

Westmoreland County Prison  
Board Meeting Minutes  
April 26, 2021

Members Present: Sheriff James Albert, Commissioner Sean Kertes, Commissioner Douglas Chew, Commissioner Gina Cerilli, Controller Jeffrey Balzer and District Attorney John Peck

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chew.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2021 meeting was made by Controller Balzer, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

There was no public comment.

The Adult Probation/Parole Report was submitted detailing the monthly statistical data on the Electronic Monitoring Program, Pre-Trial Services and the Institutional Parole Officer events as of April 26, 2021. The following information was presented to the Prison Board. There was 205 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 140 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$212,968.36 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 29 and 138 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Pre-Trial program fees collected year to date was \$6,381.29. The Institutional Parole Officer completed 22 parole applications and 32 Nominal Bond Investigations to date. Since January 1, 2021, 140 Drug and Alcohol evaluations have been completed at the Westmoreland County Prison. Of the 140 Drug and Alcohol evaluations, the Institutional Parole Officer coordinated the release of 93 inmates to treatment.

The population of the prison today is 481 in-house, 524 total. The average population for March 2021 was 502 in-house and 539 total. This compares to March of 2020 when the average was 585 in-house and 639 total. For January thru March 2021 the average population was 484 in-house and 524 total compared to 605 in-house and 650 total in January thru March 2020.

Average length of stay for March 2021 was 18.93 days as compared to March 2020 which was 35.28 days. For January thru March 2021 the average stay was 35.28 days compared to 35.21 in January thru March 2020.

In March 2021, there were 328 commitments and 314 releases, compared to 212 commitments and 298 releases in March 2020. For January thru March 2021 there have been 759 commitments and 721 releases compared to 958 commitments and 1015 releases in January thru March 2020.

The rate of recidivism for March 2021 is 30.78% and 33.21% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers as compared to March 2020 which was 32.53% and 36.77% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers. For January thru March 2021 recidivism rate is 33.72% and 36.09% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers. This compares to January thru March 2020 recidivism rate of 29.42% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 33.38%.

There were no Rentals collected in March 2021, totaling \$0.00. There were no Locker Revenue collected in March 2021, totaling \$0.00. Fines collected in March 2021 for Clerk of Courts were \$15,786.26, totaling \$33,509.22.

The Warden reported that \$2,043.83 has been collected for video conferencing for March 2021.

In March 2021, 438 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 124 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 1 by Judge McCormick, 66 by Judge Feliciani, 70 by Judge Mears, 79 by Judge Krieger, 8 by Judge Silvis, 2 by Judge Stewart, 9 by Judge Walsh, 3 by Judge Bononi, 21 by Domestic Relations, and 55 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 402 District Justice hearings were held.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the March 2021 cost per meal was \$1.02 compared to \$0.77 in March 2020.

For March 2021, we were under the cap by 128 inmates saving \$10,673.92. For the year we are below having saved \$34,254.46.

62.38% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 42.29% last month. 73% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

Controller Balzer made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by District John Peck. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to reconvene in public session, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to terminate Tyler Nelson seconded by Commissioner Kertes Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to terminate Chelsey Cook seconded by Commissioner Kertes Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to terminate Christopher Delisi seconded by Commissioner Kertes Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to terminate Andrew Polakovsky seconded by Commissioner Kertes Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to incentivizing vaccines for inmates with \$25.00 commissary funds from the Prison Canteen Fund (Inmate will earn the full \$25.00 without any fees deducted), seconded by Commissioner Kertes Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to allow the Drug Overdose Task Force to supply Narcan to provide to inmates who are released that are at risk of an overdose, seconded by Commissioner Kertes Unanimous.

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