

**Westmoreland County  
Prison Board  
July 25, 2016  
Meeting Minutes**

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2016 meeting was made by Controller Balzer, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

David Sims, vice president of the United Mine Workers of America Local 522, expressed concerns of unsafe actions of a probationary employee. Also Mr. Sims was inquiring about the personal day benefit awards and when employees would be eligible to use those days. Mr. Felice assured him that it was in process and that no appeals had been filed.

The population of the prison today is 621 in-house, 637 total. The average population for June 2016 was 615 in-house and 634 total. This compares to June of 2015 when the average was 587 in-house and 608 total.

Average length of stay for June 2016 is 17.82 days as compared to June 2015 which was 17.95 days. In June 2016 there were 426 commitments and 405 releases, compared to 402 commitments and 395 releases in June 2015. So far in 2016 there have been 2410 commitments and 2319 releases compared to 2363 commitments and 2310 releases in January thru June 2015.

The rate of recidivism for June 2016 is 29.33% as compared to June 2015 which was 34.07%. Also, the June 2016 recidivism rate which also includes 48 hour and 72 hour detainers is 34.72% as compared to June 2015 which was 41.03%. January thru June 2016 recidivism rate is 32.44% and 38.41% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers. This compares to January – June 2015 recidivism rate of 34.39% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 43.31%.

There were no rentals billed in June 2016. Fines collected in June for Clerk of Courts were \$ 8,429.35. Total monies collected from January to June 2016 are \$56,374.75.

The Warden reported that \$ 1,907.14 has been collected for video conferencing in the month of June 2016.

In June, 97 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 51 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 5 by Judge Hathaway, and 26 were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 15 out of county bench warrants were served. 168 District Justice hearings were held in June 2016.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the June 2016 cost per meal was \$ .88 compared to \$ .95 in June 2015.

In June 2016, we were 40 inmates above the cap owing \$3,048.00. For the year, we are above the cap owing \$14,675.88. 58.8% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 71 % last month. 41.5% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

There is a new proposed treatment pilot program to be operated by WCSI (Westmoreland Case Management and Supports Inc) that will be providing the following staffing: A full-time Master's Level licensed Therapist, 2 full-time Bachelor's level treatment specialists and a Certified Peer Specialist. The funding for these positions is through the Westmoreland County Block Grant Funding.

On June 20, 2016 the pricing changed and GTL will now be charging a lower rate for inmate calls. This change occurred due to the FCC mandate.

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

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

Controller Balzer made a motion to terminate probationary Correction Officer Bonita Hughey, effective July 25, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to promote Sergeant Steven Pelesky to Lieutenant effective July 31, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

District Attorney Peck made a motion to promote part time corrections officer Phong Tran to Sergeant, effective July 31, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to hire the following part time Correction Officers, effective July 31, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

Brien Blehart	Katherine Frey
Thomas Frady	Jeff Vertullo
Kirk Golembiewski	Nikki Cramer
Eric Boland	Shontae Able
Matthew Springer	Jeremy Hough
Mark Pruger	Nicholas Carmichael
Ryan Russell	

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to promote Lt. George Lowther to Acting Deputy Warden of Security while Deputy Warden Cmar is on a medical leave beginning August 31, 2016 at the rate of \$30.41 per hour, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to rehire an Internal Affairs Officer to investigate staff and inmate issues arising at the prison, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Commissioner Cerilli made a motion to terminate Warden John Walton, seconded by Sheriff Held. Commissioner Kopas, Commissioner Anderson, Controller Balzer, and District Attorney Peck voted nay and the motion failed.

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