

## **Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner) Minutes**

Regular Meeting – March 4, 2014 at 5:00 pm  
Newtown Municipal Center (Meeting Room #1)  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT

**Members Present:** E. Patricia Llodra, First Selectman; Police Chief Michael Kehoe, Newtown Police Dept; Warden Henry Falcone, Garner Correctional Facility; Stephen Sedensky, State's Attorney (arrived at 5:15 pm); Mike Kelley and Jay Mattegot (Representing Nunnawauk Meadows); **Members Absent:** Joy Previdi, Rob Manna and Gino Faiella

The First Selectman convened the meeting at 5:06 pm.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

Ms. Llodra thanked the Warden for the offer to have inmates help with the removal of snow. Warden Falcone explained that their level II pre-release inmates would be able to help in the community with jobs such as snow removal, trash pick-up, etc. A DOC officer would oversee six inmates. Chief Kehoe would be contacted first to see if they want a Newtown PD officer present as well. Ms. Llodra said she felt this was a great idea.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chief Kehoe motioned to approve the minutes of December 3, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelley and unanimously approved.

### **GARNER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY UPDATE**

Mr. Falcone stated that the current population is 530, consisting of 312 mental health inmates, 197 in general population and 21 in the youth development unit.

Inmates in the Youth Development Unit (ages 18 to 21) are required to complete their GED. These individuals come from MYI, are gang members but have special educational needs. The Youth Unit and acute mental health population are segregated from each other and from the general population.

Inmates with acute mental health issues go to the IPM (inpatient medical) unit to be assessed every day by a psychiatrist. They are released according to their GAF (global assessment of function) score to the appropriate unit. Once they are released from the acute mental health unit they are released to either unit B (moderate), C (somewhat low to moderate) or D (the lowest functioning unit). Once moved to these units, the prisoners are assessed for five consecutive days by a psychiatrist to make sure they are appropriate for the unit they were released to. If they decompensate, they go back to the IPN unit. Nursing staff, mental health professionals, CSWs (clinical social workers) and two officers are present in these units.

Ms. Llodra asked what was the proportion of minorities and if there are any interracial conflicts. The Warden estimated there are 40% black, 25% white, one is Native American, 1% Asian, and not sure of the percentage for Latino. Conflicts are inevitable and can't be avoided but all prisoners interact throughout the day. Religious services for all beliefs are provided.

There are no beds currently in the gym. Although it is structurally sound, there are some expansion joint issues in the gym which will be corrected. It is still used for recreation.

Ms. Llodra asked if there is a lower population count because there are fewer prisoners. Warden Falcone said more space has opened up then with the transition supervision, community release and the half-way house release program, the population has decreased. He reassured that before an inmate is released, there is a long process of approval and strict criteria is followed. They are very cautious on releasing inmates. Chief Kehoe said the Police Department would be notified if an offender is released from a prison into Newtown.

Ms. Llodra said she noticed the proportion of mental health prisoners is substantial. The Warden agreed and said they have found in some in the older populations dementia or Alzheimer's can develop, so they are dealing with these issues as well. He said they have a good crew of UConn staff.

The warden said there was a breakout of chicken pox which quarantined two sections of the general population units for 21 days in February. The inmate who initially contracted the chicken pox was transported to the hospital and hasn't returned.

The facility tested high for Radon last year and again even higher this year. They will work towards rectifying this problem.

After no further discussions, Chief Kehoe motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 pm which was seconded by Mr. Kelley. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Tammy Hazen, Clerk