

NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER  
3 PRIMROSE STREET  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470  
TEL. (203) 270-4201  
FAX (203) 270-4205  
e-mail: [first.selectman@newtown-ct.gov](mailto:first.selectman@newtown-ct.gov)  
[www.newtown-ct.gov](http://www.newtown-ct.gov)



Susan Marcinek  
Executive Assistant

**TOWN OF NEWTOWN**  
OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Public Safety Committee**

Town of Newtown/Garner Correctional Facility

The Public Safety Committee met in March, 2020, June, 2020, September, 2020 and December 2020. Minutes of the meetings are attached. The March meeting was held in the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT; the remaining meetings were held remotely due to COVID-19 in person meeting restrictions. All agendas and minutes are posted on the Town of Newtown's website. The public is welcome to attend the meetings.

Those currently serving on the Public Safety Committee are: First Selectman Daniel C. Rosenthal, Police Chief James Viadero, Bob Gerbert School System representative, Board of Fire Commissioners Chairman Patrick Reilly, Jay Mattegat Nunnawauk Meadows representative, Cathy Reiss, Legislative Council representative, and Newtown residents Joy Previdi, Bruce Clark and Jennifer Chaudhary and Stephen Sedensky, State's Attorney.

In March 2020, Warden Hannah reported the population at the facility is 543 which include 410 sentenced and 133 un-sentenced. There are 260 inmates in general population and 283 mental health inmates. Officer staffing levels is at 93%. A Licensed Professional Counselor and a Correctional Nurse were hired. The agency is preparing for pandemic planning; currently no inmates are sick.

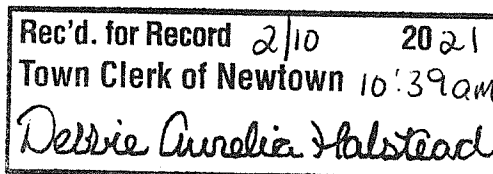
In June 2020, reported the population at the facility is 548 which include 403 sentenced and 145 un-sentenced. 269 inmates are in general population and 279 are mental health inmates. Officer staffing levels is at 94%. Deputy Warden Danielle Borges retired; Mark Bonaventura is a new Deputy Warden. The facility is in compliance with the Governor's mandates relative to COVID-19. Six staff members tested positive for COVID-19.

In September 2020, Warden Hannah reported the populations at the facility is 521 which include 378 sentenced and 141 un-sentenced. There are 256 general population inmates and 265 mental health inmates. Officer staffing is at 94%. Thomas Kenny is a new Deputy Warden, joining current Deputy Warden Bonaventura. COVID-19 protocol continues. One staff member tested positive. In June there were two asymptomatic inmates that tested positive, six in August. Visitation has not been reinstated.

In December 2020, Warden Hannah reported the population at the facility is 486, which include 321 sentenced and 165 un-sentenced. Officer staffing levels are at 94%. Deputy Warden Bonaventura transferred out; David Snyder is the new Deputy Warden. DOC COVID-19 testing is mandatory. From September to November 36 staff members tested positive. In October four inmates tested positive, eighteen in November; the majority of positive cases are asymptomatic. The uptick in cases is consistent with the community. Non-contact visitation was reinstated at the end of October.

*Susan Marcinek, clerk*

Att. 2020 Meeting minutes



**Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner)**  
**Regular Meeting – March 3, 2020 at 5:00 pm**  
**Newtown Municipal Center (Meeting Room #1)**  
**3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Rosenthal, Chief Viadero, Warden Amonda Hannah, Jennifer Chaudhary, Bruce Clark, Jay Mattegat, Cathy Reiss, Stephen Sedensky,

**ABSENT:** Joy Previdi, Patrick Reilly and Director of School Facilities Bob Gerbert

**ALSO PRESENT:** One member of the press.

First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.

