

**Westmoreland County
Prison Board
March 11, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Sheriff Jonathan Held, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Courtney, Commissioner Kopas, District Attorney John Peck, and Controller Jeff Balzer.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jonathan Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2014 was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

A motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting on February 27, 2014 was made by Commissioner Kopas, seconded by Commissioner Courtney. Unanimous.

Dave Ridilla gave a presentation on the options A, B, and C in regard to the Renovo video visitation equipment at the prison. All inmates are able to participate in video visiting except inmates that are in disciplinary. Renovo will handle the arrangements of the calls between the families and inmates by either email or robocall. Renovo will assume all liability for qualifying visitors. There will be eight units that will have visitation consoles. Commissioner Kopas made a motion to approve option C with the prepay option, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 617 in-house, 631 total. The average population for February 2013 was 623 in-house and 638 total. This compares to February of 2013 when the average was 549 in-house and 577 total.

Average length of stay for February 2014 is 18.53 days as compared to February 2013 which was 19.04 days. Average length of stay from January to February 2014 is 27.97 compared to January to February 2013 is 28.02. In February 2014 there were 357 commitments and 351 releases, compared to 293 commitments and 302 releases in February 2013.

There were two rentals billed in February 2014. \$4,368.00 was collected from two prisoners. Fines collected in February for Clerk of Courts were \$8,154.27.

In February, 55 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 2 were performed by Judge Hathaway, and 41 bench warrants were performed by Domestic Relations. In addition, 12 out of county bench warrants were served. 114 District Justice hearings were held in February 2014.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the February 2014 cost per meal was \$.98 compared to \$.87 in February 2013.

In February 2014, the prison is 48 inmates above the cap. The prison has to pay an additional \$3,037.44 to Wexford. So far in 2014, the prison has had to pay an additional \$5,069.18 for health coverage.

Wexford Health Systems has requested a meeting with the Commissioners, proposing to move forward with a redefined contract due to the increased utilization of offsite services over the past two years. Wexford Health recommends establishing a cap at which Wexford Health will assume all costs up to and including the cap. Once the cap is reached a 50/50 financial cost responsibility by both parties will be shared until a second cap is reached which Westmoreland will then assume all offsite costs.

The new PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) standards state that a youthful inmate shall not be placed in a housing unit in which the youthful inmate will have sight, sound, or physical contact with any adult inmate through use of a common space, shower area, or sleeping quarters. Per the Warden, the jail has nowhere to house these juveniles, and after checking with Rich Gordon, it would be possible to house these juveniles in our Juvenile Detention facility until they would be convicted as an adult. Last year the prison did house 6 juveniles. There would be a 5% penalty for not complying.

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

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

The Warden asked the Board to accept the resignation of Fiscal Clerk Amy Nash. Commissioner Kopas made the motion seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to revoke the hiring of part time Corrections Officer, Jacob Ward, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

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