

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
January 26, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

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

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jonathan Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2014 was made by Commissioner Courtney, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 546 in-house, 564 total. The average population for December 2014 was 550 in-house and 567 total. This compares to December of 2013 when the average was 606 in-house and 624 total.

Average length of stay for December 2014 is 19.49 days as compared to December 2013 which was 20.28 days. Average length of stay from January to December 2014 is 44.15 compared to January to December 2013 is 46.46. In December 2014 there were 327 commitments and 378 releases, compared to 350 commitments and 345 releases in December 2013. So far in 2014, there have been 4579 commitments and 4663 releases. In January thru December 2013, there were 4332 commitments and 4227 releases.

The rate of recidivism for December 2014 is 29.96%. This includes parole and probation violations too. From January to December 2014, the recidivism rate was 30% which includes repeat offenders and parole and probation violations. The Warden is working with Mike Soich to develop computer programs to begin tracking data that can be used for reporting recidivism information needed for grant applications.

There were no rentals billed in December 2014. Fines collected in December for Clerk of Courts were \$9,402.98. Total monies collected in 2014 for Clerk of Courts is \$ 104,527.69. Kiosk revenue for 2014 was \$4,487.00 and total locker revenue for 2014 was \$3139.00.

In December, 36 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 9 were performed by Judge Hathaway, 5 were performed by Judge Pezze, and 10 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 12 out of county bench warrants were served. 104 District Justice hearings were held in December 2014. A total of 1,364 district justice hearings were held in 2014.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the December 2014 cost per meal was \$1.08 compared to \$.96 in December 2013.

In December 2014, there were no inmates above the cap, resulting in a \$ 1,821.25 credit for the month. So far in 2014, the prison has had to pay an additional \$ 11,860.40 for health coverage.

32% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 35.7% last month. 50% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

The Warden reported that the video conferencing system went live on January 26, 2015. There are some problems with visitor's internet service and the video visits often go dead and they have to reconnect which takes time to get reestablished. There will likely be ongoing problems with internet bands.

There are ongoing meetings with United Mine Workers of America Local 522. Discussion items include money, health care and ways to curb sick time.

The Wrapped in Love Program was very successful this Christmas due to the hard work of Sue Wiseman and Chaplain Badamo, and the 32 participating churches. 98 children from 54 families received Christmas gifts. There was a tremendous amount of work as some families have filed PFA's and they don't want anything from these inmates.

The Warden reported that the prison is due to receive approximately \$177,000.00 for Act 81 monies. The state pays \$100.00 per day to house those inmates charged with DUI that are on work release and are housed in Westmoreland County Prison. The Warden reported housing these individuals for 1,990 days.

A drug and bomb dog training was conducted on January 20, 2015. Several facilities including the VA Hospital brought their bomb and drug dogs to be trained. Pseudo drugs were planted in various areas of the prison and this provided very good cert training also. All the drugs that were planted were found.

The sheriff has requested that the prison get naloxone since it isn't currently offered by Wexford. The Warden has spoken to medical and arrangements are being made to have naloxone training as the regulations are going to change.

The Warden received a letter from Denise Fischer thanking the Warden and the Prison Board for listening to her and her sister.

The Warden conducted a review of the police criminal complaints on new commitments and noted that in the period of December 9, 2014 to January 12, 2015 only 2 inmates were fingerprinted while 35 were not fingerprinted.

The inmates were currently in the process of tearing down the lights at Overly's.

Jody Cammarata gave the population monitoring report for January thru December 2014. The average inmate population for 2014 was 585 in-house, 604 total. For 2014, 270 court-ordered drug and alcohol evaluations were done while incarcerated. Also, 89 court-ordered mental health evaluations were done.

Approximately 300 inmates were expedited through the Veterans Justice Outreach Program in 2014. 78 veterans were qualified to receive services through this program.

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

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

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to accept the retirement of full time corrections officer, Robert Lowther on January 2, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to accept the retirement of full time corrections officer Tamara Barber-Kamer on December 26, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to terminate Sergeant Kevin Markiewicz, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept the resignation of probationary officer Kristi Marhefka, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

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