

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
April 20, 2015
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 March 16, 2015 was made by Controller Balzer, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Ron Vallozzi of 15 Dartmouth Driven Greensburg, PA talked to the Board regarding his son, Adam who is currently incarcerated at the Westmoreland County Prison, and was recently injured there. He believes his son should be sent to an inpatient facility after being released from the jail.

Gary Miscovich gave the Adult Probation/Parole Quarterly Report.

The population of the prison today is 579 in-house, 598 total. The average population for March 2015 was 582 in-house and 597 total. This compares to March of 2014 when the average was 619 in-house and 634 total.

Average length of stay for March 2015 is 17.65 days as compared to March 2014 which was 19.18 days. Average length of stay from January to March 2015 was 29.27 compared to January to March 2014 of 32.62. In March 2015 there were 465 commitments and 427 releases, compared to 384 commitments and 378 releases in March 2014. So far in 2015 there have been 1196 commitments and 1134 releases compared to 1098 commitments and 1096 releases in January thru March 2014.

The rate of recidivism for March 2015 is 27.94%. This includes parole and probation violations too. Also, the March 2015 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hr and 72 hour detainees is 38.0%. January – March 2015 recidivism rate is 30.68 and 39.79 including 48 hr and 72 hr detainees. This compares to January – March 2014 recidivism rate of 34.50, and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees, 43.15.

There were two rentals billed in March 2015 and \$3,056.70 was collected. Fines collected in March for Clerk of Courts were \$10,637.24. Total monies collected in January thru March of 2015 for Clerk of Courts is \$27,065.68.

In March, 80 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 2 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 37 were performed by Judge Pezze, and 31 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 10 out of county bench warrants were served. 119 District Justice hearings were held in March 2015.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the March 2015 cost per meal was \$.98 compared to \$.96 in March 2014.

In March 2015, there were inmates above the cap, resulting in an additional \$ 509.95 owed for the month. So far in 2015 the credit for being under the cap is \$ 3496.80.

58.6% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 57.8% last month. 38.5% of inmates are currently on psych meds, compared to 38.1% last month.

The Warden reported that \$2,767.23 has been collected for video conferencing through March, 2015. In the month of March, the amount collected was \$1,470.89. Starting June 1, the new visiting schedule is one regular visit and two video visits per inmate.

The United Mine Workers of America Local 522 have been given the proposal and there will be a meeting in two weeks to discuss the proposal.

The NIC report recommends that everyone coming into the jail get fingerprinted and photographed so that we definitely know who is coming into the prison. Westmoreland County is the fifth lowest county in Pennsylvania for doing fingerprinting. In addition, the use of the live scans would assist in those getting released from the jail, verifying by a picture or a fingerprint for accuracy.

The Warden provided 2014 statistics to Judge Megan Bilik-Defazio to be used for the establishment of drug court. In 2014, 41% of inmates needed to detox upon commitment. In addition, the Warden provided statistics on the specific drugs and or alcohol that inmates had in their system upon commitment.

The Warden has been getting requests regarding potential projects that could be performed by Westmoreland County inmates. Per the Warden, the county does not have a work crew that can be readily assigned to special projects. Currently only 10 prisoners qualify for the maintenance crew that can perform work outside the prison for county projects. Those inmates are non-violent offenders who already have been convicted and who have outside clearances. The Warden has already received 14 requests for projects from the county.

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

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to revoke the appointment of part time correctional officer Jacob Shaffer, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept the resignation of office coordinator Georgeanna Ferry effective April 13, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to hire Kimberly Musgrove as the office coordinator, seconded by Commissioner Kopas as the office coordinator effective April 27, 2015. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept retirement of full time correction officer Theresa Rayman, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

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