

**Westmoreland County Prison**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 20, 2017**

Members Present: Sheriff Jonathan Held (via phone), Commissioner Gina Cerilli, Commissioner Ted Kopas, Commissioner Charles Anderson, Controller Jeff Balzer, and District Attorney John Peck

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2017 meeting was made by Controller Balzer, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 628 in-house, 644 total. The average population for February 2017 was 633 in-house and 658 total. This compares to February of 2016 when the average was 602 in-house and 617 total.

Average length of stay for February 2017 is 17.49 days as compared to February 2016 which was 17.67 days. In February 2017 there were 391 commitments and 370 releases, compared to 367 commitments and 353 releases in February 2016. For January thru February 2017 there have been 733 commitments and 707 releases compared to 745 commitments and 684 releases in January thru February 2016.

The rate of recidivism for February 2017 is 35.29% as compared to February 2016 which was 32.96%. Also, the February 2017 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hour and 72 hour detainers is 40.40% as compared to February 2016 which was 38.68%. January thru February 2017 recidivism rate is 33.49% and 39.31% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers. This compares to January thru February 2016 recidivism rate of 33.69% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 40.53%.

There were no rentals billed in February 2017. Fines collected in February 2017 for Clerk of Courts were \$10,230.84. Total monies collected from January to February 2017 were \$18,721.79.

The Warden reported that \$1,980.00 has been collected for video conferencing for the month of February.

In February, 161 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 39 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 33 by Judge Feliciani, 50 by Judge Hathaway, 27 by Domestic Relations, and 12 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 179 District Justice hearings were held in February 2017.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the February 2017 cost per meal was \$0.85 compared to \$0.89 in February 2016.

In February 2017, we were 57 inmates above the cap owing \$4,053.84. For the year, we are above the cap owing \$6,258.56. 71.3% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 67.8% last month. 44.8% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

Started doing Video Psychiatry on February 1, 2017, and is working very well. During a week the Psychiatrist comes into the Prison one day and it is done by video one day.

Effective April 3, 2017, the Initial Western Region Reception Center for the PA Department of Corrections will transition from SCI Pittsburgh to SCI Greene.

An e-mail was sent to Judge McCormick regarding fingerprints being done at the Prison. From January 5, 2017 through March 15, 2017 upon commitment 77.4% were not fingerprinted.

Controller Balzer made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by District Attorney John Peck. Unanimous.

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

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to hire 9 Correction Officers, Lucas Palmer, Sean Colligan, Danielle Grosser, Christopher Demorest, Jonathan Gavin, Sara Auen, Breanna Luft, Quentin Rickard, and Thomas Melago, seconded by Commissioner Kopas.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to hire Tara Esposito, as a Part-Time Receptionist, seconded by Commissioner Anderson.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to accept the Retirement of Richard Davanzo, effective April 21, 2017, seconded by Controller Balzer.

Controller Balzer made a motion to hire George Lowther for the Deputy Warden position, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Commissioner Cerilli and Sheriff Held voted Nay. 4-2 vote, motion passes and moves onto the Salary Board.

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