

**Westmoreland County  
Prison Board  
November 17, 2014  
Meeting Minutes**

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

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jonathan Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2014 was made by District Attorney Peck, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 589 in-house, 604 total. The average population for October 2014 was 581 in-house and 595 total. This compares to October of 2013 when the average was 606 in-house and 628 total.

Average length of stay for October 2014 is 18.50 days as compared to October 2013 which was 19.61 days. Average length of stay from January to October 2014 is 42.86 compared to January to October 2013 is 44.46. In October 2014 there were 431 commitments and 459 releases, compared to 389 commitments and 372 releases in October 2013. So far in 2014, there have been 3873 commitments and 3928 releases. In January thru October 2013, there have been 3642 commitments and 3529 releases.

The rate of recidivism for October 2014 is 29.46%, compared to 34.44% for October 2013. January to October 2014, the recidivism rate is 32.99% compared to 33.96% January to October 2013. These rates are based on the records dating back to June 5, 2004.

There were no rentals billed in October 2014. Fines collected in October for Clerk of Courts were \$ 8,160.62. Total monies collected in 2014 for Clerk of Courts is \$ 87,718.32.

In October, 81 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 10 were performed by Judge Hathaway, 16 were performed by Judge Pezze, and 41 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 14 out of county bench warrants were served. 119 District Justice hearings were held in October 2014.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the October 2014 cost per meal was \$.97 compared to \$ .95 in October 2013.

In October 2014, there were 6 inmates above the cap, resulting in an additional \$437.10 owed to Wexford. So far in 2014, the prison has had to pay an additional \$13,963.62 for health coverage.

93 incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival. 31.8% of the inmate population coming into jail in October 2014 needed to detox, this compares to 52.6% last month, and 44% were prescribed psych medications, compared to 39% last month.

Value Added Communication (Vac Inc) has honored their contract and a check for \$250,000.00 was received.

The Warden reported that they are still working to get the bugs out of the video conferencing system with Renovo and once given the OK the literature will be distributed, hopefully before the holidays. The first two weeks of the video visitation will be free to inmates.

The drug dog Oz is now fully trained and ready to be put into service. Also, Juvenile Detention wants to be able to use the dog.

Two meetings with United Mine Workers of America Local 522 have been scheduled for November 18, and November 26, 2014.

The inmates only had a few days of work at Overlys this week, before opening night, Friday November 22, 2014. Winter clothing was purchased for the inmates to wear when dismantling the lights in January 2015.

The Warden reported that there has been an increase of drugs being smuggled into the prison likely in inmates' body parts. There is a special machine that could detect these drugs but the machine costs \$200,000.00.

Regis Garris announced that the first ever meeting about general matters was proposed between the Controller, Sheriff, President Judge, and Magisterial District Justices.

The Warden conducted a review of the police criminal complaints on new commitments and noted that in the period of October 4 to November 10, 2014 only 22 inmates were fingerprinted while 48 were not fingerprinted. The Warden has sent this paperwork to Don Heagy and Paul Kuntz. The Warden doesn't want to accept prisoners if they have not been fingerprinted.

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

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

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to accept the resignation of part time corrections officers' Tracy Kondisko and Olivia Oberdorf, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept the hiring of Georgeanna Ferry as Office Coordinator on December 2, 2014, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to accept the hiring of Joanne Urban as the Records Supervisor on December 2, 2014, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

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