

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – April 25, 2022 -- 6:00 PM
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

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 Healthy strongly recommends that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, continue to wear masks indoors.

(Mayor Ronald McDaniel – March 8, 2022)

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

Chairperson Murphy noted for the record the absence of Mayor McDaniel who had a conflict.

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

5. Communications:

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

Chairman Murphy confirmed the receipt of the monthly statistical reports by the Commission. Commissioner Stewart reported he did not receive the Building Official report and would speak with the Official before the next meeting about preparation of a report similar to the ones received previously.

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

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2022, as presented. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for comments. Fire Marshal Barnes remarked on Agenda Item 11.c requesting current liaisons stay in place as they are. Commissioner Perkins

is well versed in the fire service, knows what is going on, is easy to work with, and a rapport has developed with her. He recognized a similar rationale with the other Commission liaisons with their departments. Keeping the current liaisons in place will prevent having to update future liaisons on department activities. Fire Marshal Barnes proposed keeping the current liaisons in place until they are no longer assigned to the Commission as continuously changing them will cause a disconnect.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lieutenant Radford read into the record the PD monthly statistics report ending March 31, 2022, as follows: There were 1233 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (89), arrests (34), and juvenile arrests (2). The source for these calls were Troop E (168), PD (224), Walk-in (56), and By Officer (663). Lt. Radford remarked Agenda Item 11.c for keeping Commissioner Gillette as liaison for the PD. The Department is constantly going through change i.e., new residents and a new RST. To adapt to change and anticipate what happens is ongoing. He agreed with the Fire Marshal on this item stating continuous changes to liaisons would not benefit the Department. Commissioner Gillette inquired about the PD sale of autism patches; Lt. Radford responded it is with funds from it going to ARC.

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported the FD monthly overall statistics for March 2022. There were 245 calls reported and 178 of those calls were EMS related or 72.7%. In the Chesterfield district there was a fire loss of \$1,000 and a \$350 fire loss in the Oakdale district.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins reported the Montville Volunteer Firefighter Relief Committee met and approved firefighter eligibility for stipends as follows: Montville 8, Mohegan 18, Chesterfield 4, and Oakdale 11. Congratulations were extended to Chesterfield Station on its 75th Anniversary recently celebrated.

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

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

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (March 2022)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	5	152
# of Animals Sold as Pets	2	175
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	7
Total Complaints Investigated	83	686
Total Animal Bites Investigated	3	15
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (March 2022)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	0	2
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	2
Total Complaints Investigated	7	32
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	1
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Commissioner Gillette reported the PD with the K-9 officer would be at the Farmers Market on June 28, First Responders Day, for Touch-a-Truck. He again encouraged donating toward the autism patch being sold by the Department.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics reports for March 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 did not have a chance to visit the Department and noted the Assistant Building Official position as far as he knows is still open.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- None

11. Unfinished Business.

- a. To review and act on a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Department Budgets—
Animal Control.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to approve the 2022-2023 Budget for Animal Control of \$95,352. Discussion: Chairperson Murphy commented on the need for Departments to submit budgets to the Commission in a timely manner and noted the involvement of Mayor McDaniel to receive this one. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Fire Marshal Barnes reported Deputy Fire Marshal Keith Milton is getting up to speed with the System and working directly with the vendor Kevin McManus. Work will begin soon with Director Bushway to incorporate Parks & Recreation into the System in addition to Youth Services and the Senior Center. The WPCA will be approached thereafter.

- c. To consider and act on a motion to approve future Commission Committee Assignments.

Chairman Murphy reported this item would not be discussed this evening and noted he and Commissioners Bauer and Pedersen would meet as a group and develop suggestions and make recommendations concerning the Commission Rules and Procedures last updated in 2011. The 2011 version does not address Commission assignments nor a Commission liaison who is unsatisfactory but does address positions for Commission officers who are elected every two (2) years. Per a question by Commissioner Gillette, the sub-committee was formed by Chairman Murphy as directed in the Commission Rules and Procedures.

12. New Business.

- a. To consider and act on a motion for Election of Officers to approve a Commission Chair and Vice-Chair.

Motion by Commissioner Callaghan; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to nominate Gary Murphy as Commission Chair. There were no other nominations. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Pedersen to nominate Stephen Stewart as Commission Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

13. 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 why Agenda was not amended under Item 4 regarding the decision to not discuss Item 11.c. Chairman Murphy stated there were no recommendations brought forward for the Commission to vote on and when that occurs a vote will be taken.

14. Remarks from the Mayor. – No report

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Yuchniuk reported on an approved amended policy at the last Town Council meeting concerning driving non-Town owned vehicles to prevent liability to the Town. The exception to the policy concerns firefighters driving/moving vehicles owned by other firefighters for safety reasons involving an incident. The policy is Town employees are not allowed to drive a non-Town vehicle while conducting Town business. He noted the policy wording says “may” not “shall” or “will” and is initiated per a directive by a Fire Official. Variances as to policy were discussed i.e., relieving a paid firefighter to return to the station to respond to another call in addition to the issue of liability. Town Councilor Yuchniuk remarked the issue is determined by those on the scene and noted the Mayor handles employee relations. Fire Chief Truex remarked fire apparatus is insured by the Town.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Callahan expressed interest in obtaining an autism sticker. Commission Stewart asked if there was an update or movement on the new Animal Control facility. Commissioner Callahan had no news but wants to reach out to the ACO for a community meet and greet at the facility. Commissioner Perkins thanked Fire Marshal Barnes for his kind words and thanked firefighters and police for their service to the Town. Chairman Murphy thanked Chesterfield Station on its 75th Anniversary and service to the Town.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Callaghan to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 6-0; 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.**