

Westmoreland County Prison  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 28, 2021

Members Present: Sheriff James Albert, Commissioner Sean Kertes, Commissioner Douglas Chew, Commissioner Gina Cerilli-Thrasher, 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 May 24, 2021 meeting was made by Controller Balzer, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. 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 June 28, 2021. The following information was presented to the Prison Board. There was 202 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 177 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$321,623.79 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 35 and 132 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Pre-Trial program fees collected year to date was \$9,963.82. The Institutional Parole Officer completed 28 parole applications and 40 Nominal Bond Investigations to date. Since January 1, 2021, 273 Drug and Alcohol evaluations have been completed at the Westmoreland County Prison. Of the 273 Drug and Alcohol evaluations, the Institutional Parole Officer coordinated the release of 157 inmates to treatment.

The population of the prison today is 494 in-house, 544 total. The average population for May 2021 was 502 in-house and 542 total. This compares to May of 2020 when the average was 417 in-house and 462 total. For January thru May 2021 the average population was 490 in-house and 530 total compared to 541 in-house and 588 total in January thru May 2020.

Average length of stay for May 2021 was 20.12 days as compared to May 2020 which was 23.34 days. For January thru May 2021 the average stay was 40.61 days compared to 46.82 in January thru May 2020.

In May 2021, there were 266 commitments and 250 releases, compared to 122 commitments and 134 releases in May 2020. For January thru May 2021 there have been 1297 commitments and 1246 releases compared to 1133 commitments and 1292 releases in January thru May 2020.

The rate of recidivism for May 2021 is 31.57% and 34.57% including the 48 & 72 hour detainees as compared to May 2020 which was 28.67% and 31.94% including the 48 & 72 hour detainees. For January thru May 2021 recidivism rate is 39.15% and 41.23% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees. This compares to January thru May 2020 recidivism rate of 25.23% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees, 28.58%.

There were no Rentals collected in May 2021, totaling \$0.00. There were no Locker Revenue collected in May 2021, totaling \$0.00. Fines collected in May 2021 for Clerk of Courts were \$10,058.11, totaling \$55,732.61.

The Warden reported that \$2,657.29 has been collected for video conferencing for May 2021.

In May 2021, 235 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 68 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 39 by Judge Feliciani, 36 by Judge Mears, 34 by Judge Krieger, 5 by Judge Silvis, 2 by Judge Stewart, 1 by Judge Walsh, 4 by Judge Bononi, 17 by Domestic Relations, and 29 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 294 District Justice hearings were held.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the May 2021 cost per meal was \$1.03 compared to \$0.99 in May 2020.

For May 2021, we were under the cap by 128 inmates saving \$10,329.63. For the year we are below having saved \$55,397.86.

63.19% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 86.30% last month. 69.02% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

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

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

Controller Balzer made a motion to hire Kieren Byrne, Sean Cossell, Mandi Downs, Nolan Faicola, Katey Harris, Adam Horvat, Frederick Mantsch, Michael Schuck, Kody Whitfield and Kelvin Williams, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli-Thrasher. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion of accept the resignation of Charles Schachte II and Ty Gaffney, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the 11th Amendment to Master Services Agreement with Global Tel\*Link Corporation, for GTL to provide the Covid-19 Free Video Visitation Program from August 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli-Thrasher. Unanimous

Controller Balzer made a motion 11<sup>th</sup> Amendment GTL-, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli-Thrasher

COVID-19 Update:

6.23.2021

1. 192 inmates fully/partially vaccinated, equating to 40% o the facility as of 6.24.2021
  - 136 inmates received the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose
  - 46 inmates received the 1<sup>st</sup> dose
  - 10 inmates entered the facility fully vaccinated

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