

CHESHIRE PRISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

**CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012

Committee Members Present: Representing the Town of Cheshire: Ronald T. Urquhart and William Hellyar. From the correctional institutions: John Alves, Jon Brighthaupt, and Bryan Viger.

Guests Present: Margie and Jim Rodgers, 71 Lancaster Way, Cheshire.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Chairperson Ronald T. Urquhart. The assembled body saluted the flag.

Acceptance of minutes for November 8, 2011 and August 9, 2011: No vote could be taken due to a lack of a quorum.

Update on the Cheshire Facilities: Jon Brighthaupt, Warden of the Cheshire Correctional Institution and Cheshire Annex, reported a census of 1489 inmates. Warden Brighthaupt reported two incidents that occurred at the facility. One incident involved the suicide of an inmate. The State Police are investigating. No foul play is suspected. The other incident involved an inmate stabbed with a sharpened toothbrush. The victim was transported to the hospital for treatment. The other inmate involved was charged with assault by the State Police. Neither incident posed any threat or danger to the community. Chairperson Urquhart was notified of both incidents. Warden Brighthaupt also reported there is currently a class of 16 cadets in training.

Captain Bryan Viger, of Dept. of Corrections Special Operations Team, reported that the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) will hold a program at the Webster Building on June 16, 2012, from 8am-4pm. The public is invited to the program, which commemorates 30 years of operation of CERT and will include tactical demonstrations. Captain Viger provided background about CERT.

Chairperson Urquhart said he asked by reporters if more inmates were coming to Cheshire's facilities. Warden Brighthaupt responded that he was not aware of any increase to the Cheshire population. The Galleys are still empty (can hold 396 inmates); there are no plans to use the Galleys for the general population.

Warden John Alves, Warden of the Manson Youth Institution reported a census of 555 inmates, down from 603 inmates from his last report). There were no significant incidents at Manson. Warden Alves reported that the Community Notification System has been repaired, and is now secured under lock and key. Warden Alves also reported that due to significant project in progress (new heating and air conditioning system for the entire compound), a temporary road has been located off Jarvis (near the new expansion of the linear trail. Excavation is needed on the property. Extra security will be provided (extra external fencing and perimeter posts). The perimeter will not be breached.

Tracy Butler, Director of the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development, was absent – please see end of minutes for report submitted via e-mail by Director Butler.

Glen Noffsinger, Plant Facility Manager, was absent -- no report.

Chairperson Urquhart asked if the Inmate Re-entry Training program process had been sped up. Warden Brighthaupt responded this program is handled by the Parole Department. According to a 2011 policy to reduce the prison population by allowing inmates to earn credits for early release, inmates can earn

credits by their positive behaviors and actions. The "risk reduction" credit system allows inmates to reduce some sentences by no more than five days per month.

Fire Training School – Because Mr. Noffsinger was out of town, Warden Brighthaupt reported that sound and environment tests are in progress. Mr. Rodgers added that they have put up a 40 foot pole with orange cones and balloons, to determine visibility in the neighborhood. Chairperson Urquhart felt the Fire Chiefs were clear in their presentation that you would not be able to see the facility from the surrounding neighborhood. Mr. Rodgers also expressed concern about the level of noise during the winter when trees are without leaves. Mrs. Rodgers stated they were suppose to test the noise level in the winter but were unable to. She reported the neighbors are trying to work with the Fire Fighters School. During public presentations, Mrs. Rodgers saw building design that was more appealing. Mrs. Rodgers also expressed her concern that they were not apprised of the project until it was a "done deal." She also commented that when her family first moved to Cheshire and purchased their home, State Representative Mary Fritz was instrumental in making sure the gun range used silencers. Recently (over the last 24 months), there has been more noise from gunfire at the range. Warden Alves stated the gun range used suppressers and that rifle certification is done outside. Warden Alves will convey the Rodgers' concerns to Tracy Butler, Director of the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

Mrs. Rodgers also brought up another concern about the Fire Training School property. She understands that the State of CT is allowing 150 parking spots for Linear Trail parking on state property. Warden Alves will forward this question/concern to Glenn Noffsinger, Plant Facility Manager.

Other:

Mrs. Margie Rodgers expressed interest in serving on the Prison Advisory Board committee. Mrs. Rodgers provided her contact information to Chairperson Urquhart.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:03pm by Chairperson Ronald T. Urquhart.

The next meeting will be held on August 13, 2012.

The following update was e-mailed by Director Butler: *We are having a Veteran's Picnic at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development on Saturday May 19, 2012. We will have Trooper 1 on site. They will land on the hill between Cheshire CI and the Training Academy.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathy Kirby
Recording Clerk