Minutes of the September 7, 2010 Meeting

Committee members present: Ronald T. Urquhart, William Hellyar, Jose A. Feliciano, Cheryl Cepelak, John Alves, Glenn Noffsinger, and Patricia Alexander

The meeting was called to order at 5:55pm by Chairperson Ronald T. Urquhart

Minutes of the March 9, 2010 were accepted as presented.

Warden Jose A. Feliciano gave an update on the Manson Prison. He stated there are 605 inmates and there have been no significant incidents at the facility. If anything out of the ordinary happens, the Cheshire Police are informed immediately. 390 of the Inmates are currently enrolled in School.

Sheryl Cepelak, Malone Center for Training, reported there were no complaints about the firing range from residence. Range firing is usually scheduled to take place between 1-2pm on an as needed basis. 140 Inmates, over a six week period, were being prepared to be released. Discharge planners were working very closely with the inmates.

John Alves, Warden of the Cheshire Correctional Institution, gave his report. There are 1468 Inmates at this facility, 80% which are level 4 offenders. 120 Inmates were absorbed into the Main Facility from the Annex. There have been no significant incidences at this facility. A new Radio System has been installed which will allow much better communication.

Glen Noffsinger, Plant Facility Manager, reported that the Webster facility is available for emergencies. The North Block is also available if needed. The facilities continue to be well maintained.

Ronald T. Urquhart reported that he received a letter, as did other members of the Prison Advisory Committee, from Town Council Member Anne Giddings expressing the Town Council Ordinance Review Committee wants to combine the Prison Advisory Committee with the Public Safety Committee. After a lengthy
discussion it was unanimously voted upon to keep the Prison Advisory Committee as a separate entity. John Alves expressed concerns that combining the 2 entities might be in violation of State of Connecticut Statutes. He said he would check with appropriate authorities and get back to me. We discussed a leadership change that occurred 2 years was a partial cause for the Prison Advisory Committee to not function as well as it has in the past. Getting a quorum at some meetings has been an issue because of the vacancies on the Committee. The Democratic Party has an unfilled vacancy for over a year. Sandra Mouris, a member of the Republican Town Committee, has contacted them to no avail. Everyone present expressed a desire to have better communication and to get the Prison Advisory Committee back on track as a viable asset to the Town of Cheshire.

The meeting concluded at 7:00pm.

The next Prison Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 9, 2010, 5:30pm, at the Cheshire Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted

Ronald T. Urquhart

Prison Advisory Committee, Chairman

Received for Record

and recorded by

Carolyn Z. Saltus
Town Clerk