

**Westmoreland County Prison Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 28, 2022**

Members Present: Sheriff James Albert, Commissioner Sean Kertes, Commissioner Douglas Chew, Commissioner Gina Cerilli Thrasher, Controller Jeffrey Balzer and Assistant District Attorney Chuck Washburn

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chew.  
Announcement of Executive Session, held on March 2, 2022 to discuss personnel matters.

Opportunity for public comment:

*Officer Kennedy (President of the Union), Any consideration for Hazard pay. Have seen others within the county being compensated. Was wondering if any would be allocated for pandemic pay.*

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 meeting was made by Commissioner Kertes, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

**Report from Adult Probation/Parole Office, Eric Leydig:**

Detailing the monthly statistical data on the Electronic Monitoring Program, Pre-Trial Services and the Institutional Parole Officer events as of March 28, 2022.

There was 192 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 143 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$113,740.06 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 25 and 148 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Pre-Trial program fees collected year to date was \$2,491.99. The Institutional Parole Officer completed 13 parole applications and 32 Nominal Bond Investigations to date. Since January 1, 2022, 85 Drug and Alcohol evaluations have been completed at the Westmoreland County Prison. Of the 85 Drug and Alcohol evaluations, the Institutional Parole Officer coordinated the release of 80 inmates to treatment.

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

**Report from County Correctional Facility, Warden Kline:**

The population of the prison today is 507 in-house, 616 total. The average population for February 2022 was 533 in-house and 626 total. This compares to February of 2021 when the average was 484 in-house and 524 total. For January thru February 2022 the average population was 537 in-house and 630 total compared to 474 in-house and 517 total in January thru February 2021.

Average length of stay for February 2022 was 18.78 days as compared to February 2021 which was 19.43 days. For January thru February 2022 the average stay was 29.51 days compared to 30.94 in January thru February 2021.

In February 2022, there were 231 commitments and 261 releases, compared to 227 commitments and 204 releases in February 2021. For January thru February 2022 there have been 517 commitments and 531 releases compared to 431 commitments and 407 releases in

January thru February 2021. February commitments and releases increased respectively by 10.9% and 26.14%.

The rate of recidivism for February 2022 is 28.56% and 30.72% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers as compared to February 2021 which was 33.03% and 34.79% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers. For January thru February 2022 recidivism rate is 33.17% and 35.25% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers. This compares to January thru February 2021 recidivism rate of 30.75% and including 48 hour and 72-hour detainers, 32.87%.

There were \$693.00 in Rentals collected in February 2022, totaling \$693.00. There were no Locker Revenue collected in February 2022, totaling \$28.50. Fines collected in February 2022 for Clerk of Courts were \$8,525.05, totaling \$17027.55.

The Warden reported that \$1,737.49 has been collected for video conferencing for February 2022.

In February 2022, 219 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 35 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 37 by Judge Feliciani, 47 by Judge Mears, 53 by Judge Krieger, 1 by Judge McCormick, 1 by Judge Walsh, 2 by Judge Bononi, 4 by Judge Silvis, 1 by Judge Stewart, 17 by Domestic Relations, and 21 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 305 District Justice hearings were held, totaling 614.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the February 2022 cost per meal was \$1.37 compared to \$0.89 in February 2021.

For February 2022, we were under the cap by 77 inmates saving \$5,799.64. For the year we are below having saved \$92,218.58.

60.17% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 46.50% last month. 70.91% 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 Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.

**Meeting business, discussions, motions:**

**(A)** Commissioner Kertes made a motion to hire the following: Trent Lichtenfels, Nolan Brough, Brian J Prinkey, Arianne Camorte, Brandon Claus, Brandie Waugh, Matthew Guay, Bryan Cosalter, Bradley Weismantle, Taylor Whipple, Marc Kuks and Miranda Schnupp, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

**(B)** Controller Balzer made a motion to terminate an employee at the prison, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.

**(C)** Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the retirement of Richard Whittaker, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

**(D)** Controller Balzer made a motion of accept the resignation of Chase Logan and Paul Dumnich, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.

**(E)** OLD business: Status of Inmate Healthcare/Medication Assisted Treatment RFP – Still in process of review.

**(F)** Controller Balzer made a motion to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to review Peer Reentry Education and Preparedness (A peer to peer approach to successful community reentry support) provided by Peerstar, LLC, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kertes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.