck made a motion to accept the resignations of part time correction officers, Aaron Ponzetti and Brian Terbest, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to hire L. Chris Smith as the Building Systems Supervisor seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

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