

**Westmoreland County Prison Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 31, 2022**

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

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chew.

Opportunity for public comment: none presented

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 26, 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 October 31, 2022.

There was 194 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 138 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$434,806.61 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 33 and 170 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Pre-Trial program fees collected year to date was \$12,015.15. The Institutional Parole Officer completed 56 parole applications and 96 Nominal Bond Investigations to date. Since January 1, 2022, 514 Drug and Alcohol evaluations have been completed at the Westmoreland County Prison. Of the 514 Drug and Alcohol evaluations, the Institutional Parole Officer coordinated the release of 355 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 505 in-house, 612 total. The average population for September 2022 was 542 in-house and 649 total. This compares to September of 2021 when the average was 534 in-house and 599 total. For January thru September 2022 the average population was 532 in-house and 636 total compared to 502 in-house and 551 total in January thru September 2021.

Average length of stay for September 2022 was 18 days as compared to September 2021 which was 19 days. For January thru September 2022 the average stay was 44 days compared to 45 in January thru September 2021.

In September 2022, there were 322 commitments and 332 releases, compared to 295 commitments and 304 releases in September 2021. For January thru September 2022 there have been 2,663 commitments and 2,662 releases compared to 2,544 commitments and 2,472 releases in January thru September 2021. September commitments and releases increased respectively by 9.15% and 9.21%.

The rate of recidivism for September 2022 is 22.66% and 25.76% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers as compared to September 2021 which was 24.06% and 25.07% including the 48 & 72

hour detainees. For January thru September 2022 recidivism rate is 24.66% and 27.02 % including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees. This compares to January thru September 2021 recidivism rate of 26.84% and including 48 hour and 72-hour detainees, 28.76%.

There were no in Rentals collected in September 2022, totaling \$14,553.00. There were \$230.00 for Locker Revenue collections in September 2022, totaling \$299.50. Fines collected in September 2022 for Clerk of Courts were \$8,194.87, totaling \$84,796.15.

The Warden reported that \$3,080.70 has been collected for video conferencing for September 2022.

In September 2022, 176 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 67 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 28 by Judge Feliciani, 36 by Judge Mears, 15 by Judge Krieger, 1 by Judge Walsh, 4 by Judge Silvis, 21 by Domestic Relations, and 4 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 321 District Justice hearings were held, totaling 2,724.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the September 2022 cost per meal was \$1.27 compared to \$1.65 in September 2021.

For September 2022, we have used \$31,910.81 of the \$300,000 CAP for Medical Spending  
**\*This does not include any of the ER visits or hospitalizations for September**

57% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 57% last month. 47% 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 Kertes made a motion to reconvene in public session, seconded by Commissioner Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.

#### **Meeting business, discussions, motions:**

(A) Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the resignation of Erik Brammell, seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

(B) District Attorney Zicarelli made a motion to promote Robert Fagan from Sergeant to Lieutenant., seconded by Controller Balzer.

(B.1) Controller Balzer made a motion to promote Lt. Steven Pelesky Deputy Warden of Security, seconded by District Attorney Zicarelli. Unanimous.

(C) Controller Balzer made a motion to consider recommending to the Board of Commissioners to enter into an agreement with the PA Department of Corrections for the Department of Corrections to enter the prison and provide recommendations and assessments in a variety of topics. There is no cost to the County for this service, seconded by District Attorney Zicarelli. Unanimous.

With no additional business, Commissioner Kertes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Controller Cerilli Thrasher. Unanimous.