

**Town of Montville**  
**Ad-Hoc COVID-19 Impact Study Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**August 9, 2022, 5:00 pm**  
**Town Council Chambers – Montville Town Hall**

**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 Mandler called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call (Councilors Caron, McNally, Mandler)  
Present were Councilors Caron, McNally, Mandler. Also present was Councilor Bunnell.
4. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2022  
Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None.  
Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to add the following item to the Agenda:

- 7(g) Social & Senior Services request for \$30,000.00 for Mental Health Services and \$20,000 for a Discretionary fund

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Remarks from the Public relating to matters on the Agenda (3-minute time limit)  
Councilor Bunnell informed the Committee that the Parks & Recreation Commission received two bids for four (4) tennis courts for \$650,000.00 and \$680,000.00. It is unknown if striping for the pickleball courts is included in the bid estimates.
6. Old Business – Avalonia \$560,000.00  
Chairman Mandler reported that he was cc'd on an e-mail to the Director of the organization to schedule a tour of the property. He was also informed that the tour must be noticed as a public meeting should a quorum be met by the Committee to avoid any FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) violation(s).

**Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to table the request by the Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. for \$560,000.00. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

7. New Business

a. Housing Authority Pavilion and Cookout Items – \$21,500.00

Chairman Mandler stated that the Housing Authority requested \$21,500.00 for two (2) gazebos and cookout items for Independence and Freedom Village Elderly Housing complexes.

**Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to table the request by the Housing Authority for \$21,500.00 for two (2) gazebos and cookout items for Independence and Freedom Village Elderly Housing complexes.**

**Discussion: The Councilors agreed to table the item pending additional information and the final determination of funds that are owed to the Town by the Housing Authority. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

Housing Authority Chairman Joe Jaskiewicz entered the meeting and stated that the final amount that will be returned to the Town will be finalized following the Audit.

Councilor McNally also requested the specifications for the gazebos, picnic tables, etc. to ensure that they are commercial grade. Based on the price estimates, he questioned the quality of the items.

Housing Authority Chairman Jaskiewicz stated that he would discuss the items with the Housing Authority. He felt that both locations are in need of big screen TVs for their community rooms. The residents are currently watching movies on a 13” color tv set. The specifications will be sent to the Chairman.

He also informed the Committee that the Housing Authority is also investigating the need to update the HVAC system for some of the units; funding for the system will derive from their funds.

He expressed his appreciation to the Committee for their consideration.

**Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to allocate up to \$2,000.00 for the purchase of television sets. Discussion: A revised list of their request will be provided to the Committee for consideration. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

b. Public Works Department Tractor – \$150,000.00

**Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to allocate up to \$150,000.00 for the purchase of a Public Works Department Tractor.**

**Discussion: The new tractor will include an arm that will allow them to mow three**

streets in the same period it takes to mow one street. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- c. Request from ACO Vehicle – \$45,000.00

**Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to deny the allocation of \$45,000.00 for the purchase of a new ACO (Animal Control Officer) vehicle. Discussion: Based on the maintenance schedule, the current vehicle is in good condition and has not had any major mechanical issues to date. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

- d. Youth Services (iPads) – \$9,500.00

**Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor McNally, to allocate up to \$9,500.00 for the purchase of new iPads for Youth Services. Discussion: The proposal includes the purchase of ten (10) iPads that would be utilized by the students to accommodate any learning losses caused by the pandemic. The iPads would not be maintained on the premises and will not be loaned to the students. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

- e. VFW (numerous projects) – \$50,000

**Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to allocate up to \$35,000.00 for exterior and interior renovations at the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Facility. Discussion: Councilor Caron expressed his full support for the veterans and stated that the building is in dire need of such items as HVAC, stairs, and railings. Chairman Mandler, who has reviewed the VFW's financials, stated that the original request was for numerous projects totaling over \$100,000.00. He stated that he was not in favor of providing funds to renovate the entire building, which is used to earn profits, but is in favor of supporting and assisting the VFW. None of the funds are to be utilized for the renovation of the bar, itself. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

- f. Public Works Department Pick-up Truck – \$69,000.00

**Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to allocate up to \$69,000.00 for the purchase of a new Public Works Department Pick-up Truck. Discussion: The new vehicle will replace their current 1999 Truck. The actual price of the new vehicle is \$68,350.50, per the state bid. The old vehicle will, most likely, be auctioned. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

- g. Senior and Social Services – \$30,000.00 (Mental Health Services) & \$20,000.00 (Discretionary Funds)

Chairman Mandler stated that the Department requested funding for the hiring of two (2) part-time clinicians to help those who are dealing with issues related to the

pandemic, e.g., depression, etc. He informed the Committee that he has communicated with the Director regarding their opposition to providing discretionary funding.

**Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to allocate up to \$30,000.00 for Mental Health Services for Social & Senior Services and Youth Services. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

8. Remarks from the Public (3-minute time limit)

Housing Authority Chairman Jaskiewicz reiterated his appreciation for considering their request(s) and for providing funding for the televisions. He will return to the Committee with additional information regarding their remaining requests.

Councilor Bunnell reported that the Library received its check for the ARPA-related funding and will be meeting this evening to sign the contract for the HVAC system. Councilor McNally requested that he also discuss the use of the neighboring church with the Library. Additional work will be done with the church. Councilor Bunnell stated that the Library does not have any funds to maintain the building, but would be interested in establishing an agreement with the town to utilize the building for meetings, events, and the like.

9. Remarks from the Councilors

Councilor McNally stated that they are expecting the receipt of additional requests. Because the funds are close to being fully allocated, funding requests will soon cease to be accepted. The status of the projects that received funding from Phase I will be reviewed. Councilors Caron agreed, with the exception of any emergent items.

Councilor Mandler also concurred and proposed contacting those who have not expended any of the funds they have received and/or those who have not requested any funding.

10. Adjournment

**Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

**AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES**