

Westmoreland County Prison Board
Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2022

Members Present: Sheriff James Albert, Commissioner Sean Kertes, Commissioner Douglas Chew, Commissioner Gina Cerilli Thrasher (via phone), Controller Jeffrey Balzer and District Attorney Nicole Zicarelli

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chew.

There was no public comment

Reorganization

Controller Balzer made a motion to appoint Commissioner Douglas Chew as the Chairman of the Prison Board, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to appoint Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher as Vice Chairman of the Prison Board, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kertes made a motion to appoint Jeffrey Balzer as Secretary of the Prison Board, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021 meeting was made by Controller Balzer seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

Adult Probation/Parole Report submitted by Eric Leydig:

Detailing the monthly statistical data on the Electronic Monitoring Program, Pre-Trial Services and the Institutional Parole Officer events as of January 31, 2022.

There was 180 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 144 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$23,432.57 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 26 and 142 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Pre-Trial program fees collected year to date was \$383.37. The Institutional Parole Officer completed 3 parole applications and 9 Nominal Bond Investigations to date. Since January 1, 2022, 39 Drug and Alcohol evaluations have been completed at the Westmoreland County Prison. Of the 39 Drug and Alcohol evaluations, the Institutional Parole Officer coordinated the release of 22 inmates to treatment.

A motion to approve the Adult Probation/Parole Report was made by Commissioner Kertes, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

Report from County Correctional Facility, Warden Kline:

The population of the prison today is 554 in-house, 651 total. The average population for December 2021 was 536 in-house and 629 total. This compares to December of 2020 when the average was 468 in-house and 512 total. For January thru December 2021 the average population was 511 in-house and 569 total compared to 497 in-house and 542 total in January thru December 2020.

Average length of stay for December 2021 was 20.48 days as compared to December 2020 which was 24.67 days. For January thru December 2021 the average stay was 47.36 days compared to 56.83 in January thru December 2020.

In December 2021, there were 252 commitments and 259 releases, compared to 115 commitments and 128 releases in December 2020. For January thru December 2021 there have been 3,456 commitments and 3,336 releases compared to 2,590 commitments and 2,707 releases in January thru December 2020.

The rate of recidivism for December 2021 is 24.59% and 27.76% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers as compared to December 2020 which was 32.16% and 34.76% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers. For January thru December 2021 recidivism rate is 25.48% and 26.98% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers. This compares to January thru December 2020 recidivism rate of 23.04% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 25.58%.

There were no Rentals collected in December 2021, totaling \$0.00. Locker Revenue collected in December 2021 was \$68.00, totaling \$268.00. Fines collected in December 2021 for Clerk of Courts were \$9,915.20, totaling \$134,584.50.

The Warden reported that \$2,262.00 has been collected for video conferencing for December 2021.

In December 2021, 171 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 27 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 33 by Judge Feliciani, 19 by Judge Mears, 52 by Judge Krieger, 1 were performed by Judge Silvis, 1 performed by Judge Bononi, 1 by Judge Walsh, 11 by Domestic Relations, and 26 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 195 District Justice hearings were held, totaling 3,513.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the December 2021 cost per meal was \$1.03 compared to \$1.18 in December 2020.

For December 2021, we were under the cap by 95 inmates saving \$7,922.05. For the year we are below having saved \$115,312.23.

61.51% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 50.20% last month. 72.5% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

Executive Session:

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

Commissioner Kertes made a motion to reconvene in public session, seconded by Sheriff Albert. Unanimous.

Meeting business, discussions, motions:

(A-1) Controller Balzer made a motion to hire Thomas Kmetz and to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the residency requirement for the position be waived, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

(A-2) Controller Balzer made a motion to hire Kyle Wood, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

(B) Controller Balzer made a motion to promote Officer Rhonda Carter to Sergeant, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

(C) Controller Balzer made a motion to rescind the hiring of Marc Albright because of a no show, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

(D) Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the retirement of Harold Clawson, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous

(E) Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the resignation of Matthew Springer, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

(F) Controller Balzer made a motion to negotiate with Kim Allen Rock for a contract for Chaplain Services at the Prison for a one-year term, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous

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