

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

Members Present: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Courtney, Commissioner Kopas, District Attorney Peck, and Deputy Controller Garris.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2015 was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

Edward Lucas of Colver, PA located in Cambria County, spoke to the Board about the change of prison visitation policy going from 3 prison visits a week to 1 prison visit a week and up to two video conferencing visits per month. Mr. Lucas is concerned because he has to share his one prison visit a week with his son's wife. Mr. Lucas has not tried to do a video visit yet.

Ellie Buckholz also spoke to the Board about her displeasure with the change in prison visits going down to only one face to face per week. She has not tried to do a video conferencing call yet and feels it's too expensive to get a camera for her computer.

The population of the prison today is 587 in-house, 609 total. The average population for May 2015 was 582 in-house and 602 total. This compares to May of 2014 when the average was 615 in-house and 633 total.

Average length of stay for May 2015 is 19.07 days as compared to May 2014 which was 18.55 days. Average length of stay from January to May 2015 was 34.57 compared to January to May 2014 of 37.01. In May 2015 there were 371 commitments and 367 releases, compared to 415 commitments and 433 releases in May 2014. So far in 2015 there have been 1961 commitments and 1915 releases compared to 1906 commitments and 1928 releases in January thru May 2014.

The rate of recidivism for May 2015 is 33.68%. This includes parole and probation violations too. Also, the May 2015 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hr and 72 hour detainees is 43.88%. January – May 2015 recidivism rate is 31.66 and 40.48 including 48 hr and 72 hr detainees. This compares to January – May 2014 recidivism rate of 34.36, and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees, 42.85.

There were no rentals billed in May 2015. Fines collected in May for Clerk of Courts were \$7,930.59. Total monies collected in January thru May of 2015 for Clerk of Courts is \$45,177.47.

In May, 74 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 19 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 19 were performed by Judge Pezze, and 24 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 12 out of county bench warrants were served. 124 District Justice hearings were held in May 2015.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the May 2015 cost per meal was \$.94 compared to \$.98 in May 2014.

In May 2015, there were 7 inmates above the cap, resulting in an additional \$ 529.48 owed for the month. So far in 2015 the credit for being under the cap is \$ 2,262.32. 64.2% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 55% last month. 42.6% of inmates are currently on psych meds, compared to 43.6% last month.

The Warden reported that \$5,197.90 has been collected for video conferencing through May, 2015. In the month of May, the amount collected was \$1,146.78. The new video visit policy of 1 face to face visit and 2 video visits per week went in to effect on June 1, 2015.

The next meeting with the United Mine Workers of America Local 522 has been rescheduled to June 22, 2015. There is an expected proposal/counter proposal at this time.

The Warden has met with another body scanner company. There currently is not a policy issued from the Environmental Department regarding the use of these machines. Such policy would have to be in place before there would be any body scanning machines at the Prison.

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

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

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