

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
June 27, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Sheriff Jonathan Held, 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 May 23, 2016 meeting was made by Commissioner Anderson, including the correction of the effective date of the resignation of Brett Yanok as May 23, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

Bill McKay, representative for the United Mine Workers of America Local 522, relayed the worry and fear their members have expressed about the possibility of more part timers being hired at the jail in lieu of offering the part timers with the most seniority full time positions. Members are worried about their safety.

Gary Miscovich gave the Adult Probation/Parole Quarterly Report.

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

The population of the prison today is 629 in-house, 648 total. The average population for May 2016 was 626 in-house and 643 total. This compares to May of 2015 when the average was 582 in-house and 602 total.

Average length of stay for May 2016 is 19.33 days as compared to May 2015 which was 19.08 days. In May 2016 there were 402 commitments and 393 releases, compared to 371 commitments and 367 releases in May 2015. So far in 2016 there have been 1984 commitments and 1914 releases compared to 1961 commitments and 1915 releases in January thru May 2015.

The rate of recidivism for May 2016 is 30.09% as compared to May 2015 which was 37.46%. Also, the May 2016 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hour and 72 hour detainers is 34.56% as compared to May 2015 which was 47.70%. January thru May 2016 recidivism rate is 32.35% and 38.39% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers. This compares to January – May 2015 recidivism rate of 34.26% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 43.54%.

There were no rentals billed in May 2016. Fines collected in May for Clerk of Courts were \$ 10,718.77. Total monies collected from January to May 2016 are \$47,945.40.

The Warden reported that \$ 1,645.38 has been collected for video conferencing in the month of May 2016.

In May, 104 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 47 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 11 by Judge Hathaway, 3 by Judge Pezze and 24 were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 19 out of county bench warrants were served. 148 District Justice hearings were held in May 2016.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the May 2016 cost per meal was \$.74 compared to \$.94 in May 2015.

In May 2016, we were 50 inmates above the cap owing \$3,937.00. For the year, we are above the cap owing \$11,627.88. 71% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 72 % last month. 39.5% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission are working in conjunction with Westmoreland County Prison and Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services (SPHS) Behavior Health to implement additional recovery support services in the jail. SPHS will be providing a voluntary 6-week recovery group facilitated by Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) that inmates can participate in prior to re-entry into the community.

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

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

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to accept the resignations of part time Correction Officers Daniel Bruno, effective May 25, 2016, Robert Cowan, effective June 18, 2016, and probationary part time Correction Officer Destiny Witherspoon, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the retirement of full time Correction Officer Kenny Wallace, effective June 10, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Cerilli made a motion to terminate Warden John Walton. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

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