

Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner) Minutes
Regular Meeting – June 4, 2019 at 5:00 pm
Newtown Municipal Center (Meeting Room #1)
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

Members Present: First Selectman Daniel C. Rosenthal, Warden Amonda Hannah, Patrick Reilly, Neil Chaudhary, Bruce Clark, Stephen Sedensky, Chief Viadero

ABSENT: Gino Faiella, Jay Mattegat, Joy Previti and one member of the press.

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

Public Participation: none.

Minutes: Mr. Clark moved to accept the minutes of March 5, 2019. Mr. Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

Warden's Report: Warden Amonda Hannah introduced herself saying she's been with the Department of Corrections for twenty five years, starting at Garner as a counselor and moved up the ranks to Counselor Supervisor and to Deputy Warden. This is her third time at Garner, previously there as the Deputy Warden. Warden Hannah was promoted to Warden in Bridgeport and transferred to Garner.

The current population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 588 which includes 147 un-sentenced and 441 sentenced. The inmate breakdown is 157 white, 286 black, 137 Hispanic, 4 Asian and 4 American Indian. There are four general population housing units, three outside clearance workers, one restrictive housing unit and five mental health units. The Lieutenant compliment is full, two supervisors will be promoted which will keep the supervisor compliment full also. There is a Captain promotion pending and a Counselor Supervisor promotion pending. There are currently two Deputy Wardens, Deputy Warden Egan and Deputy Warden Borges. Officer staffing is at 85%; 18 cadets will be in the new academy class. Fire Drills are conducted monthly; incident reports are eight per month, on average. Emergency codes, staff accountability, interior and exterior sweeps, zone checks continue to be a focus. The theater group had two performances with volunteers, one for family and one show for the inmate population.

Commissioner Rollin Cook has been formally appointed as the new Commissioner. Deputy Commissioner Angel Quiros was appointed and is the Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Rehabilitative Services. Warden William Mulligan was appointed to District Administrator and oversees Garner. Warden Scott Murphy was also appointed to District Administrator.

Two housing units at Northern Correctional Facility were closed. Garner will now have ten inmates that are administrative segregation, phase 1 & 2 inmates; overall level 5 inmates. These are not mental health inmates. There are currently four, level five, mental health inmates. They will be housed in a restricted housing unit and go through the phase program. Warden Hannah explained the phase program is to phase the administrative segregation inmates back into general population. Administrative segregation is high security status. There are two tiers in the segregation housing unit, the administrative segregation inmates are housed on the lower tier; the regular restricted inmates on the upper tier. There is an increase of five additional staff. Warden Hannah does not anticipate the number of level 5 inmates to increase.

There have been many Department of Corrections retirements, leading to administrative changes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the committee voted unanimously to adjourn their special meeting 5:18 p.m.

Susan Marcinek, clerk

