

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
March 16, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Sheriff Jonathan Held, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Courtney, Commissioner Kopas, District Attorney Peck, Controller Balzer.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jonathan Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2014 was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Betty Long formerly from Jeannette, currently living in Ligonier, PA, spoke to the Board about bringing a life skills program, CHOOSE FORWARD into the jail at no cost to the County. Mrs. Long previously provided counseling at the Union Mission in Latrobe.

The population of the prison today is 585 in-house, 596 total. The average population for February 2015 was 544 in-house and 559 total. This compares to February of 2014 when the average was 635 in-house and 650 total.

Average length of stay for February 2015 is 17.73 days as compared to February 2014 which was 18.45 days. Average length of stay from January to February 2015 was 25.78 compared to January to February 2014 of 27.67. In February 2015 there were 332 commitments and 299 releases, compared to 357 commitments and 351 releases in February 2014. So far in 2015 there have been 731 commitments and 707 releases compared to 714 commitments and 718 releases in January thru February 2014.

The rate of recidivism for February 2015 is 29.2%. This includes parole and probation violations too. Also, the February 2015 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hr and 72 hour detainees is 38.53%. This compares to January – February 2014 recidivism rate of 31.92, and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees, 39.76. The final meeting to determine “What is recidivism” still has not occurred.

There was one rental billed in February 2015. \$2,184.00 was received from Clark Haggans. Fines collected in February for Clerk of Courts were \$8,493.08. Total monies collected in January and February of 2015 for Clerk of Courts is \$16,428.44.

In February, 53 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 1 was performed by Judge Hathaway, 5 were performed by Judge Pezze, and 36 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. The two new judges have not started doing video conferencing. In addition, 11 out of county bench warrants were served. 88 District Justice hearings were held in February 2015.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the February 2015 cost per meal was \$ 1.04 compared to \$.99 in February 2014.

In February 2015, there were no inmates above the cap, resulting in a \$ 2,039.80 credit for the month. So far in 2015 the credit for being under the cap is \$ 4,006.75.

57.8% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 37.7% last month. 38.1% of inmates are currently on psych meds, compared to 46% last month.

The Warden reported that \$1296.36 has been collected for video conferencing through February, 2015. So far in March 1 -10, 2015, \$461.20 has been collected. The Warden reported that there is a 5% fee for each video visit thus the prison is making 83% of the \$15.00 per visit charge.

There are ongoing meetings with United Mine Workers of America Local 522. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, March 17, 2015 and the item of discussion is health care and money.

Criminal Justice Advisory Meeting is recommending that there be live scanning equipment at the jail and the sheriff's office that can print and photograph everyone entering the jail. This will likely pass.

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

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

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to accept the resignation of part time corrections officer Adam Gilingham as of March 13, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

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