

# CHESHIRE PRISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

CHESHIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
500 HIGHLAND AVENUE  
CHESHIRE CT 06410

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2013

Committee Members Present: Representing the Town of Cheshire: John O'Reilly (arrived at 6:10pm), Trip Sanders, and Margie Rodgers, From the correctional institutions: John Alves, Jon Brighthaupt, Glenn Noffsinger, and Lauren Powers. Representing the Cheshire Police Dept.: Robert Vignola, Joseph Mazzini.

Guests Present: Robert Oris, Town Council Liaison

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Deputy Chief Vignola. The assembled body saluted the flag. Deputy Chief Vignola welcomed everyone and made introductions, including Mr. Oris as the new Town Council Liaison and Lieutenant Mazzini as the new Police Department representative.

Acceptance of 9/9/2013 minutes: MOTION by Deputy Chief Vignola; seconded by Mr. Sanders. To accept the minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting as presented.  
VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

### Update on the Cheshire Facilities:

John Alves, Warden of the Manson Youth Institution reported a census of 594 inmates. Their count is slowly increasing. Their aim is 630; their maximum count is just under 700 inmates. There have been no incidents of significance. They are currently in lockdown this week for their annual shakedown; this occurs twice a year.

Warden Alves reported that the Department of Corrections has a new Commissioner pending confirmation and a new Deputy Commissioner pending confirmation.

John Brighthaupt, Warden of the Cheshire Correctional Institution and Cheshire Annex, reported a census of 1414 inmates. The South Block Bay room is being used for overflow due to county/state ins and outs. There have been no incidents of significance. They have a small maintenance project occurring involving an air handling unit; there will be a crane next week at the facility.

Lauren Powers, newly appointed Director of the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development, reported they have another class of 162 cadets who are scheduled to complete their training in March 2014.

Glenn Noffsinger, Plant Facility Manager, reported they have initiated a sewer study and contracted an engineering firm to study flow and perform chemical testing. They are taking readings at 6 different locations for the next 3½ weeks.

Discussion:

- Mr. Sanders asked what the shining red light on DOC buildings meant; Mr. Noffsinger replied the light indicates maintenance is needed, such as boiler failure. This is especially helpful for the buildings not currently occupied.
- In response to a question from Deputy Chief Vignola, Warden Alves stated the Webster facility is currently being used to house the southern based Correctional Transportation Unit. Deputy Chief Vignola was asking about using a facility for SWAT team exercises. Warden Alves referred him to the appropriate DOC contact.
- Mr. O'Reilly received a call from Travis Long of Contour Avenue that he could hear a lot of profanity in the area. Mr. O'Reilly asked about the recreation period for inmates. Wardens Alves and Brighthaupt discussed the inmate recreation periods, but stated their population has not been outside due to recent weather. Deputy Chief Vignola recommended calling the Police Department to investigate this type of neighborhood concern.
- Mrs. Rodgers stated that some of her neighbors have complained about noise issues from the firing range during the summer; it is very noisy between 10am-1pm, and very loud on cloudy days. She asked if a sound barrier could be put up. Mr. Noffsinger responded the DOC did a complete sound study 3-4 years ago, and found the firing range to be well within Federal guidelines for both indoor and outdoor ranges. Monitors were set all over surrounding neighborhoods to take readings. The sound study records are on file at the Cheshire Town Hall. Deputy Chief Vignola asked if a berm would be put up for the new trail expansion. Mr. Noffsinger said there are no current plans to put up sound barriers, but the new fire training school will have buildings on the range side, which may soften sound. Mrs. Rodgers was unaware that the fire school was still planned for Cheshire.
- Mr. Sanders asked about an article in yesterday's newspaper that the Interim Commissioner stated that negotiations between the Town of Cheshire and DOC regarding the prison sewer usage have not progressed. New Connecticut legislation allows the Town to renegotiate the contract with the DOC. Mr. Noffsinger referred to his previous statement about the current sewer study; the study will set a mark on sewer impact. Mr. Oris stated because there is an on-going lawsuit, he cannot comment on this issue.

Election of Chair: MOTION by Deputy Chief Vignola; seconded by Mr. Sanders. To elect John O'Reilly as Chair. Unanimous vote.

Meeting Schedule for 2014: The members discussed the meeting schedule for 2014. The majority of members preferred Monday meetings and agreed that they could make

a 5pm start time. Deputy Chief Vignola and Chairperson O'Reilly will set the meeting schedule and e-mail the members.

Mr. Oris said Mr. Hellyar had mentioned to him about holding a committee meeting at the prison and receiving a tour of the prison facilities, which Mr. Oris is also interested in. Wardens Alves and Brighthaupt both offered to provide a tour for any members of the committee. Several other committee members are also interested. Rather than wait until the next meeting, Chairperson O'Reilly will work with the wardens to organize a daytime tour of the prison facilities for committee members in early January.

Adjournment: MOTION by Deputy Chief Vignola; seconded by Mr. O'Reilly. To adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm by Chairperson John O'Reilly.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathy Kirby  
Recording Clerk