

Westmoreland County Prison
Board Meeting Minutes
July 19, 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 June 28, 2021 meeting was made by Controller Balzer, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

There was no public comment.

The Adult Probation/Parole Report was 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 July 19, 2021. The following information was presented to the Prison Board. There was 205 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 169 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$352,398.92 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 34 and 125 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Pre-Trial program fees collected year to date was \$11,500.82. The Institutional Parole Officer completed 31 parole applications and 42 Nominal Bond Investigations to date. Since January 1, 2021, 309 Drug and Alcohol evaluations have been completed at the Westmoreland County Prison. Of the 309 Drug and Alcohol evaluations, the Institutional Parole Officer coordinated the release of 179 inmates to treatment.

The population of the prison today is 511 in-house, 563 total. The average population for June 2021 was 497 in-house and 545 total. This compares to June of 2020 when the average was 436 in-house and 477 total. For January thru June 2021 the average population was 491 in-house and 533 total compared to 523 in-house and 569 total in January thru June 2020.

Average length of stay for June 2021 was 18.50 days as compared to June 2020 which was 20.90 days. For January thru June 2021 the average stay was 43.00 days compared to 49.00 in January thru June 2020.

In June 2021, there were 287 commitments and 289 releases, compared to 199 commitments and 183 releases in June 2020. For January thru June 2021 there have been 1496 commitments and 1429 releases compared to 1332 commitments and 1475 releases in January thru June 2020.

The rate of recidivism for June 2021 is 23.76% and 24.45% including the 48 & 72 hour detainees as compared to June 2020 which was 23.11% and 25.62% including the 48 & 72 hour detainees. For January thru June 2021 recidivism rate is 28.75% and 30.39% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees. This compares to January thru June 2020 recidivism rate of 24.77% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees, 27.92%.

There were no Rentals collected in June 2021, totaling \$0.00. There were no Locker Revenue collected in June 2021, totaling \$0.00. Fines collected in June 2021 for Clerk of Courts were \$12,956.70, totaling \$68,689.31.

The Warden reported that \$2,399.25 has been collected for video conferencing for June 2021.

In June 2021, 239 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 57 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 30 by Judge Feliciani, 29 by Judge Mears, 60 by Judge Krieger, 2 by Judge Stewart, 1 by Judge Bononi, 18 by Domestic Relations, and 42 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 238 District Justice hearings were held.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the June 2021 cost per meal was \$1.09 compared to \$0.99 in June 2020.

For June 2021, we were under the cap by 133 inmates saving \$10,733.10. For the year we are below having saved \$66,130.96.

47.55% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 63.19% last month. 62.90% 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 Holli Stiltenspole, seconded by Commissioner Kertes Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to hire Scott Dixon, seconded by Commissioner Kertes Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion of accept the resignation of Matthew Bodnar and Nolan Fraicola, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to ask the salary board to consider creating a position called Support Officer 8 for the Lobby at the prison, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

Commissioner Chew made a motion to request, "the County Solicitor to investigate enforcement of administrative court orders pertaining to the Westmoreland County Prison and Prison Board", seconded by Commissioner Kertes. This motion passed by a majority vote of the members present.

COVID-19 Update:

- 0 active cases

Commissioner Kertes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.