

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
October 6, 2016 1:00 PM
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 August 29, 2016 meeting was made by Controller Balzer, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

Melissa Visley of the American Red Cross presented a lifesaving award to Tara Sims, a Westmoreland County Corrections Officer, and a certificate of appreciation award to Becky Frye of Wexford Medical. Both women helped save the life of an inmate incarcerated at the Westmoreland County Prison.

Don Svetkovich, a former corrections officer at the Westmoreland County prison, was questioning the Prison Board about the implementation of the body scanners as noted in the November 2015 meeting minutes and the use of the newly installed fingerprint machines as noted in the April 15, 2015 meeting minutes. Currently County Solicitor Melissa Guiddy is working with DEP to get a license to operate the full body scanner and software has been installed to operate the fingerprint machine.

Gary Miscovich gave the quarterly Adult Probation/Parole Quarterly Report.

The population of the prison today is 617 in-house, 636 total. The average population for August 2016 was 621 in-house and 642 total. This compares to August of 2015 when the average was 572 in-house and 590 total.

Average length of stay for August 2016 is 18.62 days as compared to August 2015 which was 18.87 days. In August 2016 there were 437 commitments and 405 releases, compared to 400 commitments and 357 releases in August 2015. So far in 2016 there have been 3242 commitments and 3153 releases compared to 3147 commitments and 3097 releases in January thru August 2015.

The rate of recidivism for August 2016 is 32.02% as compared to August 2015 which was 34.00%. Also, the August 2016 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hour and 72 hour detainers is 39.11% as compared to August 2015 which was 42.75%. January thru August 2016 recidivism rate is 32.77% and 38.75% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers. This compares to January – August 2015 recidivism rate of 34.63% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 43.81%.

There was one rental billed in August 2016 for \$1,716.00. Fines collected in August for Clerk of Courts were \$9,105.13. Total monies collected from January to August 2016 are \$74,510.79.

The Warden reported that \$ 1,657.84 has been collected for video conferencing in the month of August 2016. The Warden will be upping the number of video visits to three per week.

In August, 99 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 31 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 13 by Judge Hathaway, and 31 were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 24 out of county bench warrants were served. 167 District Justice hearings were held in August 2016.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the August 2016 cost per meal was \$.89 compared to \$.93 in August 2015.

In August 2016, we were 46 inmates above the cap owing \$3,622.04. For the year, we are above the cap owing \$22,156.18. 63% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 61.31% last month. 45.4% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

Wexford Health Sources received a Certificate of Accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care for meeting all the requirements of accreditation under NCCHC's Standards for Health Services.

Warden Walton and the Westmoreland County Prison have received 100% full compliance from the PA Department of Corrections for the 10th year in a row.

Jim Badamo, our chaplain at Westmoreland County Prison was recently elected president of the Pennsylvania Prison Chaplain Association.

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

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

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to accept the resignation of Sergeant Ken Miller, effective September 24, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the resignation of part time corrections officer Stephen Baksis effective September 6, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept the resignation of part time corrections officer Alexander Pacelli effective September 22, 2016, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to terminate probationary corrections officer, Ryan Russell effective 10/6/2016, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

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