

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
February 29, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Commissioner Cerilli, Commissioner Kopas, Commissioner Anderson, Controller Balzer, and District Attorney Peck. The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 was made by Commissioner Kopas , seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 588 in-house, 605 total. The average population for January 2016 was 572 in-house and 587 total. This compares to January of 2015 when the average was 562 in-house and 578 total.

Average length of stay for January 2016 is 19.26 days as compared to January 2015 which was 18.67 days. In January 2016 there were 378 commitments and 331 releases, compared to 399 commitments and 408 releases in January 2015.

The rate of recidivism for January 2016 is 30.93% as compared to January 2015 which was 35.08%. Also, the January 2016 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hr and 72 hour detainers is 38.13% as compared to January 2015 which was 43.35%.

There were no rentals billed in January 2016. Fines collected in January for Clerk of Courts were \$7,380.46.

In January, 64 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 31 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, and 22 were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 11 out of county bench warrants were served. 126 District Justice hearings were held in January 2016.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the January 2016 cost per meal was \$.94 compared to \$.99 in January 2015.

In January 2016, we were 3 inmates below the cap allowing a \$226.92 credit. 61.6% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 61.2. % last month. 41.3% of inmates are currently on psych meds, compared to 41.6 % last month.

The Warden reported that \$ 1,570.59 has been collected for video conferencing for January 2016. In the month of December 2015, the amount collected was \$1,732.63.

The fingerprinting machine has been installed and they will be holding mandatory training sessions.

On January 22, 2015 the FCC denied their request for a stay and GTL believes the FCC has exceeded its legal authority and has filed an appeal to the FCC Ruling. GTL will continue to fight this ruling by seeking a “stay” while they file an appeal.

According to the manpower analysis, 153 Full-time or Equivalent staffing positions are required. We currently have 154 employees.

The Warden has submitted application for reimbursement under Act 81 of inmates with level 4 or 5 offenders who have participated in an approved work release program. Reimbursement will be at the Department’s average per prisoner cost of confinement during 2015 which was \$113.00 per day.

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

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

Controller Balzer made a motion to hire the following part time Corrections Officers, effective March 8, 2016, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Casey Ciocco
Bonita Hughey
Colleen Neely
Destiny Witherspoon
Nrandon Gelet
Louis Mandish
Cole Harkins

Terry Quashnock II
Jeremiah Sullenberger
Daniel Bruno
Robert Cowan
Anthony Vachino
Nicholas McGrew

Controller Balzer made a motion to recess the meeting until Friday March 4, 2016 at 10:00 AM in Room #101, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.