

# Westmoreland County Prison Board Meeting Minutes

## November 29, 2021

Members Present: Sheriff James Albert, Commissioner Sean Kertes, Commissioner Douglas Chew, Commissioner Gina Cerilli Thrasher (via phone), 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 October 25, 2021 meeting was made by Commissioner Kertes, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

### **Public Comment:**

Michael F. Caruso, Murrysville provided the Members of the Prison Board with a manual for defense tactics program, letters of recommendations and his professional background and experience. He would like to provide help and training to the Warden and his Officers. He would like to train 4 to 5 officers to become instructors. He has done several trainings in the past with the Sheriff's Office and 1-2 years with Greensburg Police.

### **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 October 31, 2021.

There was 184 current number of offenders on Electronic Monitoring and 128 pending Electronic Monitoring cases. \$527,558.85 Intermediate Punishment Program fees were collected year to date. The current number of Active Pre-Trial Cases for Electronic Monitoring is 28 and 132 Non-Electronic Monitoring. Due to Staff shortage/personnel issues Adult Probation was unable to retrieve the rest of the report with accurate numbers. A complete Adult Probation/Parole Office will resume on next months report.

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

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

The population of the prison today is 553 in-house, 646 total. The average population for October 2021 was 531 in-house and 607 total. This compares to October of 2020 when the average was 478 in-house and 523 total. For January thru October 2021 the average population was 505 in-house and 556 total compared to 502 in-house and 547 total in January thru October 2020.

Average length of stay for October 2021 was 18.64 days as compared to October 2020 which was 22.09 days. For January thru October 2021 the average stay was 45.23 days compared to 52.33 in January thru October 2020.

In October 2021, there were 367 commitments and 310 releases, compared to 193 commitments and 200 releases in October 2020. For January thru October 2021 there have been 2911 commitments and 2782 releases compared to 2313 commitments and 2422 releases in January thru October 2020. October commitments and releases increased respectively by 90.16% and 55.00%.

The rate of recidivism for October 2021 is 24.25% and 24.79% including the 48- & 72-hour detainers as compared to October 2020 which was 32.12% and 33.67% including the 48- & 72-hour detainers. For January thru October 2021 recidivism rate is 26.03% and 27.40% including 48 hour and 72-hour detainers. This compares to January thru October 2020 recidivism rate of 23.25% and including 48 hour and 72-hour detainers, 25.71%.

There were no Rentals collected in October 2021, totaling \$0.00. There were no Locker Revenue collected in October 2021, totaling \$0.00. Fines collected in October 2021 for Clerk of Courts were \$11,960.52, totaling \$113,793.91.

The Warden reported that \$1,939.61 has been collected for video conferencing for October 2021.

In October 2021, 171 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 30 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 24 by Judge Feliciani, 24 by Judge Mears, 41 by Judge Krieger, 1 by Judge Walsh, 1 by Judge Bononi, 3 by Judge Silvis, 17 by Domestic Relations, and 21 out of county bench warrants were served. In addition, 304 District Justice hearings were held, totaling 2,940.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the October 2021 cost per meal was \$1.03 compared to \$1.43 in October 2020.

For October 2021, we were under the cap by 99 inmates saving \$7,989.30. For the year we are below having saved \$100,207.88.

50.1% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 48.81% last month. 73.44% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

**Executive Session:**

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

Commissioner Kertes made a motion to reconvene in public session, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**Meeting business, discussions, motions:**

**(A)** Controller Balzer made a motion to hire Fallon McKlveen, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**(B)** Controller Balzer made a motion of accept the resignation of Matthew Springer and Trevor Fagan, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**(C)** Controller Balzer made a motion to accept the termination of Kody Piper, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**(D)** Controller Balzer made a motion to hire Michael F. Caruso (Prison Training), seconded by Commissioner Kertes. Unanimous.

**(E)** Consider changes to the after-hours bond payment process. NO MOTION

**(F)** Controller Balzer made a motion to Consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to put out an RFP for Inmate Health Care Services at the Prison and to incorporate an alternate request for Medication Assisted Treatment Services, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**(G)** Controller Balzer made a motion to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to put out an RFP for Chaplain services, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

**(H)** Controller Balzer made a motion to consider personnel performance actions, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

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