

ENFIELD PRISON/TOWN LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 – 6:00 PM

ENFIELD ROOM

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order

Chairperson Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call of Members

Chairperson Nelson Rodriguez, Kenneth Edgar, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Timothy Slade, Mike Arnone and Nanci Harvey.

Present from the Town: Ken Nelson Jr. – Mayor and Alexis Nai, Recording Secretary

Absent: Cynthia Mangini and Bob Hendrickson Town Council

Also Present:

Nicole Thibeault, Warden Cybulski Correctional

Captain Held, Enfield Police Department

Donald Acus, Deputy-Warden Osborn Correctional

Nathan Alexander, Deputy Warden

Review of Minutes

- a. June 11, 2025 – Remove Kenneth Edgar from the minutes. Mr. Slade Motioned to accept. Ms. Pfeifer Hall seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. **Vote: 4-0-2**

New Business

- b. Drug problem in the institutions

Chairperson Rodriguez questioned what happened at McDougal Walker.

Deputy Warden Alexander noted that the autopsy takes a while to get the results back.

Warden Thibeault noted they have not had any deaths at their facilities.

Osborn CI reported 191 incidents in May, but activity has declined recently. The window project for the restrictive housing unit will finish in about a month. Afterward, inmates are scheduled to begin rehab around the same time.

Mayor Nelson noted the reason it is getting worse is because they are moving the money around on cash app.

Deputy Warden Alexander noted the inmates are apprehended when they are caught. They depend on prosecutors to take action.

What they are doing is adding x-ray security machines in Enfield. It is like a mail sorter and scans the density and can detect if the paper has been soaked or tampered with. It is a pilot program because it is expensive. If it works, they want to get them in every facility. There are currently three on order for the DOC.

Warden Thibeault noted they have a centralized mail facility. Their facility is on walker drive outside of the facility. Robinson is inside the facility, but in the front. There is one inmate who has permission to access that area and holds the necessary clearance.

Warden Thibeault said they also need to monitor tablets. They monitor everything including mail from children.

Chairperson Rodriguez questioned if they are going after the people who are sending the drugs in.

Warden Thibeault said a state trooper offered support and may add charges to help deter drug smuggling.

While some visitors have been removed, an inmate's visitor list may change if they are transferred. The PROTECT Act places restrictions on these changes.

Cybulski experienced two overdoses within a twelve-hour period, which is a significant concern.

Deputy Warden Acus stated that staff may observe individuals smoking K2, which can result in overdoses; however, those affected may test negative during subsequent screenings. Staff monitor medication reviews to identify any other factors contributing to symptoms. They will attend a summit focused on addressing overdoses. It was also noted that Narcan use in overdose cases can sometimes result in aggressive behavior.

K2 refers to a chemical compound that is applied to paper or herbs. The term covers substances soaked in paper, which may be treated with chemicals such as Raid and acetone. These compounds typically do not appear on standard drug tests.

Deputy Warden Acus mentioned that over 200 pieces of legal mail have been received from Florida. Plans are being made to visit Massachusetts to review their procedures.

Old Business

- a. *Update on the physical agility training moved from Enfield CI to Willard Building.*

Warden Thibeault noted its up and running. They are training the trainers. It should begin in October. The commissioners noted if they get to a certain count, they may need to re-open Willard.

Deputy Warden Acus noted the halfway houses are starting to increase. They are maxed out at Osborn.

Warden Thibeault reported that most inmates are classified at level 4. Willard facility will need to be designated as a level 2 institution, with appropriate inmate transfers implemented to balance the overall population. The current population is approximately 11,140; Willard will be activated if the total reaches approximately 13,000.

Mr. Slade inquired about potential increases in out-of-state prisoners.

The wardens explained that such transfers are typically reciprocal, on a one-for-one basis, and it is uncommon to accept inmates from other states outright. Contracts are maintained with all states participating in interstate compacts, and some have discretion regarding work-release and parole arrangements.

b. Update on new soccer field location (Bob Hendrickson)

Mayor Nelson met with the state and DOC. Their position has changed from initial discussions on the soccer fields to charging the town of Enfield for the parcel. Environmental officials approved since only grass was involved.

Deputy Warden Alexander suggested the matter may fall under DAS, not DOC.

The issue is now at the state level, so it will be removed from the agenda.

c. Update on solar field

d. Food shelf (Bob Hendrickson)

Warden Thibeault reported a signed contract requiring one inmate for janitorial work at the food shelf one day per week, with Friday chosen as the workday.

Nancy Harvey reinstated the Crescent Lake contract, noting its positive results and expressing gratitude.

Mayor Nelson mentioned summer staff shortages, seasonal help, and inquired about the possibility of work release crews assisting.

Warden Thibeault noted they do partner with local businesses for work release programs.

Mayor Nelson observed that building and grounds staff are overwhelmed in summer but have little work in winter.

Warden Thibeault added that only retired DOC personnel can supervise, as there are no available officers. In Suffield, a retired DOC officer supervises; in Hartford, it's an

active officer. The grounds crew, furlough programs, and Hartford all involve officers, but Suffield's grounds crew is unique in not having an active correctional officer.

Items for Discussion:

- c. Projects at Facilities
Osborn – the canine program is going, looking to get four new dogs. Finishing the window replacement project.
Cybulski – solar panels are in and not on yet.
- d. Report on Population Counts (Wardens)

2. <u>Report on Population Counts</u>		<u>06/25</u>	<u>Current Qtr.</u>
Warden Thibeault	Cybulski Correctional Institute	603	611
Closed	Enfield Correctional Institute	0	0
Warden Caron	Carl Robinson Correctional Institute	1067	1227
Osborn		1209	1228

- a. Review of Significant Incidents or Policy Changes in Prisons

Potential developments may be forthcoming concerning increased compliance with federal immigration law. Individuals on community release could face detention as a result of these changes.

- b. Osborn – a few fights, the k2 overdoses have been going down. With the new machines coming in, there will need to be policy updates.
- c. Carl Robinson – They are getting body scanners for inmates to help with contraband.

Captain Held noted EPD appreciates the help and training partnership with the DOC.

Mr. Slade noted stated he would like to see more communication between the prison and community.

Mayor Nelson noted that whenever the DOC is participating in training, it is usually on the town website.

Adjournment:

Ken Edgar motioned to adjourn. Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM. **Vote 6-0-0.**

Date of Next Meeting: December 10, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,
Alexis Nai,
Recording Secretary