**Public Participation:** none.

**Minutes:** B. Clark moved to accept the minutes of December 3, 2019. Chief Viadero seconded. All in favor.

**Warden's Report:** The current inmate population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 543, which includes 410 sentenced and 133 un-sentenced. 260 inmates are in general population; 283 are mental health. There are 11 level 5 inmates, of those 8 are on the administrative segregation status, phase 2 and phase 3; there is 1 in phase 2 and 7 in phase 3; the remaining 3 are AS inmates who are overall mental health 4. There are 426 Level 4 inmates, 76 Level 3 inmates, 2 Level 2 inmates and 2 Level 1 inmates. Of the mental health population 18 are Level 5 and presently housed in the infirmary, 238 are Level 4, 85 are Level 3, 185 are Level 2 and 67 are Level 1.

Incidents are averaging about 77 per quarter. An incident is anything significant, anything out of the normal routine of the day that needs to be documented. An incident can range from a stubbed toe, to an inmate refusing to leave the cell for a court date, to fighting. Issues with visitors may need documentation also.

Officer staffing is at 93%. Fifteen cadets graduated on Jan. 30 and ten new cadets started the academy on Feb. 14 and will be graduating in May. The goal is to have 95% staffing levels. New hires include a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Correctional Nurse. Promotions include 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift Captain and 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift Lieutenant. There is one vacancy for a supervisory position on first shift. One officer retired Jan. 1 and a Deputy Warden is anticipated to retire in April.

High profile inmate Fotis Dulos was housed at Garner for two night prior to bonding out.

The agency is preparing for pandemic planning for the coronavirus and implementing protocol to address any concerns in sanitation. There is weekly monitoring for flu like symptoms. Currently no inmates are sick with the flu.

Kiosks and wiring are being installed in the facility with the anticipation of having tablets in hand by summer. Jpay does not cost the state because they make money thru apps purchased by inmate family members. There are limitations to what the inmates can access.

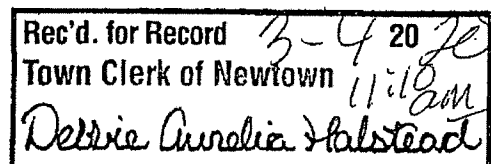
Warden Hannah will circulate dates for a facility tour when planned.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

**Next Meeting Date:** June 2, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the committee voted unanimously to adjourn their special meeting 5:19p.m.

*Susan Marcinek, clerk*



**Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner)**  
**Regular Meeting – June 2, 2020 at 5:00 pm**  
**This meeting was held remotely to abide by COVID-19 social distancing orders**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Warden Amonda Hannah, Patrick Reilly, Jennifer Chaudhary, Cathy Reiss, Stephen Sedensky,

**ABSENT:** Chief Viadero, Bruce Clark, Jay Mattegat, Joy Previdi and Director of School Facilities Bob Gerbert

First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 5:03p.m.

**Public Participation:** none.

**Minutes:** S. Sedensky moved to accept the minutes of March 3, 2020. P. Reilly seconded. All in favor.

**Warden's Report:** The staff is up to date on COVID-19 information and the facility is in compliance with the Governor's mandate that all staff wear masks. Medical staff receive new masks each day. Custody and support staff received one mask a week, increased to three masks per week, once more PPE became available. An inmate work crews use back pack sprayers to disinfect housing units and all areas of the facility; common areas. Hand sanitizer is throughout the facility. There has been consistent communication with the inmate population. Staff, contractors and vendors have temperature check each day. Warden Hannah noted they are very fortunate not to have had any inmates test positive. There were six staff members that tested positive and all have returned to work. Garner was the first facility to have a positive staff member. There will be voluntary testing for staff on June 11; it is not mandatory. There will be voluntary testing for inmates on June 26. Symptomatic inmates are tested.

The current inmate population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 548, which includes 403 sentenced and 145 un-sentenced. 269 inmates are in general population; 279 are mental health. There are 8 level 5 inmates, 406 Level 4 inmates, 98 Level 3 inmates, 30 Level 2 inmates and 6 Level 1 inmates. Of the mental health population 16 are Level, 253 are Level 4, 81 are Level 3, 128 are Level 2 and 70 are Level 1.

