

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
August 29, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

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

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

Mrs. Yonkers spoke to the Board about her nephew being in disciplinary segregation while in the Westmoreland County Prison. She did not think it was fair treatment that he got locked up when he was only protecting himself.

The population of the prison today is 618 in-house, 643 total. The average population for July 2016 was 624 in-house and 644 total. This compares to July of 2015 when the average was 573 in-house and 593 total.

Average length of stay for July 2016 is 18.89 days as compared to July 2015 which was 18.33 days. In July 2016 there were 395 commitments and 429 releases, compared to 384 commitments and 430 releases in July 2015. So far in 2016 there have been 2805 commitments and 2748 releases compared to 2747 commitments and 2740 releases in January thru July 2015.

The rate of recidivism for July 2016 is 29.86% as compared to July 2015 which was 29.16%. Also, the July 2016 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hour and 72 hour detainers is 34.16% as compared to July 2015 which was 39.31%. January thru July 2016 recidivism rate is 32.47% and 38.1% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers. This compares to January – July 2015 recidivism rate of 33.95% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 43.05%.

There was one rental billed in July 2016 for \$78.00. Fines collected in July for Clerk of Courts were \$9,030.91. Total monies collected from January to July 2016 are \$65,405.66.

The Warden reported that \$ 2,181.38 has been collected for video conferencing in the month of July 2016.

In July, 85 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 26 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 5 by Judge Hathaway, and 31 were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 22 out of county bench warrants were served. 164 District Justice hearings were held in July 2016.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the July 2016 cost per meal was \$.78 compared to \$ 1.00 in July 2015.

In July 2016, we were 49 inmates above the cap owing \$3,858.26. For the year, we are above the cap owing \$18,534.14. 61.31% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 58.8 % last month. 45.43% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

The FCC on August 4, 2016 set rate caps for intrastate and interstate calls at 21 cents. This will not become effective until the Order of Reconsideration has been published in the Federal Register, and that has not been determined.

Connie Craig has been coming into the prison to get inmates registered to vote.

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

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

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to transfer part time corrections officer Jonathan M. Bradford to Westmoreland County Park Police, effective September 5, 2016, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

Controller Kopas made a motion to rescind the appointments of probationary Correction Officers Jeff Vertullo and Shontae Able, effective August 1, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to hire part time corrections officer Stephen Backsis and Alexander Pacelli, effective August 1, 2016, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the retirement of receptionist, Peggy Finney effective October 1, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the resignation of part time Correction Officer, Zachary Cole, effective August 19, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

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