

CHESHIRE PRISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2012

Committee Members Present: Representing the Town of Cheshire: Ronald T. Urquhart, William Hellyar, and Sharon Houck. From the correctional institutions: Jon Brighthaupt and Tracy Butler. Representing the Cheshire Police Dept.: Robert Vignola.

Guests Present: Margie Rodgers, 71 Lancaster Way, Cheshire CT

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:38pm by Chairperson Ronald T. Urquhart. The assembled body saluted the flag.

Acceptance of minutes for November 8, 2011; August 9, 2011; and May 15, 2012:

November 8, 2011 Minutes:

MOTION by Sharon Houck; seconded by William Hellyar. To accept the minutes of the November 8, 2011 meeting as presented. VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

August 9, 2011 Minutes:

MOTION by William Hellyar; seconded by Sharon Houck. To accept the minutes of the August 9, 2012 meeting as presented. VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

May 15, 2012 Minutes:

MOTION by Sharon Houck; seconded by William Hellyar. To accept the minutes of the May 15, 2012 meeting as presented. VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

Update on the Cheshire Facilities:

Jon Brighthaupt, Warden of the Cheshire Correctional Institution (CCI) and Cheshire Annex, reported that the Community Notification System is being changed to the State Everbridge System. A telephone notification call went out to all residents signed-up for notification. Warden Alves spoke to Chair Urquhart about the change. Residents who live in the area of a correctional facility may register on-line for notifications at www.ctlaert.gov.

Warden John Alves, Warden of the Manson Youth Institution, was absent. Warden Brighthaupt reported a census of 485 inmates at the Manson Youth Institution. Warden Brighthaupt also reported that two units will be temporarily closed during their current construction project (heating and air conditioning system for the entire compound). A temporary road and extra staff have been added for the project. There is no impact on the community. This project is expected to take approximately one and a half years.

Warden Brighthaupt reported a census of 1374 inmates. There have been no relevant incidents since our last meeting. They are currently renovating a housing unit with enhanced security.

Tracy Butler, Director of the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development and Director of the Human Resources Unit, reported things are quiet at this time of year. A ventilation project is in progress at the range. Ms. Butler expects the next class to start at the end of fall. Currently possible candidates are participating in physical and agility tests, exams and interviews. Successful candidates will be part of classes starting over the next two years.

Mr. Hellyar asked how many Corrections Officers staff CCI. Warden Brighthaupt replied about 380 Corrections Officers staff CCI and about 250 Corrections Officers staff the Manson Youth Institute.

Chairman Urquhart asked about any changes to the prisoner release program. Warden Brighthaupt replied there have been no changes to the current prisoner release program; he feels prisoners are not being released at a faster rate than in the past.

Mr. Hellyar asked how quickly inmates find out about news happening in the community and state. Warden Brighthaupt replied that inmates have access to television, so they receive news quickly. Some inmates also receive newspapers. In response to a question, Warden Brighthaupt replied that inmates do not have internet access privileges.

Mr. Hellyar recently read about volunteers who help prepare inmates for release into their communities. Warden Brighthaupt replied that about half of the programs offered inside the prisons are staffed by volunteers. The CT Department of Corrections website (www.ct.gov/doc) has a list of all programs available at each facility.

Chairman Urquhart asked for an update on the Fire School proposed for Cheshire. Warden Brighthaupt replied that Glen Noffsinger (Plant Facility Manager) would have that information. Mr. Noffsinger was unable to attend the meeting.

Other:

Sharon Houck announced that she is resigning from the Prison Advisory Committee. Ms. Houck has served on the committee since its formation, over 25 years ago. Ms. Houck reminisced about the length of the earlier meetings and the types of issues they addressed.

Margie Rodgers asked about people she noticed standing on and off state property for about two weeks. Warden Brighthaupt replied these people were from a union from Massachusetts who were attempting to take over the supervisor's union. By law, they were not allowed to be on the prison property and they moved to another location.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 12, 2012 at 5:30pm at Cheshire Town Hall. . If November 12th is a state holiday, Chairman Urquhart will change the meeting date.

Adjournment: MOTION by Ronald Urquhart; seconded by Sharon Houck. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm by Chairperson Ronald T. Urquhart.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kathy Kirby
Recording Clerk