

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 3rd 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

