

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – June 27, 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 6:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

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

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.

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

- a.** The Regular Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2022.

Motion by Chairman Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to amend the wording of Item 8 of the minutes to read “*46 & 52 Doyle Road*” instead of “*Gardner Lake.*” Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Commissioner to amend the wording of the motion to read the minutes of “*May 23, 2022*” instead of “*April 18, 2022.*” Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Pedersen to approve the May 23, 2022, minutes as amended. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Remarks from the Public.

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for comments. Resident Lenny Bunnell remarked on Agenda, Item 12a, concerning armed security officers in Town schools and seeking the support of the Commission for the same. He said the issue has been talked about for many years and spoke of the need to have support at schools to react as needed.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lieutenant Radford read into the record the PD monthly statistics report ending May 31, 2022, as follows: There were 1136 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (88), arrests (28), and juvenile arrests (2). The source for these calls were Troop E (162), PD (214), Walk-in (42), and By Officer (614). Lt. Radford also remarked there were no issues reported at the annual Carnival. The PD participated in several different K-9 demonstrations (with both K-9s) and “Touch a Truck” events with great success and extremely positive responses. The Department will continue to attend these events. The PD will also attend the Farmers Market “First Responders Night” tomorrow June 28 with K9s and cruisers. Also, beginning next month there will be new PD statistical reports from the new CAD system. Commissioner Gillette asked about the number of day shift officers on patrol; Lt. Radford responded a minimum of three (3) officers with a maximum of five (5) including the administrator and the lieutenant.

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported 273 calls for service for the month ending May 31, 2022, and fire loss of \$454,500 from a passenger vehicle fire (\$4,000) and an off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire (450,500) at Mohegan/Montville fire district. The National Weather Service is following three (3) storms that may be an issue in 1-2 weeks in this hurricane season. Fire Marshal Barnes reported no issues occurred at the Carnival with fireworks setoff one-half early due to pending weather. As to staff, three (3) new part-time dispatchers were hired—one (1) is in training the others have not started yet. Commissioner Perkins asked about the training for the new hires. Training (80 hours) is being done by two (2) full-time dispatchers who are learning the new system and upon certification the new hires will work part-time 12-9 p.m. Town Councilor Yuchniuk inquired about the number of EMS calls and use of East Lyme emergency during storms. Of the calls for service, 203 calls were EMS related; and East Lyme will be used if available for emergency purposes and MHS if needed.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins reported work continues on the Everbridge system and all four (4) fire companies will be present tomorrow at the Farmers Market “First Responders Night.” The Department “Touch a Truck” event at Camp Oakdale was a success with Oakdale company providing coverage at the carnival and Montville company handling fire calls.

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

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

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (May 2022)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	10	183
# of Animals Sold as Pets	16	195
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	1
# of Animals Euthanized	1	9
Total Complaints Investigated	94	887
Total Animal Bites Investigated	5	22
Total Infractions/Summons	1	1

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (May 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	5	41
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	1
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

Chairman Murphy was not aware Commissioner Callaghan would be attending the meeting; he read the ACO reports into the record.

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

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics reports for April and May 2022 were submitted as follows:

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				109	120	
Pending Permits	124	137	57	100	110	91				82	94	
Inspections	118	134	166	108	98	105				102	104	
Plan Reviews	17	29	43	13	36	14				17	18	
CO's	5	4	4	7	6	6				0	0	
Violation Notices	2	3	0	1	3	2				1	2	
Unsafe Notices	0	1	0	0	2	1				0	0	
Blight Identified	557	559	660	660	576	420				177	175	
Blight Abated	388	393	408	409	412	178				438	446	

To Date												
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Commissioner Stewart called Chairman Murphy about his absence. Chairman Murphy noted the Building Reports for April and May 2022.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- None

11. Unfinished Business.

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

Fire Marshal Barnes reported the Everbridge System is 99% built out; Asst. Fire Marshal Milton has been in touch with the WPCA and will be contacting Social Services. Alerts from the system will include traffic conditions, road closures, and other news on everbridge.net. Each Town department will have its own way to discern information, i.e., water issues. Signup for the system can be accessed from the Town webpage where residents can select specific alerts. The Commission can be included in the Town Hall group or have its own group. Information about the system will be included in the Commission Handbook, the Town Annual Report, on Facebook and the fire and police webpages. Notice will also be included with tax bills next year but was not included this year. System messages will/can be sent out by each department; dispatch and the Fire Marshal also have this capability.

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

Chairman Murphy reported no meeting was held but one would be scheduled tonight.

12. New Business.

- a. To consider and act on a motion to review and discuss school policy and take action on Commission recommendations to the Board of Education on arming qualified School Security Officers.

Chairperson Murphy reported he was asked to place this item on the agenda by Town Councilors Bunnell and Yuchniuk given everything that going on in our country. After the Columbine tragedy, the Board of Education (BOE) turned down the request for armed school security. The Town Councilors are looking for support from the Commission to move forward with action on this matter. Commissioner Bauer asked if a strategic plan was in place or are we looking toward a level of regularity. Currently, school security officers are not in every school—there is two (2) at the high school and two (2) at the middle school. Mike Collins, a retired state trooper is the head of district school security.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to consider and act on a motion to review and discuss school policy and take action on Commission recommendations to the Board of Education on arming qualified School Security Officers. Chairperson Murphy concurred with the proposed motion for years citing the lack of protection for Town schools but would not agree to action without a policy in place. Given security protocol, this issue would need to be discussed at a special meeting (executive session) and he expressed wonder about the adamancy of the BOE and having a former state trooper unarmed as a school security

official. Commissioners Perkins and Gillette spoke of the subcommittee formed several years ago, the public and private meetings held with the BOE, and the pushback from former BOE members against an armed security policy. It was noted the Commission can always assist but directive for the same must come from the BOE. Lt. Radford reported his department willing to work with the BOE to measures in place concerning security, additional SROs, training and certification, and reaching out to other school districts for feedback. Measures such as having security at access doors was mentioned and his willingness to work with the Commission as well. Town Councilor Yuchniuk commented on the previous Commission subcommittee and its interaction with the BOE and the need to have the Commission add its voice to the initiative. Initial measures to provide school security and development of a plan with the support of the Commission were discussed. Commissioner Bauer asked whether a strategic plan would be approved and followed but concurred with the PD as an official authority. Town Councilor Bunnell commented on his involvement with the Town over 50 years and how problems are delayed are pushed off. The sole authority for armed security rests with the BOE according to C.G.S. §15-188 but the point was to have the Commission back the move to protect children and develop a plan for school security by September given the volume of language accessible on the topic.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Bauer to rescind the original motion. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Commissioner Pedersen that the Commission agrees to move forward with armed status in schools that will weigh heavily on the Police Department working with the Board of Education according to a template described by Town Councilor Bunnell to be in place. Roll Call vote: In favor: *Commissioners Bauer, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, and Perkins*. Opposed: *None*. 5-0 vote. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Resident Matthew Suarez remarked on moving along the process for action on Agenda 12a. given the next Board of Education is scheduled for August 18 and instead proposing a special meeting.

14. Remarks from the Mayor. -- None

Mayor McDaniel was absent from the meeting.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Yuchniuk thanked the Commission for its support of Agenda Item 12a and asked that he be given confirmation of the Commission's support in writing for submission to the Town Council. He also gave an update on the status of the ACO facility stating Silver Petrucelli & Associates will work with zoning and other Town entities to create a design for the project and look at four (4) different locations. The ACO facility will remain at its existing location saving time and costs to the Town given site locations were previously reviewed.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins wished everyone a safe July 4th.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0; 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.**