

Westmoreland County Prison Board Meeting Minutes

October 25, 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 September 3, 2021 meeting was made by Commissioner Kertes, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

There was no public comment.

Report from Adult Probation/Parole Office, Eric Leydig:

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

There was 193 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 151 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$476,948.37 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 30 and 131 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Pre-Trial program fees collected year to date was \$15,644.09. The Institutional Parole Officer completed 40 parole applications and 62 Nominal Bond Investigations to date. Since January 1, 2021, 490 Drug and Alcohol evaluations have been completed at the Westmoreland County Prison. Of the 490 Drug and Alcohol evaluations, the Institutional Parole Officer coordinated the release of 283 inmates to treatment.

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

Report from County Correctional Facility, Warden Kline:

The population of the prison today is 530 in-house, 612 total. The average population for September 2021 was 532 in-house and 600 total. This compares to September of 2020 when the average was 502 in-house and 550 total. For January thru September 2021 the average population was 502 in-house and 550 total compared to 505 in-house and 550 total in January thru September 2020.

Average length of stay for September 2021 was 19.32 days as compared to September 2020 which was 19.61 days. For January thru September 2021 the average stay was 45.25 days compared to 50.58 in January thru September 2020.

In September 2021, there were 295 commitments and 304 releases, compared to 266 commitments and 241 releases in September 2020. For January thru September 2021 there have been 2544 commitments and 2472 releases compared to 2120 commitments and 2222 releases in January thru September 2020. September commitments and releases increased respectively by 10.9% and 26.14%.

The rate of recidivism for September 2021 is 23.72% and 25.07% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers as compared to September 2020 which was 21.04% and 21.79% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers. For January thru September 2021 recidivism rate is 26.60% and 28.09% including

48 hour and 72 hour detainees. This compares to January thru September 2020 recidivism rate of 23.06% and including 48 hour and 72-hour detainees, 25.70%.

There were no Rentals collected in September 2021, totaling \$0.00. There were no Locker Revenue collected in September 2021, totaling \$0.00. Fines collected in September 2021 for Clerk of Courts were \$9,490.27, totaling \$101,833.39.

The Warden reported that \$1,824.90 has been collected for video conferencing for September 2021.

In September 2021, 209 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 61 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 30 by Judge Feliciani, 33 by Judge Mears, 21 by Judge Krieger, 3 by Judge Walsh, 3 by Judge Bononi, 16 by Domestic Relations, and 42 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 206 District Justice hearings were held, totaling 2,636.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the September 2021 cost per meal was \$1.20 compared to \$1.65 in September 2020.

For September 2021, we were under the cap by 98 inmates saving \$7,908.60. For the year we are below having saved \$92,218.58.

48.81% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 52.40% last month. 61.28% 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 Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

Meeting business, discussions, motions:

(A) Controller Balzer made a motion to hire Andrew Roscoe and Dwayne Smith, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

(B) Controller Balzer made a motion of accept the resignation of Scott Dixon and Blake Roble, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

(C) Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the termination of Jessica Donitzen and Phong Tran, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

(D) Controller Balzer made a motion to consider potential prison training seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

(E) Controller Blazer made a motion to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for Bid 21-35 for Chaplin Services – REJECT BID seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

(F) Controller Balzer made a motion to Consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to extend the agreement with Global Tel*Link Corporation (GTL), seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

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