

Westmoreland County Prison Board
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2022

Members Present: Sheriff Albert, Commissioner Sean Kertes, Commissioner Douglas W. Chew, Commissioner Gina Cerilli Thrasher, Controller Jeffrey Balzer, and District Attorney Nicole Ziccarelli

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chew.

Opportunity for public comment: none presented

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2022 meeting was made by Controller Balzer, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

Report from Adult Probation/Parole Office, Chief Leydig:

Detailing the monthly statistical data on the Electronic Monitoring Program, Pre-Trial Services and the Institutional Parole Officer events as of September 26, 2022.

There was 177 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 163 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$385,534.84 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 32 and 174 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Pre-Trial program fees collected year to date was \$11,244.65. The Institutional Parole Officer completed 46 parole applications and 91 Nominal Bond Investigations to date. Since January 1, 2022, 436 Drug and Alcohol evaluations have been completed at the Westmoreland County Prison. Of the 436 Drug and Alcohol evaluations, the Institutional Parole Officer coordinated the release of 275 inmates to treatment.

A motion to accept the Adult Probation/Parole report for the minutes 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 524 in-house, 633 total. The average population for August 2022 was 530 in-house and 639 total. This compares to August of 2021 when the average was 529 in-house and 590 total. For January thru August 2022 the average population was 531 in-house and 634 total compared to 499 in-house and 545 total in January thru August 2021.

Average length of stay for August 2022 was 19 days as compared to August 2021 which was 19 days. For January thru August 2022 the average stay was 44 days compared to 44 in January thru August 2021.

In August 2022, there were 294 commitments and 293 releases, compared to 317 commitments and 315 releases in August 2021. For January thru August 2022 there have been 2,341 commitments and 2,330 releases compared to 2249 commitments and 2168 releases in January thru August 2021. August commitments and releases decreased respectively by 7.26% and 6.98%.

The rate of recidivism for August 2022 is 25.16% and 27.88% including the 48 & 72 hour detainees as compared to August 2021 which was 27.12% and 29.01% including the 48 & 72 hour detainees. For January thru August 2022 recidivism rate is 25.37% and 27.63% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees. This compares to January thru August 2021 recidivism rate of 27.69% and including 48 hour and 72-hour detainees, 29.42%.

There were no in Rentals collected in August 2022, totaling \$14,553.00. There were no Locker Revenue collections in August 2022, totaling \$69.50. Fines collected in August 2022 for Clerk of Courts were \$10,014.36, totaling \$76,601.28.

The Warden reported that \$1,894.73 has been collected for video conferencing for August 2022.

In August 2022, 52 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 36 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 26 by Judge Feliciani, 28 by Judge Mears, 30 by Judge Krieger, 1 by Judge Walsh, 24 by Domestic Relations, and 7 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 277 District Justice hearings were held, totaling 2,403.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the August 2022 cost per meal was \$1.34 compared to \$1.16 in August 2021.

For August 2022, we were under the cap by 100 inmates saving \$8,070.00. For the year we are below having saved \$57,969.67.

57% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 58% last month. 70% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

Executive Session:

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

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

Meeting business, discussions, motions:

(A) Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the hiring of Seldon Oster to the position of Sargeant, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous

(B) Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the resignation of Gileyla Jones and Brian Wolfe, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

(C) Controller Balzer made a motion to consider the terminations of Brian Prinkey and Hiago Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.

(D) District Attorney Ziccarelli made a motion to promote Lt. Steven Pelesky to Interim Deputy Warden of Security, effective September 19, 2022, until interviews take place and the permanent position is filled, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

(E) District Attorney Ziccarelli made a motion to accept the retirements of Brad Tomasello, Cheryl Tomasello and George Lowther, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

Commissioner Chew and the Prison Board congratulated Deputy Warden Lowther on his 29 years at the County Prison, from CO to Deputy Warden.
With no additional business, Commissioner Kertes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Controller Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.