

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – February 28, 2022 -- 6:00 PM
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Due to the recent fall in infection rates and increased vaccination rates, masks will no longer be required in all Town facilities effective February 28, 2022. Masking is still recommended for those people who are health compromised or if they provide a level of comfort.

(Mayor Ronald McDaniel – 02/24/2022)

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness and suitability shall be followed and enforced.

1. Call to order.

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

4. Amendments to the agenda. -- *None*

5. Badge Pinning/Swearing-In Ceremony:

New Firefighters--Alex Blais, Matthew Desrosiers, Paulius Zabulis and
Deputy Fire Marshal Keith Milton.

Mayor McDaniel remarked on the delay for the ceremony due to injuries. Fire Marshal Barnes introduced the fire personnel as follows: Deputy Fire Marshal Milton with thirty years of service as a firefighter, safety officer, EMT, as well as a volunteer and fire chief at East Great Plains in Norwich. Deputy Fire Marshal Milton was sworn in by Town Clerk Haring and his badge was pinned by his wife Carrie. Firefighter Zabulis was introduced as having worked as a firefighter and EMT part-time in Bozrah and eight (8) years as a fire lieutenant in Marlborough. His badge was pinned by his girlfriend, Ashley Turner. Firefighter Blais began as a volunteer at age 13 in Salem, worked with his father in his business, and began as a firefighter for the Town in August 2021. Present at the ceremony was his wife Michelle, who pinned his badge, and with his two (2) daughters. Firefighter Desrosiers was introduced as having volunteered at age 14 at Attawaugan Fire Station in Killingly and last ten (10) years as its fire chief in addition to formerly working for the Mohegan Tribe. He was accompanied by his wife Kelly and his badge was pinned by Emma Camden. A standing ovation was lead by

Mayor McDaniel; Chairperson Murphy wished success and congratulations to all; and Commissioner Gillette wished a happy belated birthday to Deputy Fire Chief Milton.

The Commission recessed the meeting briefly at 6:07 p.m. for pictures and resume at 6:18 p.m.

6. Communications:

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

Chairman Murphy questioned and confirmed the receipt of the monthly statistical reports by the Commission. Commissioner Stewart stated he did not receive a report from the Building Official that was confirmed by other commissioners. Commissioner Perkins noted she did not receive information from the fire departments.

7. To consider and act on a motion to approve minutes:

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2022, as presented. Discussion: None. Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for comments. There were none.

9. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lieutenant Radford expressed congratulations to the firefighters recognized this evening. He then read into the record the PD monthly statistics report ending January 31, 2022, as follows: There were 1251 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (82), arrests (24), and juvenile arrests (1). The source for these calls were Troop E (172), PD (232), Walk-in (45), and By Officer (653). Lt. Radford also reported K-9 Officer Fazzino picked up his new dog, Gage, a year and a half old yellow lab. Gage began training at the Connecticut State Police K-9 Kennel where he will have six (6) weeks of imprinting and then six (6) weeks of training with the handler with a projected graduation of mid-May. A lateral transfer from DMV, Officer Tom Lalumiere, has begun his FTO process and his hire brought the Department back to a full staffing level. His swearing in ceremony was on February 15. Body Worn Cameras have been issued to all on duty personnel and are in the initial phase of distribution. Bugs with the system are being worked out, but things are progressing well. Lt. Radford also introduced new RST Chris Vaillencourt.

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported the FD monthly overall statistics for January 2022. There were 329 calls reported. Total calls thus far this year are 566 as of 5:00 p.m.; last year there were 434 calls. There were also 224 EMS calls reported, 42 lift assists, and two (2) passenger vehicle fires totaling \$27,300.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins reported the Montville Volunteer Firefighter Relief Committee met on February 3 to review firefighter eligibility by station for stipends as follows: Montville 8, Mohegan 11, Chesterfield 4, and Oakdale 14. The next Public Safety group meeting will be held at the Public Safety Building on March 9 at 6:00 p.m. and a reminder email will be sent. She received no reports from the fire chiefs.

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

The statistical reports for month ending January 31, 2022, submitted by ACO Swanson are as follows:

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (January 2022)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	21	143
# of Animals Sold as Pets	13	172
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	7
Total Complaints Investigated	67	531
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	10
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (January 2022)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	1	2
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	1	2
Total Complaints Investigated	5	25
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	1
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

Commissioner Callaghan reported the shelter currently houses three (3) cats only. She spoke with ACO Swanson as she was not receiving email from her. They agreed a fundraiser will be held once the weather is better and a meet and greet with the community. There is still a struggle at the shelter for water and heat and a side wish list for items not needed immediately will be prepared. Commissioner Stewart asked whether the ACO proposed building plan is for design or build; Commissioner Callaghan just received the proposal from the ACO and stated donations will be sought from Town businesses and said the bid being sought is for design. Commissioner Perkins asked whether there was a committee for the proposed shelter. Town Councilor Yuchniuk reported there will not be a committee as it would delay the approval and construction. The information gathered by the Commission previously will be used and updated for current time and the Town Council has authorized the Town to go out for bids having approved \$800,000 toward the proposal but it will probably not be enough. The

site chosen is the same per the prior proposal, situated across the parking lot from the current shelter Per Mayor McDaniel, the RFP is for design services and development of specifications for build that is now in process. Commissioner Stewart noted the project was approved for ARCA funding; Mayor McDaniel reported the funds must be encumbered by December 2024.

