

**CHESHIRE PRISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**CHESHIRE TOWN HALL  
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

Committee Members Present: Representing the Town of Cheshire: William Hellyar and Trip Sanders. From the correctional institutions: John Alves and Denise Walker. Representing the Cheshire Police Dept.: Robert Vignola.

Guests Present: Town Council Liaison: Jimmy Sima.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Captain Vignola. The assembled body saluted the flag.

Acceptance of August 13, 2012 minutes: MOTION by Captain Vignola; seconded by Warden Alves. To accept the minutes of the August 13, 2012 meeting as presented. VOTE: Two in favor; three abstentions.

Acceptance of June 24, 2013 minutes: MOTION by Captain Vignola; seconded by Deputy Warden Walker. To accept the minutes of the June 24, 2013 meeting as presented. VOTE: Four in favor; one abstention.

Selection of a new Chairperson: MOTION by Captain Vignola; seconded by Mr. Sanders. To nominate John O'Reilly as the Chair of the Cheshire Prison Advisory Committee. VOTE: The vote was unanimous.

Update on the Cheshire Facilities:

John Alves, Warden of the Manson Youth Institution reported a census of 416 inmates. The current construction project at his facility is almost to completion. All units are on-line. Manson has ten cottages, each of which can house 75 inmates. Their facility population is increasing up to 12 offenders per day until they reach full capacity (just under 700 inmates). These offenders are being transferred from other facilities. In response to a question from Mr. Hellyar, Warden Alves explained that offenders who are 21 and under are eligible to be housed at the Manson facility. Their goal is to have offenders who will be discharged from Manson rather than offenders who will age out of Manson and be transferred to other facilities to complete their terms. The average term for un-sentenced offenders is one month; the average term for sentenced offenders is one year.

Mr. Sima asked what impact with the trail extension with a large parking lot (30-40 spaces) have on the facilities. His concern is low visibility from Jarvis, no lighting in the parking lot, and increased activity. He wanted to be sure that DOC was aware of the extension and new lot. Warden Alves believes their Engineering Department has looked into the proposed lot and toured the area. DOC could have their perimeter security regularly tour the area.

Mr. Hellyar commented on how large the Department of Corrections (DOC) property in Cheshire is. Warden Alves stated originally the property was 423 acres on both sides of Highland Avenue. Warden Alves recently toured the Cheshire Community Food Pantry current facility. The pantry is looking to expand into a larger facility, and is asking for donation of DOC property on Sandbank Road, by the school bus depot. Mr. Sima commented that the DOC in Cheshire has been very generous with the Town. Mr. Sanders asked if the DOC ever gives tours of the prison. Warden Alves and Deputy Warden Walker both offered to set up a tour for members of the committee.

In response to questions about the DOC facilities, Warden Alves stated the Correctional Transportation Unit (CTU), responsible for statewide inmate transportation, has an office at the Webster facility. There

are no plans for the State Police Emergency Operations to move into Webster. There are still plans for the Fire School to be relocated from Wolcott to DOC property in Cheshire.

Denise Walker, Deputy Warden of the Cheshire Correctional Institution and Cheshire Annex, reported a census of 1386 inmates (their capacity is 1800). Deputy Warden Walker had no incidents to report.

A replacement for Tracy Butler (Director of the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development) has not been named yet. Deputy Warden Walker stated that the Academy just graduated a class of 100 cadets. There is another class of 100 cadets at the Academy now, and a new class of 100 cadets is expected in January 2014.

Mr. Noffsinger, Plant Facility Manager, was absent.

Captain Vignola reported there have been no Cheshire Police Department (CPD) incidents with the prisons. He also commented that the Cheshire prisons are very helpful to the CPD, allowing the CPD to share instructors and times with the DOC, utilizing the firing range, and providing the use of a canine when needed by CPD.

Mr. Trip asked what the objective of the Cheshire Prison Advisory Committee is. Captain Vignola explained that this committee provides communication between the DOC, the CPD, the Town of Cheshire, and the Cheshire community. Members provided some background on that relationship. Mr. Sima asked how Cheshire's relationship with the prisons compares to other communities. Warden Alves reported his firsthand knowledge that the Garner CI had a good relationship with the Newtown Police Department. State law requires this type of committee exist in towns with prisons.

Adjournment: MOTION by Captain Vignola; seconded by Warden Alves. To adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm by Captain Vignola.

The next meeting will be held on December 9, 2013. Captain Vignola will notify the committee members of the meeting location and time.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathy Kirby  
Recording Clerk