

Westmoreland County Prison
Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2018

Members Present: Sheriff Jonathan Held, Commissioner Gina Cerilli, Commissioner Ted Kopas, Commissioner Charles Anderson, District Attorney John Peck, and Controller Jeffrey Balzer via phone.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2018 meeting with the correction was made by Commissioner Kopas, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Public comment was made by Don Svetkovich, a Retired Corrections Officer, about looking into upper management at the Prison, behavior of the Warden, a suicide letter, and requesting to terminate the Warden immediately.

Public comment was made by John Hostoffer, a Retired Lieutenant, about a suicide letter and requesting an independent investigation be done.

Public comment was made by Commissioner Gina Cerilli about the suicide letter and made a motion to terminate the Warden, John Walton. Motion died due to the lack of a second.

The population of the prison today is 626 in-house, 650 total. The average population for October 2018 was 638 in-house and 660 total. This compares to October 2017 when the average was 661 in-house and 679 total. For January thru October 2018 the average population was 627 in-house and 649 total compared to 634 in-house and 656 total in January thru October 2017.

Average length of stay for October 2018 was 20.11 days as compared to October 2017 which was 19.90 days. For January thru October 2018 the average stay was 42.45 days compared to 41.41 in January thru October 2017.

In October 2018 there were 374 commitments and 335 releases, compared to 387 commitments and 373 releases in October 2017. For January thru October 2018 there have been 3888 commitments and 3842 releases compared to 4090 commitments and 4012 releases in January thru October 2017.

The rate of recidivism for October 2018 is 24.85% and 26.72% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers as compared to October 2017 which was 26.86% and 30.21% including the 48 & 72 hour detainers. For January thru October 2018 recidivism rate is 29.64% and 33.11% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers. This compares to January thru October 2017 recidivism rate of 33.02% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainers, 38.79%.

There were no rentals collected in October 2018, totaling \$4,368.00. There was \$138.75 Locker Revenue collected in October 2018, totaling \$1,357.00. Fines collected in October 2018 for Clerk of Courts were \$12,191.65, totaling \$104,459.90.

The Warden reported that \$2,235.00 has been collected for video conferencing for the month of October.

In October 2018, 159 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 45 were performed by Judge Bilik-Defazio, 28 by Judge Feliciani, 26 by Judge Hathaway, 21 by Kreiger, 21 by Domestic Relations, and 18 out of county bench warrants were served, a total of 1,802 for the year. In addition, 169 District Justice hearings were held, a total of 1,762 for the year.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the October 2018 cost per meal was \$0.90 compared to \$0.64 in October 2017.

In October 2018, we were above the cap by 8, costing us \$649.76. For the year, we saved \$2,805.40.

55.7% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 71.5% last month. 50.9% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

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

Commissioner Cerilli made a motion to terminate the Warden, John Walton. Motion died due to the lack of a second.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.