

**Westmoreland County  
Prison Board  
May 23, 2016  
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Sheriff Jonathan Held, Commissioner Cerilli, Commissioner Kopas, Commissioner Anderson, Controller Balzer, and District Attorney Peck. The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2016 meeting was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 628 in-house, 643 total. The average population for April 2016 was 626 in-house and 646 total. This compares to April of 2015 when the average was 585 in-house and 606 total.

Average length of stay for April 2016 is 18.33 days as compared to April 2015 which was 17.74 days. In April 2016 there were 424 commitments and 424 releases, compared to 394 commitments and 414 releases in April 2015. So far in 2016 there have been 1582 commitments and 1521 releases compared to 1590 commitments and 1548 releases in January thru April 2015.

The rate of recidivism for April 2016 is 30.65% as compared to April 2015 which was 30.19%. Also, the April 2016 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hour and 72 hour detainees is 36.54% as compared to April 2015 which was 39.07%. January thru April 2016 recidivism rate is 32.04% and 38.67% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees. This compares to January – April 2015 recidivism rate of 32.95% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees, 42.00%.

There were no rentals billed in April 2016. Fines collected in April for Clerk of Courts were \$ 9,629.23. Total monies collected from January to April 2016 are \$37,226.63.

The Warden reported that \$ 1,745.10 has been collected for video conferencing in the month of April 2016.

In April, 143 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 39 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 28 by Judge Hathaway, 9 by Judge Pezze and 35 were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 32 out of county bench warrants were served. 127 District Justice hearings were held in April 2016.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the April 2016 cost per meal was \$ .78 compared to \$ .93 in April 2015.

In April 2016, we were 51 inmates above the cap owing \$3,733.20. 72% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 62.9 % last month. 40.40% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

Commissioner Cerilli 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 Kopas made a motion to accept the resignations of full time Correction Officer Renee Stark, effective May 8, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the resignation of Probationary Correction Officer Brett Yanok, effective May 23, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to hire Assistant Records Supervisor Mary Scheeren, effective May 9, 2016, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to hire Corrections Counselor Anthony Vachino, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Cerilli made a motion to terminate Lt Mark A. Gergas, effective May 23, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

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