

**Town of Montville**  
**Public Works/Solid Waste Standing Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Montville Town Hall, Room 203**

**Town of Montville has lifted the mask mandate effective Monday, February 28, 2022 throughout Town facilities in coordination with our schools. Although the mask mandate has been lifted, Uncas Health strongly recommends that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, continue to wear masks indoors.**

1. Call to Order  
Chairman McNally called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call (Councilors Caron, Mandler, and McNally)  
Present were Councilors Caron, Mandler, and McNally. Also present was Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr.
4. Presentation by Kristen Brown to discuss options for solid waste issues  
Mayor McDaniel stated that a Letter of Intent was submitted for a CTDEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) Grant to reduce waste and remove food scraps from the waste stream. While it may not be feasible for contracted services to take part in the program, it is hoped that a Pilot Program can be instituted at the Town's Transfer Station. He introduced CTDEEP Sr. Consultant Kristen Brown, who attended the meeting virtually.

CT DEEP Sr. Consultant Brown stated that CTDEEP is offering a \$5 million grant, which must be awarded by July 1, 2022. Of the approximately 55 municipalities that submitted a letter, 32 were selected for the second round. The application for the grant is due next Thursday, March 31. Acceptance into the program is based on the proposal and the potential per capita diversion. Other towns that have submitted the same proposal to be included in the Pilot Program include Deep River, Woodbury, Bethlehem, Newtown, and Kent. While the town is in a very beneficial financial position with its current contract with SCRRRA (Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority), the contract will eventually end and the risk of waste energy facilities closing continues. In addition, the State's waste energy facilities are aging and are past the average lifespan of 30 years.

Food scraps make up approximately 22% of the residential waste stream. The Pilot Program was implemented in the Town of Meriden for 1,000 homes approximately six weeks ago. Two colored bags were distributed to the residents: orange bags for waste and green bags for food waste. Based on a recent survey of the 1,000 residents taking part in the

Program, only five (5) responded negatively. In addition, they have received numerous telephone calls from residents who expressed a wish to participate in the Program.

The Pilot Program would be offered to the approximately 2,400 residents who purchase a Transfer Station Sticker. Residents would receive 100 fifteen-gallon orange bags for waste and 50 eight-gallon bags for food waste for one year, free of charge. Two separate areas in the Transfer Station will be designated for each of the bags. Additional bags may be purchased for 0.35 cents (orange bag) or 0.25 cents (green bag) per bag at a local grocery store. It is estimated that the average household spent an average of \$41.67 purchasing regular garbage bags in 2021.

The Grant would include funding for a Program Manager and grassroots communication and outreach to help promote the program, including advertisements. An advertising toolkit will also be provided to the town for social media posts and the like. It is estimated that the town's waste disposal would be reduced by approximately 73% resulting in decreased tipping and transportation fees.

Timeline (Chairman McNally) – The Grant deadline is Thursday, March 31. Should the grant be awarded, the Town would need to make a Resolution committing the town to the Pilot Program for a period of one year. Following the Resolution, the necessary paperwork would be completed and an educational campaign would follow. The official start of the program could begin in September.

Distribution of Bags (Transfer Station employee Flo Turner) – An ideal time to distribute the bags would be mid-June when the Transfer Station Stickers go on sale. Additional employees are also hired to work during that period and can help promote and explain the program to the residents. As part of the program, residents will be encouraged to download a mobile app that will not only keep them apprised of the program, but also be used to scan the bags they receive.

Rodents (Transfer Station Employee Flo Turner) – Container systems will be provided and the collection location can be determined to minimize any rodent infestation. The utilization of an old compactor that is currently on site will be investigated.

Opt-Out (Councilor Caron) – Should the town wish to opt-out of the Pilot Program, any unspent funds would need to be returned. There may be other ramifications.

**Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Mandler, to approve the submission of a Grant application to take part in a Pilot Program to reduce waste and remove food scraps from the waste stream. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

4. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2022  
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Mandler, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2022. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

5. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda  
Jon Chase, 1011 Route 163, spoke with respect to item 6(a) regarding the Library's possible interest in the Raymond Hill Church. While the Library's lack of funding may prohibit them from acquiring the Church, they expressed their continued interest in partnering with the town and support for the establishment of a non-profit organization to oversee the preservation of the historical building.

In response to Chairman McNally who questioned the possibility of the Historical Society taking over the building, Mr. Chase stated that the town's Historical Society is, relatively, inactive and not a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. He stated the difficulty with creating a non-profit organization when it has been in existence since the 1960s and suggested the possibility of creating a new organization under a different, but similar, name and establishing the newly created organization as a 501(c)(3). The importance of utilizing the building was stressed.

Mr. Chase also commented on item 6(j), Allocation of COVID-19 Funds. He recited a legal opinion provided by the then-Town Attorneys in 2008, who stated that "the Commission, pursuant to the Charter, is responsible for approving plans and programs to fulfill the recreational needs of the town residents. Therefore, the Commission is empowered to approve or disapprove of any recreation or plan or program or proposed recreational plan or program." He requested that they keep in mind the requirements of the Charter.

Councilor Caron agreed, stating that their ultimate goal is to work together with the Commission in the best interest of the town.

6. Old Business  
Chairman McNally announced that Public Works Director Bourdeau will be retiring on April 15. The status of the items on the agenda will be tabled and discussed at their next meeting when, presumably, an Acting Director will have been appointed.

Councilor Caron reported that construction on the Old Town Hall is ongoing. Guardian Consulting has been contacted to discuss the possibility of managing the project. The bid specifications for the Pavilion are expected to be received soon.

Chairman McNally reported that the first pile of millings at the Schofield Pond area has been removed. The remaining millings are expected to be removed in the near future

Mayor McDaniel suggested the possibility of hiring a Construction Manager to handle the construction of the Animal Control Facility.

- a. Raymond Hill Church
  - b. Boat Launch and Boat Parking Lot
  - c. Road Clean Up and Weed Whacking
  - d. Discussion of Town Equipment
  - e. Clean-up of Brush and Millings
  - f. Road Improvement Program
    - 1) Schedule of Roads for Drainage & Paving / Status of Road Improvement Bond
  - g. Social Service (old Town Hall) Building Repair Schedule
  - h. Youth Services (Montville Community Center) Bathrooms
  - i. Update on Building Repairs
  - j. Allocation of COVID-19 Funds
  - k. Animal Control Facility Update
  - l. Laurel Point Drive Drainage Issue
  - m. Moxley Road Bridge
7. New Business – *none*
  8. Remarks from the Public – *none*
  9. Remarks from the Councilors – *none*
  10. Adjournment  
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Mandler, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville