

**Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner)**  
**Regular Meeting – June 7, 2022 at 5:00 pm**  
**Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chamber**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Warden Craig Washington, Capt. Bishop, Bruce Clark, Joy Previdi, Matthew Mihalcik, Jennifer Chaudhary,

**ABSENT:** Jay Mattegat, Steve Sedensky, Patrick Reilly and Bob Gerbert

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 7, 2021 and the minutes of March 2, 2022. J. Previdi seconded. All in favor.

**Warden's Report:**

Warden Washington introduced the new Deputy Warden, LaRue McNish, saying that Deputy Warden Thomas Kenny is still on staff as well.

The current inmate population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 499 which includes 269 sentenced and 230 un-sentenced. There are two general population units, the rest are mental health. There are 11 Level 5 inmates (in administrative segregation), 307 Level 4 inmates, 138 Level 3 inmates, 35 Level 2 inmates and 8 Level 1 inmates, who are eligible and approved for half way house or work programs. Of the mental health population 27 are Level 5 (severe), 374 are Level 4, 23 are Level 3, 48 are Level 2 and 24 are Level 1.

The mental health level 5's have increased because Garner, the mental health facility, is taking more time to evaluate, treat and wait for stabilization to avoid inmates returning. They do not fill all beds to capacity so there is availability for mental health. Six out of eight units are mental health. Garner staffs psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers.

Incidents are averaging about 87 per month. Staffing is at 88%. There are no staff eligible for retirement prior to July 1. The staff is predominantly young, and local; Warden Washington doesn't anticipate any leaving.

The current uptick in COVID cases has not hit the facility hard. In the last three months 22 staff members and 93 inmates tested positive. Code Red protocols are still in place. Social visits are suspended, agency wide, until the positivity rate is below 5%.

Agency wide, inmates are transferred to court systems throughout the state every day. Sometimes court is conducted via video. Garner has relationships with local departments in the state; if an issue arises during transport they can stop at any police department or facility.

Training will be coordinated between Garner and Newtown PD CSP, for communication purposes. There will be a food truck June 30 at Garner for staff and local first responders, to lighten morale.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on Sept. 6, 2022 in the Council Chamber, Newtown Municipal Center at 5:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the meeting ended at 5:14p.m.

*Susan Marcinek, clerk*

