

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
February 18, 2014
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 January 27, 2014 was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

Betty Long from Latrobe, PA presented information regarding a Lifestyle class that she is volunteering to teach to the Prisoners at the County Jail. This class will be based on Biblical Principles. Betty is currently teaching her class at the Mission in Latrobe, PA.

The population of the prison today is 630 in-house, 643 total. The average population for January 2013 was 604 in-house and 620 total. This compares to January of 2013 when the average was 531 in-house and 554 total.

Average length of stay for January 2014 is 19.59 days as compared to January 2013 which was 19.01 days. In January 2014 there were 357 commitments and 367 releases, compared to 385 commitments and 336 releases in January 2013. Commitments are up 14 per cent for the year.

There were three rentals billed in January 2013. \$6,006.00 was collected from three prisoners. Fines collected in January for Clerk of Courts was \$7,620.54.

In January, 52 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 4 were performed by Judge Hathaway, and 38 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 11 out of county bench warrants were served. 98 District Justice hearings were held in January 2014.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the January 2014 cost per meal was \$.95 compared to \$.89 in January 2013.

The Warden presented information about obtaining video visitation equipment for the prison. The Warden expects the system to cost approximately \$67,000.00. Prisoner's families would be charged \$15.00 for a 25 minute visit. The Prison Board is expected to vote on an agreement with Renovo Software at a later date.

Controller Balzer asked several questions regarding the system and its estimated cost.

David Ridilla made a few remarks and answered questions pertaining to video visitation.

The Chaplain's 2013 report was presented. 170 preaching services were performed, 95 Bible Services, and 257 individual counseling sessions were held. In addition the "Wrapped in Love" Christmas program provided gifts for 132 children. An extra effort was made to keep children close to their families while they were incarcerated.

The Warden presented the Annual Prison Board Report. \$201,976.00 was collected for room and board in 2013.

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

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

The Warden asked the Board to accept the resignation of Fiscal Clerk Amy Nash. Commissioner Kopas made the motion seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to hire the following part time Corrections Officers, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous

Cameran Cole
Thomas Kemerer
Joshua Fields Meadows
Christopher Moody
Jacob Shaffer
Patrick Zufall
Destinee DeWitt
Chad Black
Douglas Long
Nicholas Fontana
Justin Farrell
Steve Santia
Jacob Ward

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to table the decision to purchase the video conferencing equipment, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous

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