

TOWN OF MANSFIELD/DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, July 15, 2009
Audrey Beck Municipal Building – Council Chambers

Minutes

Members Present: G. Cole, C. Lary, C. Paulhus, Warden M. Rinaldi, W. Stauder (Chair), S. Thomas, W. Solenski

Members Absent: A. Barberet, R. Blicher, J. Kodzis, R. Pellegrine

Staff: Maria Capriola (Town of Mansfield), Deputy Warden N. Kearney (DOC), M. Davis (DOC)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting came to order at 3:05p.m.

II. MINUTES

Minutes of April 15, 2009 were approved unanimously.

III. WARDEN'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Warden Higgins retired and Ms. Monica Rinaldi has replaced Ms. Higgins as Warden of Bergin. Warden Rinaldi provided an update on the prison population; it is currently at 1,036 inmates. Bergin has been able to close the overflow unit due to the decrease in population. A general discussion occurred regarding the list of offenses.

Deputy Warden Kearney updated the Committee on educational, programming, and outreach opportunities. Currently 108 inmates are assisting Towns and the DOT with work crews; the Towns and the DOT provide supervision to inmates on work crews. Mr. Cole asked about whether or not Bergin was having difficulties with inmates obtaining cell phones or other forms of contraband. Deputy Warden stated that it has not been a problem. Bergin employees are prohibited from bringing cell phones into the facilities. Beginning 7/17/09, educational classes (school) will be extended by one hour every day for inmates. There have been some vacancies at Bergin created by the retirement incentive offered to State employees in June. Recruitments are underway for replacement staff, including the Commissioner position for the DOC. The razor wire project has been completed. The emergency phone line will be tested within the next month or so. Bergin staff will notify Town staff so letters may be sent to residents on the emergency notification list.

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairwoman Stauder welcomed Warden Rinaldi to the Committee.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

No comments or concerns.

VI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria E. Capriola, M.P.A., Assistant to Town Manager