Incidents are averaging about 70, which is a significant decrease. There are no volunteers coming into the building; outside contractors come in only for emergency repairs. Everything has been relegated to the housing facility. There has been no outdoor ball field use. Of the incidents fourteen were significant ranging from staff assault or threats to staff. There were minor staff assaults that were not major or significant.

Officer staffing is at 94%. Ten cadets graduated on May 21 and six more cadets are expected in July. The goal is to have 95% staffing levels. Six officers transferred out, two transferred in. Deputy Warden Danielle Borges retired effective April 1. Mark Bonaventura is a new Deputy Warden. A Lieutenant was promoted; they are looking to promote a 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift Captain.

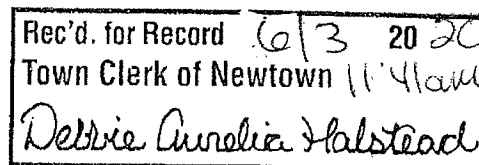
First Selectman Rosenthal asked when programming and recreation will be allowed again. Warden Hannah said that inmate phone calls have been increased by two free phone calls a week. The recreation time has increased so the inmates are out of their cells longer. They are allowed in the courtyard, but cannot participate in any sports as that require groups and contact. Warden Hannah is also investigating video visiting. She is working to phase in programming including education, gym, recreation and ball fields.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

**Next Meeting Date:** September 1, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the committee voted unanimously to adjourn their special meeting 5:21p.m.

*Susan Marcinek, clerk*



**Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner)**  
**Regular Meeting – September 1, 2020 at 5:00 pm**  
**This meeting was held remotely to abide by COVID-19 social distancing orders**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Warden Amonda Hannah, Chief Viadero, Patrick Reilly, Jennifer Chaudhary, Cathy Reiss, Stephen Sedensky,

**ABSENT:** Bruce Clark, Jay Mattegat, Joy Previdi and Director of School Facilities Bob Gerbert

First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

**Public Participation:** none.

**Minutes:** P. Reilly moved to accept the minutes of June 2, 2020. C. Reiss seconded. All in favor.

**Warden's Report:**

The current inmate population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 521, which includes 378 sentenced and 141 unsentenced. 256 inmates are in general population; 265 are mental health. There are 13 level 5 inmates, all on the administrative segregation status; 401 Level 4 inmates, 84 Level 3 inmates, 19 Level 2 inmates and 4 Level 1 inmates. Of the mental health population 21 are Level 5, 223 are Level 4, 81 are Level 3, 130 are Level 2 and 66 are Level 1.

Incidents are averaging about 70, twelve were significant, varying from staff assault to threats on staff. An inmate groped one of the female nurses and was charged with sexual assault, fifth degree. Incidents have gone down since COVID as people want to be safe and are not gathering as much. There has been more staff conflict since COVID.

Officer staffing is at 94%. A small number of staff transferred out; there were two retirements. The top line supervisor staff is full. There is now a third shift Captain and a new second shift Captain. A Lieutenant and two Counselors were promoted. The administrative team is complete with the hiring of a new Deputy Warden. There are now two, Thomas Kenny and Mark Bonaventura, both have previously worked at Garner.

Staff and inmates are continually updated on COVID-19 protocol. Masks are mandatory for staff and inmates when out of their cell, in the common areas, using the phone or in recreation areas. Mandatory staff testing has been ongoing since July. One staff member has tested positive. Voluntary inmate testing has been ongoing. In June there were two asymptomatic positives, out of 518 tested. In August there were six asymptomatic positives, out of 502 tested, bringing the facility positivity rate to 1%. The low rate is due to mask discipline and the cleaning and sanitation of the facility. Medical staff receive new masks each day. Custody and support staff received three masks per week; there is an allotment of cloth masks for inmates. Inmate cleaning crews work crews use back pack sprayers to disinfect housing units and all areas of the facility; common areas. Hand sanitizer is throughout the facility. Temperature checks are conducted on all staff and vendors entering the building. The positive inmates were quarantined. Cell mates are isolated in a separate unit for fourteen days. Inmates suspected of having COVID, or any inmates that refuse testing, are isolated for fourteen days. Visitation has not been reinstated; professional legal visits are allowed.

