

**Westmoreland County  
Prison Board  
April 21, 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 March 11, 2014 was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 607 in-house, 626 total. The average population for March 2013 was 607 in-house and 622 total. This compares to March of 2013 when the average was 551 in-house and 576 total.

Average length of stay for March 2014 is 19.23 days as compared to March 2013 which was 19.71 days. Average length of stay from January to March 2014 is 33.14 compared to January to March 2013 is 33.32. In March 2014 there were 384 commitments and 378 releases, compared to 365 commitments and 334 releases in March 2013.

There were two rentals billed in March 2014. \$4,368.00 was collected from two prisoners. Fines collected in March for Clerk of Courts were \$10,519.28.

In March, 51 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 14 were performed by Judge Hathaway, and 29 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 8 out of county bench warrants were served. 113 District Justice hearings were held in March 2014.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the March 2014 cost per meal was \$.96 compared to \$.99 in March 2013.

In March 2014, the prison is 32 inmates above the cap. The prison has to pay an additional \$2,241.92 to Wexford. So far in 2014, the prison has had to pay an additional \$7,311.10 for health coverage.

There was a meeting with Wexford Health Systems concerning the current contract. Wexford is requesting a contract redo because of the increased charges in medical units due to the increase in hospital visits, and emergency room visits. Wexford Health will be getting back with ideas concerning the contract as last year Wexford took quite a hit due to the increase in hospital stays by the inmates.

The Warden continues to attend the Drug Task Force Meetings where emphasis is being place on education of parents and the children. The Warden noted that in March 2014, 42% of inmates coming into the jail needed to detox. These numbers are increasing steadily. In January of 2014 29% of inmates needed to detox and in February 2014, 39% needed to detox.

There was a meeting with Renovo, Dave Ridilla and The Warden concerning the ongoing process to begin using video visitation equipment at the Prison. Many of the wires have been pulled and the orders have been placed.

The new PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) standards state that a youthful inmate shall not be placed in a housing unit in which the youthful inmate will have sight, sound, or physical contact with any adult inmate through use of a common space, shower area, or sleeping quarters. Per the Warden, the jail has nowhere to house these juveniles. The Warden has called around to several other counties including Indiana County and was unsuccessful in finding a place to house juveniles. Rich Gordon believes the Juvenile Detention could house these individuals. The prison did house 6 juvenile offenders in 2013.

The Warden has asked the courts to only sentence a defendant with a state DUI sentence to the county prison when the defendant is employed at the time of the sentence and Paul Kuntz responded with an email that the Courts will take this under advisement but they reserve the right to make their own sentencing determinations. Currently we are reimbursed \$98.00 per day by the state for room and board for the offenders that are on work release. The state doesn't reimburse us for inmates that are not on work release and we foot the whole bill.

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 District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

The Warden asked the Board to accept the resignation of part time Corrections Officer Destinee Dewitt, Sharon Stinebiser, and Lori Waltonbaugh. Commissioner Kopas made the motion seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept the resignation of Corrections Officer Steven Minniti, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to hire fiscal clerk Theresa Vukson as of April 7, 2013, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

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