

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
October 13, 2015
Meeting Minutes
9:00 AM**

Members Present: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Kopas, Deputy Controller Garris, and District Attorney Peck. Commissioner Courtney and Controller Balzer arrived late.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2015 was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 598 in-house, 610 total. The average population for September 2015 was 584 in-house and 600 total. This compares to September of 2014 when the average was 589 in-house and 602 total.

Average length of stay for September 2015 is 18.17 days as compared to September 2014 which was 17.84 days. Average length of stay from January to September 2015 was 38.71 compared to January to September 2014 of 41.12. In September 2015 there were 377 commitments and 357 releases, compared to 414 commitments and 397 releases in September 2014. So far in 2015 there have been 3524 commitments and 3454 releases compared to 3442 commitments and 3468 releases in January thru September 2014.

The rate of recidivism for September 2015 is 27.05% as compared to September 2014 which was 35.74%. Also, the September 2015 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hr and 72 hour detainers is 34.21% as compared to September 2014 which was 44.19%. January – September 2015 recidivism rate is 32.31% and 41.05% including 48 hr and 72 hr detainers. This compares to January – September 2014 recidivism rate of 35.5%, and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 44.03%.

There were no rentals billed in September 2015. Fines collected in September for Clerk of Courts were \$8,708.26. Total monies collected in January thru September of 2015 for Clerk of Courts is \$83,316.78.

In September, 124 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 41 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 40 were performed by Judge Feliciani, 15 were performed by Judge Hathaway, and 18 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 10 out of county bench warrants were served. 135 District Justice hearings were held in September 2015.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the September 2015 cost per meal was \$.95 compared to \$.99 in September 2014.

In September 2015, we were above 9 inmates above the cap, resulting in a \$ 658.80 deficit for the month. So far in 2015 the credit for being under the cap is \$ 1,103.32. 62.9% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon

arrival compared to 58.9% last month. 40% of inmates are currently on psych meds, compared to 36% last month.

The Warden reported that \$9,273.95 has been collected for video conferencing through September, 2015. In the month of September, the amount collected was \$1,071.99.

People's Library in New Kensington is not interested in doing video visits.

The full body scanner bid is due in Controller's office by 2:00 PM October 27, 2015.

The repairing of the prison roof is expected to be completed by November 19, 2015.

The FCC will be making a ruling at the October 22, 2015 meeting about the inmate's rate on the revenue received from inmate's use of the phones. We are at the mercy of the FCC. GTI will be restructuring because of the new ruling. The prison uses these monies for the GED program.

Summary judgment was granted on behalf of Westmoreland County, the Westmoreland County Prison, and all others named in the Knight v Murphy lawsuit. Mr. Thomas Pellis was very impressed with the video evidence showing the professionalism of the correction officers and management. It was the appropriate actions of our team of correction officers, their training, and their consistent use of videotape which led to this result.

Alex Hribal has been in the jail for two weeks and there have been no issues. He has been going to school.

Deputy Controller Garris 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 Anderson. Unanimous.

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