

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
November 16, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Commissioner Anderson, 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 October 13, 2015 was made by Commissioner Kopas, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 606 in-house, 617 total. The average population for October 2015 was 619 in-house and 632 total. This compares to October of 2014 when the average was 597 in-house and 611 total.

Average length of stay for October 2015 is 18.71 days as compared to October 2014 which was 18.09 days. Average length of stay from January to October 2015 was 39.40 compared to January to October 2014 of 41.32. In October 2015 there were 419 commitments and 417 releases, compared to 431 commitments and 459 releases in October 2014. So far in 2015 there have been 3943 commitments and 3871 releases compared to 3873 commitments and 3927 releases in January thru October 2014.

The rate of recidivism for October 2015 is 28.62% as compared to October 2014 which was 33.63%. Also, the October 2015 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hr and 72 hour detainers is 37.45% as compared to October 2014 which was 43.83%. January – October 2015 recidivism rate is 32.40% and 41.22% including 48 hr and 72 hr detainers. This compares to January – October 2014 recidivism rate of 35.77%, and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 44.52%.

There were no rentals billed in October 2015. Fines collected in October for Clerk of Courts were \$8,274.72. Total monies collected in January thru October of 2015 for Clerk of Courts is \$91,591.50.

In October, 93 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 33 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 11 were performed by Judge Feliciani, 12 were performed by Judge Hathaway, and 11 bench warrants were performed by US Government. In addition, 26 out of county bench warrants were served. 141 District Justice hearings were held in October 2015.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the October 2015 cost per meal was \$.96 compared to \$.97 in October 2014.

In October 2015, we were 44 inmates above the cap, owing an additional \$3,328.16 for medical costs. For the year, the prison now owes an additional \$2,224.84 for their medical expenses to Wexford. 61.2% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 62.9% last month. 42.5% of inmates are currently on psych meds, compared to 40% last month.

The Warden reported that \$10,670.03 has been collected for video conferencing through October, 2015. In the month of October, the amount collected was \$1,396.08. The Warden is looking into acquiring new software to be able to have video visits on cell phones.

The full body scanner bid was awarded to Virtual Imaging Canon USA from Dallas, Texas. The equipment is expected to be installed the first or second week of January 2016.

The repairing of the prison roof is now expected to be completed by December 9, 2015, due to additional manual work that was required.

The prison has received the annual commission of \$250,000.00 from inmate's use of the phones from Value Added Communication. In addition \$8,597.36 was also received due to additional calls made in the past year. The FCC met on October 22, 2015 and has established caps on rates and fees for intr- and interstate calls on inmate calling services but stopped short of capping site commissions, only strongly discouraging these payments to facility administrators. As a result the GTL must seek judicial review of the FCC's order asking for letters to support GTL from our Commissioners. These rate changes are due to take effect in approximately 90 days which would be in March or April of 2016.

Alex Hribal has been attending school and he is fully acclimated in the jail and is being escorted at all times. There have been no issues with him. Dave Ridilla was able to set video conferencing for Alex to visit with his Psychiatrist in the client room.

There was a problem with the door controls but Amos Rager and Chris were able to work on and fix the problem. The part cost \$1,500.00 but Amos and Chris worked on it and repaired it. There currently is not a contract to repair the doors and it is being handled in house.

The Warden was able to schedule the inmate workers to help put up the lights at Overly's Christmas. They began this week and there was no need for overtime.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

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

Sheriff Held made a motion to accept the retirement of full time secretary Sharon Derr, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept the verbal resignation, effective today November 16, 2015, of part time corrections officer Seth Miller, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

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