

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes -- December 27, 2021**  
**Town Council Chambers – Town Hall**

1. Call to order.

Vice-Chair Gillette called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Mickey Gillette, Gary Murphy, Karen Perkins, and William Bauer. Absent were Commissioners Traci Callaghan, Thomas Pedersen, and Stephen Stewart. A quorum was present.

4. Amendments to the Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to remove Item 5, *Election of Officers*, from the Agenda until the next Commission meeting. Discussion: None. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-Chair Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Murphy to remove Item 12b., *To review and act on a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Department Budgets*, from the Agenda until the next Commission meeting. Discussion: Commissioner Murphy asked whether a special meeting needed to be scheduled for discussion of the budgets. Mayor McDaniel responded there was plenty of time as he does not make final recommendations on the budgets until April and stated the Finance Committee would meet tomorrow, develop a budget review schedule, and then call in each department individually. He also explained the Town Council Liaison would hold the special meeting and attend the Commission Finance Meeting. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Election of Officers

This item was removed from the Agenda for discussion at the January 24, 2022, Commission meeting.

6. Communications:

- Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police, Animal Control and Building Official.

Vice-Chair Gillette confirmed all Commissioners received copies of the monthly reports.

7. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2021, as presented. Discussion: None. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Remarks from the Public (Agenda items—three-minute limit).

Vice-Chair Gillette asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

9. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lieutenant Radford read into the record the PD monthly statistics report ending November 30, 2021, as follows: There were 1363 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (67), arrests (29), and juvenile arrests (5). The source for these calls were Troop E (163), PD (196), Walk-in (75), and By Officer (158). Lt. Radford also reported the Montville PD and Union set out, as they do annually, to raise money for a family with cancer, during “No Shave November.” Ofc. Aleshire stated she would let one of the kids affected by cancer share her head if funds raised surpassed \$10,000. Fourteen Thousand Dollars (\$14,000) was raised for two (2) Town families affected by cancer. The Union also collected within and donated Christmas gifts to the families made possible by the union members, but most importantly the generous donations from residents and businesses. Thanks was given to all.

Lt. Radford also reported on three (3) incidents that occurred in the last two (2) months—two (2) lifesaving incidents and one (1) incident of bravery. They are as follows: October 25, 2021, involving one (1) car found in the woods in the area of Route 82 and Green Valley Drive after striking a tree with the driver pinned in the vehicle. Sgt. Pierce, Officers Stuart and Michaels, and Lt. Radford responded to the scene. Officers Pierce and Stuart quickly assessed the scene and held pressure on the driver’s spurting wound until EMS arrived. Town Firefighters/EMS arrived and continued patient care and extrication until the driver was transported to Backus Hospital and later airlifted to Hartford Hospital. The knowledge and efforts of Officer Pierce’s lifesaving measures and those of others on the scene saved the driver’s life according to Hospital doctors and surgeons. November 19, 2021, involved a structure fire at the Village Apartments on Jerome Road for a reported structure fire with a trapped child. Officers Stuart and Michaels and Lt. Radford responded to the scene. Directed by the building maintenance person, the officers proceeded to the rear of Unit 1 where a young male was hanging out of a building window with billowing smoke around him. Access to the building was met with floor to ceiling black smoke. Alternatively, Officer Stuart moved his cruiser next to the building to attempt reaching the child from the cruiser hood. Officer Stuart and Lt. Radford climbed on the roof of the cruiser and successfully pulled the child to safety. Officer Michaels and the maintenance person entered the building once some smoke had vacated the building and helped with the rescue of the child. Town Firefighters and multiple Department Volunteers arrived and extinguished the fire. Upon the arrival of EMS, the child was transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation. Officer Stuart was commended for his knowledge, judgment, training, and experience in this potentially grave situation. December 12, 2021, Officer Witts was traveling southbound on Route 395 when dispatch reported a single car MVA at the junction of Route 2A and Route 12. The vehicle operator fled the scene on foot carrying a handgun. Arriving first on the scene, Officer Witts observed the male pointing a handgun at him and deployed his K9 Barrett and drew his firearm giving commands to the suspect. The suspect fled and the officers gave chase with K9 Barrett engaging and biting the suspect in the leg approximately 150 feet into the woods. The suspect attempted to punch and gouge the eyes of the K9; Officer

Witts deployed his taser to prevent injury to his K9 and control the suspect. Once the taser was deployed, the suspect turned his attention to Officer Witts and the violent struggle that ensued resulted in the suspect being placed in custody. After search of the area by CSP firearm certified K9's, two (2) stolen firearms and a high capacity magazine were found. Officer Witts and K9 Barrett were commended for their actions that went above and beyond the performance of their duties.

Lt. Radford concluded he was incredibly proud of the men and women of the Montville Police Department for the selfless acts they have done and continue to do on a daily basis. He said there are a great group of officers employed by the Town. He then wished all a Happy New Year.

#### Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported he did not have the FD monthly overall statistics for November 2021, but the report was emailed as having 225 calls and 148 of them were EMS calls. He also reported on the Jerome Road structure fire previously mentioned by Lt. Radford during his report. Fire Marshal Barnes reported on a call this morning from Governor Lamont to Mayor McDaniel concerning one million at-home rapid tests (four (4) test kits per family) in addition to N95 masks for distribution within the State. Social media will be used to get the word out for the Town distribution sites, Town Hall and the Public Safety Building. Commissioner Perkins inquired about use of the home test kit. Mayor McDaniel responded home tests will provide immediate results and if positive the infected person must stay home. Municipalities will received 2300 home test kits with each kit having two (2) tests that is hoped to stop the spread of the coronavirus and its variants and the kits will arrive and be distributed by Thursday, December 30. Commissioner Murphy spoke of the fear of possible resale of the kits. Commissioner Bauer suggested a solidified game plan and an email to the Commission as well as the public and social media. Mayor McDaniel stated the information would be on the PSC website and forums explaining that the region will get the tests at the same time. He said the initial release was for the upcoming New Year's weekend, followed next by the schools the first week in January, in addition to the PPE, N95 masks. Town Council Liaison Yuchniuk commented on the proximity of the two (2) locations; Mayor McDaniel responded concerning the high demand. Commissioner Murphy offered Oakdale Firehouse as a site; Mayor McDaniel explained a Town employee must be present during distribution. Commissioner Murphy spoke of tests being for Town residents only; Fire Marshal Barnes stated the Town will determine distribution policy and proper ID must be shown to prove Town residency. Commissioner Bauer asked about tenants for his rental properties; Mayor McDaniel responded test kits are population based.

#### 10. Committee and Liaison Reports.

##### a. Report from Fire Department Liaison (*Perkins*)

Commissioner Perkins reported she received no monthly reports for the Departments but said Oakdale Firehouse won the Holiday Light Parade and participation in the Santa Run was conducted by all four (4) Departments with positive feedback. She also reported on a meeting scheduled with the Fire Chiefs on December 6 who could not be present. The next meeting

is scheduled for January 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building. Commissioner Perkins spoke about bringing issues to her for reporting to the Commission, the collection and reporting of data to track certifications on paid and volunteer staff and working together as a group. Fire Marshal Barnes commented on the data reporting form emailed to the Commission to track personnel certifications. He said the information would be turned in to him and he would keep a copy as well as the individual departments. The information would also be entered into a database and listed accordingly.

b. Report from Animal Control Liaison (*Murphy*)

The statistical reports for month ending November 30, 2021, submitted by ACO Swanson are as follows:

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (November 2021)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>121</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>139</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>372</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (November 2021)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

c. Report from Police Department Liaison (*Gillette*)

Vice-Chair Gillette congratulated the PD on the cancer funds raised and said Officer Aleshire “rocked the bald look.” He also thanked Officer Witts and all the other officers for the bravery and lifesaving efforts.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison (*Stewart*)

The Building Department statistics for the month ending November 30, 2021, were emailed as follows:

Building Department Report

<b>2021-2022 Building Department Report</b>
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	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
<b>Permits Issued</b>	110	171	99	92	136							
<b>Pending Permits</b>	124	137	57	100	110							
<b>Inspections</b>	118	134	166	108	98							
<b>Plan Reviews</b>	17	29	43	13	36							
<b>CO's</b>	5	4	4	7	6							
<b>Violation Notices</b>	2	3	0	1	3							
<b>Unsafe Notices</b>	0	1	0	0	2							
<b>Blight Identified</b>	557	559	660	660	576							
<b>Blight Abated To Date</b>	388	393	408	409	412							

11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- *None*

12. Unfinished Business.

a. Discussion and Action on the Animal Control Facility.

This item will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

b. To review and act on a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Department budgets.

This item will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

13. New Business.

a. To review and act on a motion to approve the 2022 Public Safety Commission meeting Schedule.

Motion by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the 2022 Public Safety Commission Meeting Schedule. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 4-0; all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Remarks from the Public (non-agenda items—three-minute limit).

Vice-Chair Gillette asked three (3) times for remarks. Town Councilor Bunnell remarked on behalf of the Town Council and welcomed Commissioner Bauer to the Commission and said volunteerism was another source of reference for the Commission.

15. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel congratulated the officers on their accomplishments as reported this evening. He spoke of the recognition they received by those outside the community and stated he gets to work with them and the fire service members. He also recognized the maintenance person at the Jerome Road fire who went above and beyond his duties and added that volunteers “make it happen.” Mayor McDaniel also reported he was introduced on Wednesday to the new RST Vallencourt by Sgt Gosselin. He then wished all a happy new year.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Yuchniuk thanked Commissioner Barnes for volunteering for the Commission and commented on the great job by the PD, FD, and EMS as reported this evening. He reported the Town Council is interested in revisiting a new Town Animal Control Facility and of getting new figures for the proposed project and spoke of the new Town Planner who is also on board. Town Councilor Yuchniuk also reported the Town Council is looking toward the PD going independent and has asked Lt. Radford for a punch list and cost for the same. He also said he is happy to be the liaison for the Commission and he is always on the job and can be reached by phone.

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins welcomed Commissioner Bauer and said she was glad the Officer Barrett and the K9 were doing well. She then wished everyone a happy new year. Commissioner Murphy spoke on the December 6 meeting missed by the fire chiefs stating two (2) fire chiefs worked that night and said they are assigned odd shifts therefore cannot make decisions for each other. He also congratulated Lt. Radford for the outstanding job done by the Police Department as well as the Fire Department and its volunteers, and the EMS. He also commented on the premise to keep residents off commissions who are volunteers and asked that an attempt is made to get the fire chiefs in the room. Commissioner Bauer remarked the he was more than happy to get volunteers. Vice-Chair Gillette remarked on the great job by PD, FD, EMS, and volunteers as reported and then wished everyone a happy new year.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 4-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers  
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF  
MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**