

ENFIELD PRISON/TOWN LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 – 6:00 PM

Enfield Room-Enfield Town Hall

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Roll Call of Members

Present for the meeting were Chairman Nelson Rodriguez, Kenneth Edgar, Nanci Harvey, Timothy Slade and Steven Niemitz

Absent: Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall

Present from the Department of Corrections:

John Tarascio, Warden, Willard Cybulski
Zelynette Caron, Warden Carl Robinson

Present from the Enfield Police Department

Deputy Chief Fred Hall

Present from the Town of Enfield

Donna Szewczak, Deputy Mayor/Council Liaison

Also Present: Alexis Nai, Recording Secretary

1. Review of Minutes

- a. December 11, 2019 – Mr. Edgar motioned to approve the minutes of December 11, 2019, Mr. Slade seconded the motion. The minutes were passed (4-0-1).

New Business

All members reviewed and updated the contact sheet, which will be sent to the Town Manager's office.

OLD BUSINESS

<i>a. Report of Population Counts</i>		<u>Current Qtr.</u>	<u>(12/2019)</u>
Warden Tarascio	Willard Cybulski Correctional Institute	1079	1094
Closed	Enfield Correctional Institute	0	0
Warden Caron	Carl Robinson Correctional Institute	1308	1333

b. Review of Significant Incidents or Policy Changes at Prisons

Warden Tarascio stated that Willard Cybulski has been quiet with no incidents or policy changes.

Warden Caron stated Carl Robinson has been quiet as well, no policy changes.

Warden Tarascio stated inmate population for the entire state is down. They believe by December the population count will go down to 11,000 collectively.

Chairman Rodriguez questioned if there has been an increase in capacity the halfway houses.

Warden Tarascio stated the beds have been harder to come by. They have been processing 180 cases a month.

Chairman Rodriguez asked if any more consideration has been taken in regards to the previous Asnuntuck training program.

Warden Tarascio stated he has not received any updates. They will continue with the current in-house/online training for their education programs.

Warden Tarascio stated the visiting center at Willard Cybulski has been transformed to a family friendly center and will help father's spend more time with their kids. They are going to enable the program at both prisons.

Mr. Slade questioned how the program is going so far since the changes have been implemented.

Warden Tarascio stated the program is going well so far. It is a completely different setup than what was there before. The inmates can hold their children, when before there was a table that went all the way to the ground to ensure no contact was made. There is a game room where the father can play games with the child. There about half a dozen tables set up just for fathers and their children.

Warden Tarascio stated he is retiring on April 1st. Eulalia Garcia will be taking over as Warden.

Chairman Rodriguez questioned if there are any new programs being considered.

Warden Caron stated there is a new program coming on board to help with literacy and job interviews. The Men's Warehouse will be donating suits to help inmates get jobs upon release. They hope to have this program up and running by May.

Mr. Edgar questioned if Eversource was the ones cutting the trees down.

Warden Caron confirmed it was Eversource doing the tree work.

Deputy Mayor Szewczak – heard there is going to go to an automated guard at the main entrance.

Tarascio and Caron stated they have not heard anything of that nature.

Deputy Mayor Szewczak stated the council held their emergency planning with Everbridge. The Town has been sending out more road closures notifications. They also confirmed during the meeting that if there is a prison break in Somers, Enfield will be notified and the notification will be sent out through Everbridge.

Mr. Slade stated he is not confident, based on prior experience, that all residents will receive notification in the event of a prison break. He also noted that the alert should be coming out through the State Everbridge system since a prison break is a state issue.

Deputy Mayor Szewczak reassured Mr. Slade that in the event of a prison break, the chief of police is immediately notified and would enact the Everbridge system protocol.

Deputy Chief Hall stated in the event of a prison break, they use a reverse 911 call for landlines and all who are signed up for Everbridge. For smaller incidents, they will do a radius around the incident.

Deputy Mayor Szewczak stated she really wants residents to have confidence that staff is capable of making reasonable decisions without having to notify everyone of non-emergency situations such as road closures. These types of notifications can go out at any time of day and can scare people when alerts for road closures are sent out in the middle of the night.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked Warden Tarascio for his years of service.

Deputy Chief Hall announced his retirement March 31, 2020. He also commended Warden Tarascio and Warden Caron for their awesome partnership throughout the years.

Open Forum and Public Participation: None

Date of Next Meeting: June 10, 2020

Adjournment: Mr. Edgar motioned to adjourn at 6:23 PM. Mr. Slade seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned (5-0-0).