

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
August 11, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

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

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2015 was made by Commissioner Kopas, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 567 in-house, 581 total. The average population for July 2015 was 573 in-house and 593 total. This compares to July of 2014 when the average was 603 in-house and 617 total.

Average length of stay for July 2015 is 18.33 days as compared to July 2014 which was 19.61 days. Average length of stay from January to July 2015 was 37.11 compared to January to July 2014 of 40.07. In July 2015 there were 384 commitments and 430 releases, compared to 360 commitments and 369 releases in July 2014. So far in 2015 there have been 2747 commitments and 2740 releases compared to 2643 commitments and 2678 releases in January thru July 2014.

The rate of recidivism for July 2015 is 26.03%. This includes parole and probation violations too. Also, the July 2015 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hr and 72 hour detainees is 36.70%. January – July 2015 recidivism rate is 31.77 and 40.68 including 48 hr and 72 hr detainees. This compares to January – July 2014 recidivism rate of 34.80, and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees, 43.27.

There were no rentals billed in July 2015. Fines collected in July for Clerk of Courts were \$10,501.22. Total monies collected in January thru July of 2015 for Clerk of Courts is \$67,128.52.

In July, 98 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 39 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 28 were performed by Judge Hathaway, 6 were performed by Judge Pezze, 2 were performed by Judge McCormick, and 13 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 10 out of county bench warrants were served. 134 District Justice hearings were held in July 2015.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the July 2015 cost per meal was \$ 1.00 compared to \$.91 in July 2014.

In July 2015, we were two inmates under the cap, resulting in a \$ 151.28 credit for the month. So far in 2015 the credit for being under the cap is \$ 1,535.20. 68% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 61.9% last month. 41% of inmates are currently on psych meds, compared to 39.4% last month.

The Warden reported that \$7,242.16 has been collected for video conferencing through July, 2015. In the month of July, the amount collected was \$997.20.

The contract with United Mine Workers of America Local 522 was ratified on July 10, 2015. Once the contract has the required signatures, the appropriate payroll changes will occur.

Todd Stephens, a member of the House, responded to the Warden stating that the Bill 1089 needs amended to add room and board to the list of items that must be paid with the 50% deduction the bill requires from the inmate's account. They have been working with the Senate to try and have the Bill amended in this regard.

The Warden has a meeting scheduled with Melissa Guiddy, looking at specifications to proceed with a bid for full body scanners.

Adams Library in Latrobe will start doing video conferencing visits on Fridays. The other library located in New Kensington that has agreed to be a test library, is not ready yet to participate in inmate video visits.

The first electronic GED test was given yesterday, August 10. Two more inmates have started the process and will be completed next week.

Bids were received for the Prison Roof Replacement and the lowest bid was \$400,000.00 under budget. The bid will be awarded at the next commissioner's meeting on August 13, 2015.

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

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to reconvene in public session, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept the resignation of full time counselor Stacey Long, effective August 23, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

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