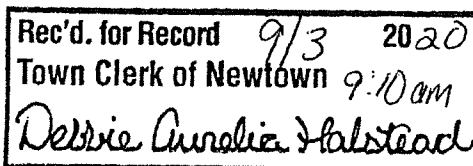
C. Reiss asked about outdoor time for inmates and if there has been a difference noticed since COVID. Warden Hannah said that inmates are allowed in the courtyard, but cannot use the gym or participate in any sports as that require groups and contact. Although inmate incidents have decreased there are more mental health issues due to the lack of face to face interaction with loved ones. Family members call concerned about inmates.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

**Next Meeting Date:** December 1, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the committee voted unanimously to adjourn their regular meeting 5:19p.m.

*Susan Marcinek, clerk*



**Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner)**  
**Regular Meeting – December 1, 2020 at 5:00 pm**  
**This meeting was held remotely to abide by COVID-19 social distancing orders**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Warden Amonda Hannah, Chief Viadero, Patrick Reilly, Jennifer Chaudhary, Joy Previdi, Cathy Reiss, Stephen Sedensky,

**ABSENT:** Bruce Clark, Jay Mattegat and Director of School Facilities Bob Gerbert

First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 5:02p.m.

**Public Participation:** none.

**Minutes:** Chief Viadero moved to accept the minutes of Sept. 1, 2020. C. Reiss seconded. All in favor.

**2021 Meeting Calendar:** J. Previdi moved to accept the 2021 meeting calendar as presented (att.).  
J. Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

**Warden's Report:**

The current inmate population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 486, which includes 321 sentenced and 165 unsentenced. There are 11 Level 5 inmates, all on the administrative segregation status; 383 Level 4 inmates, 75 Level 3 inmates, 14 Level 2 inmates and 3 Level 1 inmates. Of the mental health population 18 are Level 5, 232 are Level 4, 55 are Level 3, 123 are Level 2 and 58 are Level 1.

Incidents are averaging about 73 per month, eight were significant, varying from staff assault to threats on staff. An inmate groped a staff member, was immediately transported to the super max facility and was charged with sexual assault

Officer staffing is at 94%. Two transferred out, one transferred in. There was one retirement and one promotion. A new nursing supervisor was hired for second shift. Deputy Warden Bonaventura transferred out, the new Deputy Warden is David Snyder, who has previously worked at Garner and has been a Deputy Warden for three years. State employees can use COVID care giver days, allowing employees to care for a loved one sick with COVID or for child care if the child care provider had to close due to COVID. This presents issues with staffing, more so on the weekends than weekdays. Staff out sick is covered by overtime.

The DOC has mandatory COVID-19 testing. There has been an increase in positive test results in both staff and inmate population. From September to November 36 staff members have tested positive. Currently of the eight quarantined three are scheduled to return to work this week. Of the 454 inmates tested in October only four tested positive. In November eighteen inmates tested positive. The majority of positive cases are asymptomatic. Five symptomatic were sent to the COVID recovery unit at MacDougall Walker, the remaining at Garner are isolated and quarantining. The facility is staying the course, trying to mitigate spread of virus by wearing masks, sanitizing and mandating testing. The uptick in cases is consistent with the community.

Non-contact visitation was reinstated at the end of October; through the glass. Visitation is by housing unit to limit interaction and contact between inmates. Due to these COVID restrictions visitation is 30 minutes as opposed to the one hour pre-COVID visitation. Microsoft team video visits will begin, once a week for 30 minutes. An officer will control the laptops for video visits. The tablet program is on hold due to COVID.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

**Next Meeting Date:** March 2, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the committee voted unanimously to adjourn their regular meeting 5:21p.m.

Att: 2021 meeting calendar

*Susan Marcinek, clerk*

