

Westmoreland County Prison
Board Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Held.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2018 meeting was made by Controller Balzer, seconded by District Attorney Peck. Unanimous.

The population of the prison today is 616 in-house, 633 total. The average population for December 2018 was 601 in-house and 621 total. This compares to December 2017 when the average was 633 in-house and 659 total. For January thru December 2018 the average population was 625 in-house and 647 total compared to 635 in-house and 657 total in January thru December 2017.

Average length of stay for December 2018 was 19.15 days as compared to December 2017 which was 19.71 days. For January thru December 2018 the average stay was 43.92 days compared to 43.01 in January thru December 2017.

In December 2018 there were 360 commitments and 381 releases, compared to 340 commitments and 397 releases in December 2017. For January thru December 2018 there have been 4602 commitments and 4613 releases compared to 4829 commitments and 4804 releases in January thru December 2017.

The rate of recidivism for December 2018 is 24.44% and 26.94% including the 48 & 72 hour detainees as compared to December 2017 which was 29.99% and 33.51% including the 48 & 72 hour detainees. For January thru December 2018 recidivism rate is 29.69% and 33.03% including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees. This compares to January thru December 2017 recidivism rate of 33.12% and including 48 hour and 72 hour detainees, 38.56%.

There were no rentals collected in December 2018, totaling \$4,368.00. There was \$78.00 Locker Revenue collected in December 2018, totaling \$1,612.25. Fines collected in December 2018 for Clerk of Courts were \$9,014.70, totaling \$122,242.01.

The Warden reported that \$2,280.00 has been collected for video conferencing for the month of December.

In December 2018, 185 total bench warrants have been performed via video conferencing. 52 were performed by Judge Bilik- Defazio, 33 by Judge Feliciani, 27 by Judge Hathaway, 33 by Kreiger, 27 by Domestic Relations, 12 out of county bench, and 1 US Government warrants were served, a total of 2,140 for the year. In addition, 237 District Justice hearings were held, a total of 2,182 for the year.

Nutrition Incorporated reported that the December 2018 cost per meal was \$0.71 compared to \$0.77 in December 2017.

In December 2018, we were below the cap by 29, saving us \$2,355.88. For the year, we saved \$4,532.48.

80% of incoming prisoners needed to detox upon arrival compared to 58.9% last month. 51.4% of inmates are currently on psych meds.

Starting to work on the Bid process for the kitchen, looking at April or May.

Leadership Westmoreland Tour sent a Thank You.

Received a card from a visitor about how nice the staff is.

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

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

Public Comment from Nai Sterjis about why the county doesn't pay for certain items for the prisoners, like boxers and that the inmates should receive 2 boxers and 2 t-shirts.

Public Comment from Carrie Sterjis about she wasn't notified when her husband was sent to the hospital for detox and she wanted to know why.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to transfer Todd Hannah to the Sheriff's Office, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to accept the resignations of Bryce Stevens, Krystal Berdemann, and Richard Williams, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Unanimous.

Commissioner Kopas made a motion to terminate Bryan Blehat, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to terminate Elise McCloy, seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.

Controller Balzer made a motion to hire the following as Correction Officers, Kevin McCracken, Lee Harris, Jr., Dylan Smith, Rodney Walters, Richard Newman, Jose Vazquez, Maricella Hilario, Michael Lockwich, Matthew Bodnar, Kayla Madden, Samuel Clark, Patrick Childers, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Unanimous.

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