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette) No report

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics report for the month ending January 31, 2022, were not submitted.

2021-2022 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	110	171	99	92	136	107						
Pending Permits	124	137	57	100	110	91						
Inspections	118	134	166	108	98	105						
Plan Reviews	17	29	43	13	36	14						
CO's	5	4	4	7	6	6						
Violation Notices	2	3	0	1	3	2						
Unsafe Notices	0	1	0	0	2	1						
Blight Identified	557	559	660	660	576	420						
Blight Abated To Date	388	393	408	409	412	178						

Commissioner Stewart reported he received the Department 2022-2023 budget that will be discussed under Unfinished Business this evening.

11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- None

12. Unfinished Business.

a. Discussion and action on the Animal Control Facility.

Commissioner Gillette proposed the item be removed from the Agenda. Chairperson Murphy stated he had no problem with it.

b. To review and act on a motion to approve the **2022-2023** (*correction to the Agenda from 2021-2022*) Department Budgets—Animal Control and Building Department.

Commissioner Stewart confirmed the Commission received the FY 2022-2023 Building Department budget and noted the budget projection at the bottom of it should read “**2022-2023,**” not “**2021-2022.**”

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Pederson to approve the 2022-2023 Building Department Budget. Discussion: Commissioner Stewart confirmed for Recording Secretary Gathers the amount of the budget as \$209,182. Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

The 2022-2023 budget for Animal Control was not received by the Commission. It will be requested and acted upon at the next Commission meeting.

13. New Business.

- a. Update from Mayor McDaniel or his designee concerning the Town of Montville Everbridge System.

Chairperson Murphy stated he asked for this item to be placed on the Agenda as there have been calls as to whether the system is operational and thought an update was appropriate. Mayor McDaniel reported the system is skeletal, currently for use for the Town Hall, Town Hall purposes for closures, and emergencies for Town employees. The system was purchased while former Fire Marshal Bundy was employed and shared with the WPCA. Fire Marshal Barnes was filling two (2) positions when he came on board. Retired Dispatcher Jon Leonard was to populate the list, but that task will now be done by Deputy Fire Marshal Milton who will sort the list into categories for Town departments and input the information into the database. Residents can sign up for alerts according to their needs and the information will be included with the July tax bills or sent by text or phone. Everbridge is a cad-based system that can interface with NextGen. Mayor McDaniel noted he has not gotten alerts from the prison system in the past 10 years and clarified that other towns were using the Everbridge System.

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

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Resident Matt Suarez of 18 Cranberry Drive commented on the Volunteer Fire Relief Meeting held on February 3rd. He attends when he can but said the meeting was not noticed on the calendar but is now. He said the fire chiefs usually attend but said it is also open to the public. Commissioner Perkins confirmed the Finance Director calendars the meeting; Chairperson Murphy will reach out to her.

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel remarked on a productive meeting last week at the Public Safety Building attended by all RST, selectman, and mayors to discuss general issues within the region. At the end of this month there will be an in-person and Zoom community meeting concerning Fentanyl and Town leaders will be present, specifically Superintendent Pallin, Lt. Radford—a Town Council meeting is scheduled for that night, but the community meeting will be advertised. The struggle continues to find a certified/qualified assistant building official. Blight Officer Richards was commended for the aggressive job she is doing to reduce the blight numbers that have changed dramatically, and people have come in and had meetings identifying what is or is not blight.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Yuchniuk remarked on \$800,000 approved by the Town Council for the Animal Control facility and the line item account created facility specific funds. Updates were also approved through ARCA for the PD that include a new fingerprint machine, an updated camera system, and to hire a company to have its policies and procedures updated per statute to comply with the new Officer Accountability Act.

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Callaghan congratulated the new firefighters and thanked the Town Council for moving toward a new Animal Control facility. Commissioner Gillette thanked the firefighters recognized this evening and welcomed the new RST to the Town. Commissioner Perkins thanked the FD, the firefighters honored this evening, and everyone who came out in support of the badge pinning/swearing-in ceremony. Commissioner Stewart congratulated the new firefighters and new deputy fire marshal and the FD who “are good people doing a good job.” He also welcomed the RST. Chairperson Murphy welcomed the new RST and wished him good luck and thanked Recording Secretary Gathers for doing an outstanding job on the minutes and getting the meeting preparation done.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 7-0; 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.**