

Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner)
Regular Meeting – March 2, 2021 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, Joy Previdi, Jay Mattegat, Patrick Reilly, Jennifer Chaudhary, Cathy Reiss, Stephen Sedensky, Chief Viadero

ABSENT: Bruce Clark and Director of School Facilities Bob Gerbert

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

Public Participation: none.

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

Warden's Report:

The current inmate population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 485, which includes 314 sentenced and 171 un-sentenced. There are 9 level 5 inmates, these are administrative segregation status inmates, 394 Level 4 inmates, 68 Level 3 inmates, 12 Level 2 inmates and 2 Level 1 inmates. Of the mental health population 12 are Level 5, 254 are Level 4, 55 are Level 3, 122 are Level 2 and 51 are Level 1.

Incidents are averaging about 65, which is a significant decrease since last quarter. Three incidents were significant.

Officer staffing is at 94%. There was one transfer out and a couple of resignations from staff applying to local or state police departments. One psychologist resigned to practice privately. Two officers transferred in and one Lieutenant retired. There is a new CHVAC maintenance officer,

The COVID-19 positivity rate for inmates and staff is trending downward. Mandatory staff testing is done weekly. Bi-weekly mass testing is done on the inmate population. Inmate testing is voluntary; 80% -90% participate in testing. Disinfecting and sanitizing continues. Any inmate that transfers into the facility are quarantined and tested before being assigned to a housing unit. Temperature checks are done on staff and contractors entering and exiting the facility. Staff vaccinations began in January, health care staff (1A group) were first, followed by the first responders and correctional staff (1B group) in February. 36 health services staff are fully vaccinated; custody staff that opted to be vaccinated were fully vaccinated in February. Approximately 36% of staff has been vaccinated. First Selectman Rosenthal noted that was low. Warden Hannah explained it is voluntary and many are undecided. As more peers receive the vaccination, the hope is that more will volunteer to get it. Staff positives were 23 in December, 10 in January, down to 5 in February. Inmate positives were 74 in December, 34 in January and down to 9 in February. There were zero positives in the last two inmate mass testing cycles. Six inmates in the 75 years and older age group have been vaccinated. The rest of the inmate population will be vaccinated this month if there are sufficient supplies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

Next Meeting Date: June 1, 2021

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

Susan Marcinek, clerk

