

**Westmoreland County  
Prison Board  
December 14, 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 November 16, 2015 was made by Controller Balzer, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

Gary Miscovich gave the Adult Probation/Parole Quarterly Report.

The population of the prison today is 568 in-house, 584 total. The average population for November 2015 was 607 in-house and 620 total. This compares to November of 2014 when the average was 583 in-house and 600 total.

Average length of stay for November 2015 is 18.94 days as compared to November 2014 which was 18.60 days. Average length of stay from January to November 2015 was 40.31 compared to January to November 2014 of 41.74. In November 2015 there were 352 commitments and 368 releases, compared to 379 commitments and 357 releases in November 2014. So far in 2015 there have been 4295 commitments and 4239 releases compared to 4252 commitments and 4284 releases in January thru November 2014.

The rate of recidivism for November 2015 is 24.71% as compared to November 2014 which was 30.34%. Also, the November 2015 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hr and 72 hour detainers is 33.23% as compared to November 2014 which was 37.72%. January – November 2015 recidivism rate is 32.33% and 41.15% including 48 hr and 72 hr detainers. This compares to January – November 2014 recidivism rate of 35.74%, and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 44.44%.

There were no rentals billed in November 2015. Fines collected in November for Clerk of Courts were \$8,045.82. Total monies collected in January thru November of 2015 for Clerk of Courts is \$99,637.32.

In November, 65 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 19 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 8 were performed by Judge Hathaway, and 22 were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 16 out of county bench warrants were served. 109 District Justice hearings were held in November 2015.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the November 2015 cost per meal was \$ .75 compared to \$ 1.05 in November 2014.

In November 2015, we were 32 inmates above the cap, owing an additional \$2,342.40 for medical costs. For the year, the prison now owes an additional \$4,566.64 for their medical expenses to Wexford. 66% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 61.2% last month. 41% of inmates are currently on psych meds, compared to 42.5% last month.

The Warden reported that \$ 12,103.50 has been collected for video conferencing through November, 2015. In the month of November, the amount collected was \$1,433.47. The number of video visits is expected to increase. The Warden just realized that the video visits were limited to weekdays and they were not able to have visits on the weekend. These programming changes will be fixed going forward.

The full body scanner bid was awarded to Virtual Imaging Canon USA from Dallas, Texas. Another bidder, OD Security North America is protesting the bid award and has filed an inquest.

The repairing of the prison roof is now completed. The Warden was very pleased with Ramp Construction of Canonsburg for the job completed.

A letter was sent to GTL on behalf of the County Commissioners showing the County's support of the decision of GTL to seek judicial review of the FCC's order as it relates to establishing caps on rates and fees for intra and interstate calls on inmate calling services. The Warden sent the letter on December 8, 2015.

Chaplain Badamo coordinated the efforts to provide gifts for 140 children of inmates, receiving donations from 33 churches. 125 applications were received and after verifying that there were no PFA's against the inmate, or other reasons they were able to process 100 of those.

Detective Tony Marcocci contacted the Warden and asked if he would allow Dr. Eric Kocian and members of the Criminology, Law, and Society program of St. Vincent College to conduct in depth research on the pathways to addiction and recovery. 76 inmates volunteered and the interviews began today December 14, 2014. Information received from the inmates will be used to compile information about addiction.

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

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

Commissioner Courtney made a motion to accept the resignation of part time corrections officer Rachel Bellish, effective 11/23/2015, and the retirement of full time corrections officer Thomas Daversa effective 12/31/2015, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

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