

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
July 20, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

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

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2015 was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 565 in-house, 576 total. The average population for June 2015 was 587 in-house and 608 total. This compares to June of 2014 when the average was 610 in-house and 625 total.

Average length of stay for June 2015 is 17.94 days as compared to June 2014 which was 18.82 days. Average length of stay from January to June 2015 was 35.86 compared to January to June 2014 of 38.54. In June 2015 there were 402 commitments and 395 releases, compared to 377 commitments and 381 releases in June 2014. So far in 2015 there have been 2363 commitments and 2310 releases compared to 2283 commitments and 2309 releases in January thru June 2014.

The rate of recidivism for June 2015 is 31.09%. This includes parole and probation violations too. Also, the June 2015 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hr and 72 hour detainees is 38.05%. January – June 2015 recidivism rate is 32.28 and 40.82 including 48 hr and 72 hr detainees. This compares to January – June 2014 recidivism rate of 34.37, and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees, 43.08.

There were no rentals billed in June 2015. Fines collected in June for Clerk of Courts were \$11,449.83. Total monies collected in January thru June of 2015 for Clerk of Courts is \$56,627.30.

In June, 83 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 40 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 10 were performed by Judge Pezze, and 18 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 15 out of county bench warrants were served. 119 District Justice hearings were held in June 2015.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the June 2015 cost per meal was \$.95 compared to \$.90 in June 2014.

In June 2015, there were 12 inmates above the cap, resulting in an additional \$ 1,383.92 owed for the month. So far in 2015 the credit for being under the cap is \$ 878.40. 61.9% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 64.25% last month. 39.14% of inmates are currently on psych meds, compared to 42.6% last month.

The Warden reported that \$6,244.96 has been collected for video conferencing through June, 2015. In the month of June, the amount collected was \$1,047.06. 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 contract with United Mine Workers of America Local 522 was ratified on July 10, 2015.

House Bill 1089 has passed and has been forwarded to the Senate for consideration. House bill 1089 states that 50% of all deposits into an inmate's account be deducted for fines, costs, and restitution. Westmoreland County already deducts 20% for fines and costs and 30% for room and board fees from each deposit. If this bill passes the Senate, it would severely reduce the monies going into our general fund.

The Warden has had discussions with Melissa Guiddy and is planning on issuing a bid for the full body scanner at the prison.

There are two volunteer libraries that are going to participate in inmate video visits. If there is success with these test libraries, other libraries will possibly begin doing the video visits also.

The electronic GED testing hasn't gone through yet. Private Industry Council didn't have the permits to do the testing online. The machines are in place currently at the prison but there hasn't been any authorization. The GED testing is currently been tabled.

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

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

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to hire Linda Kuchar as financial assistant clerk, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to revoke the appointment of full time corrections officer Larry Kolick, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

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