

**Westmoreland County  
Prison Board  
September 22, 2014  
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Sheriff Jonathan Held, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Courtney, Commissioner Kopas, District Attorney Peck, and Deputy Controller Garris.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jonathan Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2014 was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Deputy Garris. Unanimous.

Bruno Mediate gave the Adult Probation/Parole Quarterly Report.

The population of the prison today is 591 in-house, 601 total. The average population for August 2014 was 578 in-house and 589 total. This compares to August of 2013 when the average was 563 in-house and 585 total.

Average length of stay for August 2014 is 19.16 days as compared to August 2013 which was 19.17 days. Average length of stay from January to August 2014 is 42.28 compared to January to August 2013 is 42.83. In August 2014 there were 385 commitments and 393 releases, compared to 384 commitments and 374 releases in August 2013. So far in 2014, there have been 3028 commitments and 3072 releases. In January thru August 2013, there have been 2889 commitments and 2815 releases.

The rate of recidivism for August 2014 is 32.46%, compared to 34.11% for August 2013. January to August 2014, the recidivism rate is 35.27% compared to 35.86% January to August 2013.

\$1,701.90 has been collected from one rental billed in August 2014 from Federal Bureau of Prisons. Fines collected in August for Clerk of Courts were \$ 8,761.69. Total monies collected in 2014 for Clerk of Courts is \$71,359.20.

In August, 89 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 15 were performed by Judge Hathaway, 44 were performed by Judge Pezze, and 19 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 11 out of county bench warrants were served. 113 District Justice hearings were held in August 2014.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the August 2014 cost per meal was \$.88 compared to \$ .94 in August 2013.

In August 2014, the prison is 3 inmates above the cap. The prison has to pay an additional \$218.55 to Wexford. So far in 2014, the prison has had to pay an additional \$13,526.55 for health coverage.

151 incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival. 53.3% of the inmate population coming into jail in August 2014 needed to detox, this compares to 48.6% last month, and 40% were prescribed psych medications, compared to 41.6% last month.

The Warden reported that Tami Silvis has printed and distributed new criminal court sentence orders. The new forms have an appropriate box to be checked in regards to the release of said prisoner. They began using these forms two weeks ago.

Rick Svesnik, in regard to the video conferencing, has determined that our computers are not able to load the programs, so it will likely be another month until the Renovo system will be up and running. There is an information packet ready to be distributed but they are not releasing it until the Renovo system is up and running.

The Warden went to a Chief of Police meeting on September 9, 2014. A letter was received from the American Civil Liberties in regards to illegal immigrants. Our County Solicitor, Mark Gesalman has issued a memorandum, "It is my recommendation that immigration detainees received from ICE should not be honored unless they are accompanied by a judicially issued warrant or order authorizing such detention by the County." Therefore if a new ICE commitment is brought into the prison with an ICE detainer ONLY, the prison will not accept the inmate.

Paul Kuntz has contacted the Warden in regards to fingerprinting practices of individuals coming into the jail. We, Westmoreland County are the 5<sup>th</sup> worse county for fingerprinting. The Warden stated that he would be willing to fingerprint all new commitments to the Prison if a fingerprint machine was provided for the Prison. If this was not possible, the Warden requested that a letter be sent to the President Judge requesting that prior to being accepted at the prison, that all inmates must be fingerprinted.

There have been two meetings between the Warden, the Sheriff and Bryan Kline. It has been requested of the Clerk of Courts to fax, scan or email the bench warrants, after verifying that the person is incarcerated. The sheriff has been doing a great job of supplying the court orders to the jail in this regard. Clerk of Courts, Bryan Kline attended the Prison Board meeting announcing that his office is ready to begin e-mailing the court orders as soon as they are given the appropriate contact information.

The state inspection relating to Title 37 will begin next week. Due to changes in the inspection reporting, the prison will no longer receive a letter grade. It will be either a passing grade or a failing grade.

Once again Overly's Christmas Display is asking for help from the inmates while putting up all the numerous lights. The Warden will start sending inmates in early October 2014. Stephanie Tomasic of Overly's has contacted Tractor Supply in Latrobe to secure a selection of Carhartt jackets and bib overalls in blazen orange, cold weather socks, hats and gloves that will be kept on site and made available to the County prison crew.

The PPCA, the Chaplain association met and elected James Badamo as their Vice President. Bibles and Korans will be donated to the prison.

On Thursday, September 25, 2014 contract talks between Westmoreland County and United Mine Workers of America Local 522 will begin.

Curtis Tringhese is the new dog handler and the new dog is Oz. They have started training Oz and he should be ready to be used by November 1, 2014. Oz will go to schools and continue to do searches. District Attorney Peck donated money from the Drug Fund to purchase the dog and pay for the training. Food for the dog and veterinary services have been provided free of charge from Tractor Supply and Grace Veterinary in Mt.

Pleasant. Also the dog has been chipped.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

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

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to accept the resignation of part time corrections officers Ricky Gantt, Steve Santia, and Nicholas Underwood, seconded by Deputy Controller Rege Garris. Unanimous.

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

John Beard	Kristi Marhefka
Randy Russell	Alicia Sarnese
Jonathan Bradford	Olivia Overdorf
Zachary Luffy	Tiffany Walters
Adam Gillingham	Thomasina Conklin
Seth Kristoff	Sara McLean
Phong Tran	Lisa Gendex
Ian Suttty	
Ronald George	

#### Public Comment

Andrew Milistis of Vandergrift, PA had a few questions regarding the FCC rulings concerning out of state calls and the rebate monies received from our phone company for said calls. He was also asking about monies received for operating the jail. Commissioner Kopas explained to him that the County is responsible for funding the operation of the prison and any rebate monies received are a small amount that is applied toward the running of the prison.

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