

**Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner) Minutes
Regular Meeting – December 6, 2011 at 5:00 pm
Newtown Municipal Center (Meeting Room #1)
3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT**

Members Present: Chief of Police Michael Kehoe, Joy Previdi, Warden Scott Semple from the Garner Correctional Facility; Jack O’Byrne, Nunnawauk Meadows and Kevin Cragin, Board of Fire Commissioners. **Not Present:** First Selectman E. Patricia Llodra, Stephen Sedensky, Gino Faiella, and Mike Kelley.

Chief Kehoe convened the meeting at 5:06 p.m. First Selectman Llodra had another commitment.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. O’Byrne motioned to approve the minutes of September 20, 2011 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Previdi and unanimously approved.

Garner Correctional Facility Update

Warden Semple said that there were generator issues during the Halloween storm. One housing unit was evacuated from the gymnasium area. Another generator problem was experienced after the storm and was also rectified. Chief Kehoe said that the Police Dept also had generator issues during this storm. He said that the generator company recommended that the generators be serviced every 24-36 hours of use. Warden Semple said that there was a good response to the second issue and they were close to a command mode but they were very prepared. He said that the communication between the facility and the town was constant and worked very well. Chief Kehoe said that the prison facility circuit is very large and took crews all day to restore the circuit.

Warden Semple said that there were no issues with the service providers. He personally visited a resident on Hitfield Road who reported that trees fell on her property. He arranged to have the trees removed and she was very satisfied with the response from the warden.

Warden Semple reported that there will be seven new correction officers who are now completing classes. Incidents were down to 80 last month; the average before that was 120. Warden Semple is working on eliminating the gym overflow for the winter. Overall count is 648, general populations is 190, mental health population is 400. Over flow is 58 housed in the gym.

Chief Kehoe thanked Warden Semple for giving him the heads up with the generator issues.

Old Business.

Everbridge system. Chief Kehoe said that Gino Faiella sent him a copy of the key people in the Board of Ed to be notified. He will have Mr. Faiella send Warden Semple a copy. Chief Kehoe said that Everbridge was overwhelmed with both storms, Irene and Alfred. Warden Semple will maintain his notification system, which is a redundant system. He said that the Community Notification System is tested on the first Saturday of each month and there was a problem last Saturday with activating the system. This was rectified on Monday.

New Business

First Selectman Llodra received a letter from Leo Arnone, Chief of Dept of Corrections, that under 18-81(J) of the Connecticut General Statutes 748 is the overcall capacity of beds in the Garner facility. Mrs.

Previdi asked why some are housed in the gym if the facility is not over capacity, Warden Semple noted that some inmates have to be separated from the general population and they are housed in the gym.

Schedule of meetings for 2012. Mrs. Previdi moved to accept the schedule as set forth. Second by Mr. O'Bryne and unanimously carried.

Adjournment. Mr. Cragin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. O'Byrne and unanimously carried.

Ann M. Mazur
Clerk Pro Tem