

# Westmoreland County Prison Board Meeting Minutes

## September 27, 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 August 30, 2021 meeting was made by Commissioner Kertes, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

There was no public comment.

### **Adult Probation/Parole Report submitted by Eric Leydig via email:**

Detailing the monthly statistical data on the Electronic Monitoring Program, Pre-Trial Services and the Institutional Parole Officer events as of August 30, 2021.

There was 187 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 148 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$443,847.79 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 29 and 129 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Pre-Trial program fees collected year to date was \$14,368.35. The Institutional Parole Officer completed 38 parole applications and 59 Nominal Bond Investigations to date. Since January 1, 2021, 430 Drug and Alcohol evaluations have been completed at the Westmoreland County Prison. Of the 430 Drug and Alcohol evaluations, the Institutional Parole Officer coordinated the release of 243 inmates to treatment.

### **Report from County Correctional Facility, Warden Kline:**

The population of the prison today is 527 in-house, 594 total. The average population for August 2021 was 528 in-house and 590 total. This compares to August of 2020 when the average was 467 in-house and 515 total. For January thru August 2021 the average population was 498 in-house and 545 total compared to 528 in-house and 554 total in January thru August 2020.

Average length of stay for August 2021 was 19.15 days as compared to August 2020 which was 20.39 days. For January thru August 2021 the average stay was 44.33 days compared to 50.33 in January thru August 2020.

In August 2021, there were 317 commitments and 315 releases, compared to 232 commitments and 254 releases in August 2020. For January thru August 2021 there have been 2249 commitments and 2168 releases compared to 1854 commitments and 1981 releases in January thru August 2020. August commitments and releases increased respectively by 36.64% and 24.02%.

The rate of recidivism for August 2021 is 25.86% and 27.75% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers as compared to August 2020 which was 26.72% and 30.16% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers. For January thru August 2021 recidivism rate is 27.38% and 28.93% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers. This compares to January thru August 2020 recidivism rate of 24.11% and including 48 hour and 72-hour detainers, 27.02%.

There were no Rentals collected in August 2021, totaling \$0.00. There were no Locker Revenue collected in August 2021, totaling \$0.00. Fines collected in August 2021 for Clerk of Courts were \$13,411.58, totaling \$92,343.12.

The Warden reported that \$2,159.59 has been collected for video conferencing for August 2021.

In August 2021, 231 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 48 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 21 by Judge Feliciani, 47 by Judge Mears, 53 by Judge Krieger, 2 by Judge Walsh, 3 by Judge Bononi, 4 by Judge Silvis, 18 by Domestic Relations, and 35 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 263 District Justice hearings were held, totaling 2430.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the August 2021 cost per meal was \$1.16 compared to \$.82 in August 2020.

For August 2021, we were under the cap by 102 inmates saving \$8,505.78. For the year we are below having saved \$84,309.98.

52.4% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 57.59% last month. 59.50% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

**Executive Session:**

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

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

**Meeting business, discussions, motions:**

**(A)** Controller Balzer made a motion to promote David Mooney from part-time to full-time status, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

**(B)** Controller Balzer made a motion of accept the resignation of Yolanda Bevan and Jinia Mondol, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**(C)** Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the retirement of Robert Brum Field, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**(D)** Controller Balzer made a motion to offer a month-to-month agreement with Jim Badamo for Chaplaincy services at a price less than or equal to \$1,700/month. Mr. Jim Badamo is a retired Chaplain who served the Westmoreland County Correctional Facility until 2020. Month-to-month agreement is recommended to provide Chaplaincy while the County acquires a new long-term service seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**(E)** District Attorney Peck made a motion to revise specifications and to authorize the County Controller to re-advertise the Request for Proposals for "Chaplain Services for Westmoreland County Prison," (Bid 21-35) due to no proposals being received seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

**(F)** Consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to authorize the County Solicitor to negotiate with Global Tel\*Link Corporation (GTL) on the following revisions proposed by (GTL). No Motion- Fails

**(G)** Consider approval of the addition of a matter of agency business to the agenda as may have arisen during the Executive Session. The reasons for the changes to the agenda will be announced at the meeting before any vote is conducted. Subsequently, the board may take official action on the matter added to the agenda.

**(G.1)** Controller Balzer made a motion to add this new agency business to today's agenda seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**(G.2)** Controller Balzer made a motion to create a new position at the County Correctional Facility to assist with payroll. The position is expected to add about \$4,435 plus benefits to this year's budget and would be advertised after creation seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**(G.3)** Controller Balzer made a motion for the Solicitor to negotiate any contracts with Global Tel\*Link Corporation (GTL) that may be required in order to remain compliant with recent FCC orders regarding per-minute price charges seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

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