

Westmoreland County Prison Board
February 27, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Sheriff Jonathan Held, Commissioner Gina Cerilli, Commissioner Ted Kopas, Commissioner Charles Anderson, and Controller Jeff Balzer

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2017 meeting was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 603 in-house, 628 total. The average population for January was 603 in-house and 628 total. This compares to January of 2016 when the average was 573 in-house and 587 total.

Average length of stay for January 2017 is 19.46 days as compared to January 2016 which was 19.27 days. In January 2017 there were 382 commitments and 337 releases, compared to 378 commitments and 331 releases in January 2016.

The rate of recidivism for January 2017 is 31.41% as compared to January 2016 which was 33.59%. Also, the January 2017 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hour and 72 hour detainers is 37.95% as compared to January 2016 which was 41.52%.

There were no rentals billed in January 2017. Fines collected in January for Clerk of Courts were \$8,490.95.

The Warden reported that \$1,734.00 has been collected for video conferencing for the month of January 2017.

In January, 127 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 48 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 29 by Judge Feliciani, 17 by Judge Hathaway, and 18 were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 15 out of county bench warrants were served. 177 District Justice hearings were held in January 2017.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the January 2017 cost per meal was \$0.90 compared to \$0.94 in January 2016.

In January 2017, we were 28 inmates above the cap owing \$2,204.72. 67.8% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 62.3% last month. 47.4% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

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

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

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept the resignations of William Neil and James Farenburg seconded by Commissioner Kopas.

Controller Balzer made a motion to hire George Lowther for the Deputy Warden position, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Commissioner Cerilli and Sheriff Held voted Nay. 3 – 2 vote. NOTE: While the majority of the quorum voted for passage of the previous motion, the motion fails due to the fact that the majority of the board did not vote in the affirmative (4 votes) as required by Pennsylvania Law (61 Pa C.S.A. § 1732)

Commissioner Kopas made a motion on SB10, no second. Motion was tabled.

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