

ENFIELD PRISON/TOWN LIAISON COMMITTEE
Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – 6:00 PM
ENFIELD ROOM

Call to Order

Chairperson Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Roll Call of Members

Present for the meeting were Nelson Rodriguez, Kenneth Edgar, Nanci Harvey, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Mike Arnone, Timothy Slade.

Present from the Town of Enfield

Alexis Nai, Recording Secretary

Present from the Department of Corrections:

Warden Zelynette Caron – Robinson CI

Warden Nicole Thibeault – Willard Cybulski CI

Deputy Warden Brian Moore – Osborn CI

Present from the Enfield Police Department:

Chief Alaric Fox

Review of Minutes

a. March 13, 2024

Mr. Edgar motioned to approve the minutes of March 13, 2023, as amended in section d. Mr. Slade seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Vote: 6-0-0

New Business

a. Ask DOC Somers prisons Wardens to attend our quarterly meetings for facility updates

Chairperson Rodriguez called security division to see if the Somers wardens could join.

Mr. Slade contacted Representative Carol Hall who is on a public safety committee for the State to see if she could ask Willard and Somers to attend the prison meetings because Somers no longer has a meeting. A representative aid sent information back stating Wardens are only

required to attend the meetings once a year, which conflicts with the resolution the Town of Enfield put forth in 1990.

When these committees were formed, it was up to the municipality to establish the guidelines and govern the Committees, however the documentation that was sent over noted the DOC was supposed to establish committees.

Warden Thibeault stated they will gladly attend the quarterly meetings.

Chairperson Rodriguez stated he will look into it and have answers for the Committee the following meeting.

Michael Arnone noted he happened to see that Massachusetts is using empty prisons for immigration needs. He asked if Connecticut is looking into that.

Warden Thibeault noted that is not on any plans, the empty facilities are being used for training. Cheshire is the training academy. The physical agility training will be moved from Enfield to the Willard building. Likely after the fiscal year.

Warden Caron stated that one class just graduated from the training program, and another should be graduating in August.

Ms. Harvey asked about the soccer fields that are going in on Willard property across from Shaker fields.

Mr. Slade read that the State is allowing Enfield to purchase the property.

Warden Caron stated she was not aware of the soccer fields until she read the article as well.

Old Business

a. Update on inmates outside work details

Mr. Arnone asked if they are going forward with training the inmates into milling/manufacturing.

Warden Caron confirmed Osborn and Cybulski are moving forward with Pursuit program.

They have inmates onsite at Boatworks, some at Telling industries. All inmates are with an officer at the location. They have had good success with these programs.

The inmates who are working at the companies have bank accounts set up by the employers, not the DOC account. When they leave, they have to pay the halfway house.

Warden Thibeault noted inmates will be going to the fourth of July event and a book fair in Enfield.

Warden Thibeault noted they tried to get a fundraiser going for folks that lost their home to fires and the town was very helpful with coordinating with the pickle ball courts.

They have three inmates who are helping with landscaping in Suffield. There will not be with an officer, but the town of Suffield will be picking them up.

Chairman Rodriguez noted it is a huge help monetary wise.

Ms. Harvey noted they used to have a crew that would take care of Crescent Lake.

Warden Thibeault noted it is a tough time of year because they are trying to renew contracts for July 1st but may be able to help depending on resource availability.

Ms. Harvey will send the request into Warden Thibeault.

b. Solar update

Chairperson Rodriguez asked what they are doing at Enfield corrections regarding the solar panels.

Warden Thibeault noted there will be solar panels, one will feed the Willard building and the other two will feed the Enfield building. There will be three lines. The solar panels on the right feed mostly Osborn, but not 100%. The solar panels that you see are only for the facilities and if they don't use it, it's a credit back to the State. They found enough room to install the panels in the wetlands not to disturb the wildlife. They should be completed in April 2025.

Items for Discussion:

a) COVID-19 Update –

b) Projects at Facilities

Warden Caron noted the vocational village slowed down. The funding is being reallocated, so they will use the facilities and equipment they have in place. CDL is included, they take a simulation test and can obtain their permit. They are working to see if they can do a 1-day furlough to take the test. This was implemented about six months ago. They also have some small engine work included in the program.

Warden Caron noted 8 inmates who participated in the asphalt program were taken to a job fair and 6 had jobs.

MOU extended for new year for Asphalt and flagger program had 16 graduates. This was DOT working with the department in conjunction with UCONN.

They are moving forward with pursuit; they were going to do culinary but don't have an instructor.

Deputy Warden Moore stated Osborn is the sister facility for vocational village. They are building trades (framing, sheetrock, roofing, siding). They have an instructor who went through academy and now is a contractor. Certified through Unified School District 1. They also have carpentry and a barbering program. At the end of the program, they will be licensed by the state. They have computer program that will be coming, along with the pursuit program.

For the pursuit program to have the learning/machines, they need to have active internet, there is limited internet access for the instructors. It will be vetted by the security division.

Warden Thibeault stated the only vocational program they have is hospitality. She has been approached to see if furlough is available to set up banquet halls, which is on nights and weekends and does not have staff. The inmates that go out on furlough are from the three specialized units, not from general population.

Cybulski is interested in the asphalt program as well.

Deputy Warden Moore stated they have a three-year large window replacement project. He confirmed the blocks that are being worked on are being emptied before the work begins.

<u>c) Report of Population Counts</u>		<u>Current Qtr.</u>	<u>(3/2024)</u>
Warden Thibeault	Cybulski Correctional Institute	610	
Closed	Enfield Correctional Institute	0	0
Warden Caron	Carl Robinson Correctional Institute	1065	1021
Osborn		1156	
(Level 1= 120, Level 2 = 561, Level 3 = 340)			

d) Review of Significant Incidents or Policy Changes at Prisons

No significant incidents.

Warden Thibeault noted the Wardens met over the incident that happened in Idaho to address their policies and procedures for medical situations. It is two officers per inmate. The administration is meeting with area hospitals to address any security gaps.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked the Wardens for coming in and appreciate the partnership.

Warden Thibeault noted Correctional officer appreciation week is the first week of May. This year they had a family day where family members came onsite in empty housing units for tours, and they received positive feedback.

Ms. Harvey asked if they need volunteers for anything.

The Wardens noted food is always welcome. Volunteering would have to be cleared through central office.

Awards and recognition are given out to correctional officers during the week. Along with raffles. Ms. Pfeifer -Hall suggested nominating officers for recognition at the town council meeting that week.

The committee suggested having the dogs/officers join the fourth of July parade. Officer Cotta is the contact person.

Adjournment

Ms. Pfeifer Hall motioned to adjourn at 7:04 PM. Mr. Arnone seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

Vote: 6-0-0

Date of Next Meeting: September 11, 2024