

**Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner) Minutes  
Special Meeting – September 19, 2017 at 5:00 pm  
Newtown Municipal Center (Meeting Room #1)  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT**

**Members Present:** First Selectman E. Patricia Llodra, Warden Denise Dilworth, Jay Mattegat, Joy Previdi, Neil Chaudhary, Bruce Clark, Chief Viadero, Capt. Vanghele

**ABSENT:** Rob Manna, Gino Faiella, Stephen Sedensky

First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**Public Participation:** none.

**Minutes:** Ms. Previdi moved to accept the minutes of June 6, 2017. Chief Viadero seconded. Mr. Chaudhary abstained as he was absent. All were in favor.

First Selectman Llodra introduced Warden Dilworth who gave a brief bio which included 25 years with the agency. She started her career at Western Substance Abuse Treatment, has been in North East in Storrs, at Garner as a counselor, Webster in Cheshire, again at Garner as a counselor supervisor, was the Deputy Warden at New Haven jail prior to becoming Deputy of Operations at Garner. Warden Dilworth has worked with Commissioner Semple and former Warden Falcone.

**Warden's Report:** The current population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 544, which includes 127 unsentenced. There are 193 in general population, 351 mental health inmates. Mental health inmates are housed by functionality and are involved in programs and assessed regularly. The inside-out college program remains in place as well as the creative writing program. A motivational speaker, a linebacker from the Cleveland Browns, came in recently. Another motivational speaker will be in next month. Volunteers continue to help out with the book club. The garden club is ongoing. The gym floor is being replaced. The facility is 88% staffed; staff gets overtime. There were several retirements and those positions will be filled.

There is a higher level of staffing due to the mental health population, which included clinicians, psychiatrists, counselors and a nurse.

Of the unsentenced population only a handful go to court each day.

Capt. Vanghele mentioned that the facility has helped out during major storms in terms of food. First Selectman said that sandwiches were delivered from the kitchen of Garner, to the EOC, where emergency personnel were meeting to discuss storm related issues. Inmates, with guards, also helped shovel snow around the stop signs during a winter with extreme snow. Warden Dilworth reported the facility is always willing to assist.

**NEW BUSINESS:** none.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** This is the final meeting for First Selectman Llodra as well as Neil Chaudhary.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the committee voted unanimously to adjourn their special meeting at 5:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Marcinek, clerk*

Rec'd. for Record 9-21-2017  
Town Clerk of Newtown 10:20am  
*Debbie Aurelia Halstead*