

Westmoreland County Prison  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 30, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chew.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2021 meeting was made by Commissioner Kertes, seconded by District Attorney Peck. 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 August 30, 2021. The following information was presented to the Prison Board. There was 178 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 154 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$406,687.98 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 26 and 125 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Pre-Trial program fees collected year to date was \$14,061.10. The Institutional Parole Officer completed 32 parole applications and 55 Nominal Bond Investigations to date. Since January 1, 2021, 385 Drug and Alcohol evaluations have been completed at the Westmoreland County Prison. Of the 385 Drug and Alcohol evaluations, the Institutional Parole Officer coordinated the release of 198 inmates to treatment.

A motion to approve the Adult Probation/Parole Report was made by District Attorney Peck, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 534 in-house, 600 total. The average population for July 2021 was 514 in-house and 567 total. This compares to July of 2020 when the average was 466 in-house and 506 total. For January thru July 2021 the average population was 494 in-house and 538 total compared to 514 in-house and 559 total in January thru July 2020.

Average length of stay for July 2021 was 18.58 days as compared to July 2020 which was 19.55 days. For January thru July 2021 the average stay was 43.37 days compared to 49.08 in January thru July 2020.

In July 2021, there were 349 commitments and 318 releases, compared to 290 commitments and 252 releases in July 2020. For January thru July 2021 there have been 1932 commitments and 1853 releases compared to 1622 commitments and 1727 releases in January thru July 2020.

The rate of recidivism for July 2021 is 30.36% and 30.93% including the 48 & 72 hour detainees as compared to July 2020 which was 25.85% and 27.57% including the 48 & 72 hour detainees. For January thru July 2021 recidivism rate is 28.05% and 29.55% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees. This compares to January thru July 2020 recidivism rate of 24.28% and including 48 hour and 72-hour detainees, 27.23%.

There were no Rentals collected in July 2021, totaling \$0.00. There were no Locker Revenue collected in July 2021, totaling \$0.00. Fines collected in July 2021 for Clerk of Courts were \$10,242.23, totaling \$78,931.54.

The Warden reported that \$2,562.00 has been collected for video conferencing for July 2021.

In July 2021, 210 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 41 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 44 by Judge Feliciani, 25 by Judge Mears, 44 by Judge Krieger, 2 by Judge McCormick, 1 by Judge Stewart, 3 by Judge Bononi, 1 by Judge Silvis, 13 by Domestic Relations, and 36 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 293 District Justice hearings were held.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the July 2021 cost per meal was \$1.07 compared to \$1.08 in July 2020.

For July 2021, we were under the cap by 116 inmates saving \$9,673.24. For the year we are below having saved \$75,804.20.

57.59% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 47.55% last month. 73.03% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher made a motion to reconvene in public session, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kertes made a motion to hire Jinia Kelly, Andrew Roscoe, Blake Roble and Scott Pasqualino, seconded by District Attorney Peck Unanimous.

District Attorney Peck made a motion of accept the resignation of Jacob Holden and Mandi Downs, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

District Attorney Peck made a motion of accept the requested termination of a professional service agreement with Nicholas Borgfeldt for chaplaincy services, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

District Attorney Peck made a motion to accept the ratification of the 12<sup>th</sup> amendment to Master Services Agreement with Global Tel\*Link Corporation, for GTL to provide Free Video Visitation Program from September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in response to the Covid-19 status at the facility. The County retains the option to terminate the amendment at any time. During this period, each inmate at the Prison will receive one (1) free video visit, per week, for a duration of up to ten (10) minutes per free video visit, with the County agreeing to pay GTL for the free video visitation minutes at the cost of \$.60 per minute during this time period. Funds will come from the Inmate Welfare Fund, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.

District Attorney Peck made a motion to accept the ratification of a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to prepare and post a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals for Chaplain and Religious support services in the County Correctional Facility. Consider recommending an RFP requesting a 1- year agreement, explaining prior experiences, and providing 5 references for review. Additionally, recommend minimum experience and training to

include: (1) Three years of pastoral experience in an institutional setting; OR (2) One-year formal Chaplaincy training; OR (3) Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies, Pastoral Counseling. Recommendations are based on previous FRPs issued by the Board seconded by Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.

COVID-19 Update:

- Positive:13
- Recovered: 159
- Released: 17
- 128 fully vaccinated
- 12 inmates partially vaccinated
- Vaccination Clinic 9/1/2021
- 24.335 of population fully vaccinated as of 8/27/2021

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