

**ENFIELD PRISON/TOWN LIAISON COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 6:00 PM
ENFIELD ROOM**

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, Timothy Slade, Kenneth Edgar, Mike Arnone and Nanci Harvey (Non-voting member).

Absent: Gretchen-Pfeifer Hall

Present from the Town of Enfield

Ken Nelson Jr, Town Council

Alexis Nai, Recording Secretary

Present from the Department of Corrections:

Warden Nicole Thibeault Willard Cybulski

Present from the Enfield Police Department:

Captain Steve Kaselouskas

Present from Troop H Hartford

Lt. William Utermarck

Sgt. Sean Mahar

Review of Minutes

- a. December 14, 2022 – Mr. Slade noted on the second page, third page under solar panels third paragraph, Taylor Road was misspelled, and meeting adjourned at 6:30. Mr. Nelson motioned to approve the minutes of December 14 2022 with the noted corrections. Mr. Slade second the motion. All were in favor.

Vote: **8-0-0**

Old Business

- a. *Everbridge System*

Mr. Slade noted residents who used to live in proximity to the prisons used to have a pager system and they did test every month, the notification of an escape was very detailed, and a written, detailed plan was presented to the committee.

When a prisoner walked away from Asnuntuck, the only notification they received was from Enfield Police a few hours later. There was some disconnect between the DOC and the State Police. Troop H should be alerting the residents with descriptions of the escapee. There was a traffic accident on 91 and it was shut down and there were no alerts. He would like to see documentation on how that is going to work between troop H and DOC.

Chairman Rodriguez noted back in the 80's and 90's the wardens would send out alerts via the pager system.

Lt. William Utermarck noted the Department of Corrections will alert Troop H if there is an incident and they will send troopers immediately. If you don't have your cell phone registered to CT alert, you will not receive the alert. If we want to use CT alert more, we can probably get more folks to register their personal information. They would recommend contacting DOC with descriptions. The two issues with the highway notifications would not go through the Everbridge system.

Sgt. Mahar stated for Suffield, Enfield and Hartford Correctional, when the DOC calls it kicks off an immediate investigation, the message center dispatches emergency services amber alerts, silver alerts and Everbridge, they can draw a circle around the location, sometimes it can reach more people than necessary. They need to figure out who to target, it needs to go to approvals. He helped put the process together before going to troop H. They put it back on DOC to put the specific message together. The person in charge of the Everbridge system is very good at it.

Reverse 911 is another tool that can be used in emergencies, however with less landlines being used, folks really need to sign up for Everbridge/CT Alerts.

The committee discussed how to encourage Enfield residents to sign up for CTAlerts.

Councilman Nelson discussed running an advertisement.

Councilman Nelson questioned if the State Police sent a CT alert, would the Town of Enfield PD send an alert. Capt. Kaselouskas stated they would not. The State Police are responsible for State matters but would do one as a courtesy if needed in an emergency.

Chairman Rodriguez stated if it affects the town the residents should be notified. The new system has faded the community out. The DOC used to send out direct communications to the residents through the old pager system.

Warden Thibeault confirmed the request is for the agency is to send out their own communications to the public again. She questioned what other notifications the Committee was looking for.

Mr. Slade noted the residents need to have a means of receiving information from DOC of issues that affect the public. Mr. Slade noted riots, fire, cert trainings, anything that would be a danger or affect the residents.

Mr. Slade noted it's not EPD responsibility if they are not involved and Everbridge is for emergency incidents when State police are involved.

Ms. Harvey noted she used to receive emails for crescent lake regarding trainings, incidents, etc.

Sgt. Mahar stated it may be possible to do this with the Everbridge system, however they usually don't get involved unless there is a response needed. Everbridge may be able to work with DOC to get some of these messages out in a certain radius.

The committee discussed what type of notification system is necessary for emergencies vs suspicious or general activities that could cause concern.

Lt. Utermarck noted the inmates in Somers and Enfield have lower levels than previous years, so there is lower risk than previous years.

Sgt. Mahar noted there is a lot more criteria that goes into sending out a notification, if they escaped at 5:30 and they find out at 8, do they send out the notification locally if they have an idea the suspect is 30 miles away at a relative's house.

Mr. Slade noted yes because of his personal experience hours after a prisoner escaped.

Councilman Nelson stated it should be based on the call of the Police Department. If it's all hands-on deck and they are coming to the facility, they should be sending out an alert. It's an emergency alert system, so he doesn't want residents to tune out the alerts with non-emergency notifications. Councilman Nelson made it clear if there are any escapes, Troop – H needs to send out the alert as soon as possible.

Warden Thibeault asked for the last communication email from Nanci Harvey so she can review.

Timothy Slade requested documentation on how this process would work for the next meeting.

Sg. Mahar noted CT Roads.com is the alert system for road closures.

Captain Kaselouskas stated our main objective is to maintain public safety. If there was ever a major concern, if the troopers were 25 miles away – EPD would do what they need to make sure they get the notification out. Although there are jurisdictional issues, please have no doubt, the resident's safety is the number one concern.

Items for Discussion

a. COVID-19 Update

Covid Update – No more masks as of march first. There will be mask requirements in certain areas, visitors will be required.

Carl Robinson – No positive.

Willard – 22 transferred to McDougal Walker facility.

b. . Report of Population Counts (Wardens)

<u>Report of Population Counts</u>		<u>Current Qtr.</u>	<u>(12/2022)</u>
Warden Thibeault	Willard Cybulski Correctional Institute	531	620
Closed	Enfield Correctional Institute	0	0
Warden Caron	Carl Robinson Correctional Institute	1003	913

c. Review of Significant Incidents or Policy Changes at Prisons

Carl Robinson

No major incidents to report.

Willard Cybulski

April first is the target date. They are down to the administration and a few officers. They moved the majority of inmates to other facilities. When they close the facility, it will be theirs for a year. In the event the count does go up, they can reopen. They were around 620/630, maxes out around 1100.

Councilman Nelson noted there is concern that they will shutter Willard like they did Northern correctional.

Warden Thibault noted DOC was running trainings out of Northern, but they are going to completely close Northern due to the stigma associated with it. The inmates that were previously housed in Northern are housed in other facilities.

There was no extra release mechanism to accommodate the closure of the Willard building. There were only 70 transfers and 200 absorbed into Cybulski.

Mr. Slade questioned what is the significance of the 1-year time frame?

Warden Thibeault stated they need to maintain it for a year in case they need to reopen. After a year they can take it offline.

Mr. Slade questioned if the building is needed for something else, if it could be repurposed.

Warden Thibeault confirmed they could.

Deputy Warden Rios is assigned to Willard, Deputy Warden Ogando is at Carl Robinson.

Population count - Cybulski 531, closing Willard April 1st.

Facility projects

Willard Cybulski – no projects, just internal to get everyone ready to fit everyone from Willard.

Biggest initiative. Vocational village building another small building to house the initiative.

Mr. Arnone questioned when people drive by, will they question if they are getting more inmates?

Warden Thibeault stated no it's a modular building and it's small.

Other Business

Mr. Slade made proposal to meet twice a year. Resolution 9471 given the prisons have been very quiet, unless needed.

Councilman Nelson recommended keeping the meetings the chairperson can cancel.

Adjournment

Chairman Rodriguez motioned to adjourn at 7:40 PM. Mr. Arnone Seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting stood adjourned.

Vote: **8-0-0**

Respectfully submitted.

Alexis Nai

Recording Secretary