

Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner) Minutes
Regular Meeting – June 5, 2012 at 5:00 pm
Newtown Municipal Center (Meeting Room #1)
3 Primose Street, Newtown, CT

Members Present: First Selectman Llodra, Chief of Police Michael Kehoe, Joy Previdi, Warden Scott Semple, Garner Correctional Facility, Jack O’Byrne, Nunnawauk Meadows, Kevin Cragin, Board of Fire Commissioners, Stephen Sedensky, Bruce Clark and one member of the press.

ABSENT: Mike Kelley and Gino Faiella.

First Selectman Llodra convened the meeting at 5:02 pm.

Public Participation: none.

Minutes: Joy Previdi moved the minutes of March 6, 2012. Jack O’Byrne seconded. Chief Kehoe noted that he attended the meeting but is not listed as being present. Warden Semple noted that the unit referred to on page one is the Gulf Unit (not Golf) and after a brief discussion the committee agreed to remove the words “were legitimate” from the fourth sentence, paragraph three, page two so it will read, for the record, *The assault charges are pending on those specific inmates.* The minutes were unanimously accepted as amended. (Mr. Cragin abstained as he was absent from the 3/6 meeting)

Warden’s Report: The current population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 650 which include 318 mental health designated, 191 general population designated and 136 accused or un-sentenced. There are 56 in the gym overflow area and 5 inmates in the youth development unit.

A lock down was held the third week in May for the bi-annual shake down; there were no serious issues of weapons found.

There will be a project on the gymnasium due to interior cracking; expansion joints will be put in. It is a fairly big project but will not be a security issue. No start date has been determined. Another home will be found within the agency for the 56 inmates that are currently in the gym.

There will be an upgrade to the phone monitoring system starting next week. This system will have the capacity to monitor the non-contact visiting area. In three weeks the control panel systems for the entire system will be updated. The current system was put in when the facility was built and is antiquated. The new system will have all new technology and will allow controlling of electrical power and plumbing to the cells. It is a \$275,000 project.

Warden Semple shared photos of the pumpkin patch. There are a number of gardens in the secure portion of the building; last year they yielded about 2 tons of vegetables.

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Town Clerk of Newtown 9:23
Debbie A. Aurelio

The Youth Development Program is for 19-21 year olds who were previously at the Manson Youth Institute and had gang affiliation. This program puts an emphasis on education; two additional teachers were hired to run the unit. The program started with seven inmates, two have been released and five more are expected in the next couple of weeks. There have been no problems in the unit. Inmates are not required to go to school but have been attending on a consistent basis. The program runs through the school year and the parents of this population are taking an interest in the program.

Warden Semple noted that Fairfield University has not sent a proposal relative to a program they were interested in working with the correctional facility on.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the committee voted unanimously to adjourn their regular meeting at 5:20 pm

Sue Marcinek
Clerk Pro Tem