

**Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

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 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.
3. Roll Call
Present were Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*

5. Alterations to the Agenda
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix, to remove the following item from the Agenda:

16(h) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to increase the Mayor's salary to _____. (Councilor Caron)

Discussion: Councilor Caron proposed sending the item to the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee for review. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to amend the Agenda as follows:

Amend:

16(d) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to allocate an amount not to exceed \$16,000.00 (sixteen thousand dollars) of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds to the Montville Youth Football League, ~~as recommended by the Ad Hoc Covid-19 Impact Study Committee.~~ (Councilor Mandler)

Remove:

16(f) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to accept road widening strips and drainage easements required per Planning & Zoning Commission subdivision application #22SUB3, approved on July 28, 2022, in accordance with a plan entitled "Subdivision Plan, "Record Subdivision Plan", Prepared for Sunmar/RAF Builders, LLC, East Lake Road & Fire Street, Montville (Oakdale), CT, Prepared by Boundaries, LLC, Dated June 2022, Revised to 7/11/22." (Councilor McNally)

Add:

16(i) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to transfer \$46,500.00 (forty-six thousand five hundred dollars) to the Public Works Equipment Line Item 10910-54000 from the General Surplus Fund for the purchase of a Ford F-250. (Councilor McNally)

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
 - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2022
 - b. The Public Hearing Minutes of July 19, 2022 (Discontinuance of Roads)

c. The Special Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2022

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2022; Public Hearing Minutes of July 19, 2022, and; Special Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2022. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Executive Session

a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing a candidate for the Conservation Commission. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: The Councilors interviewed Conservation Commission Candidate John Guetens. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. Chairman McNally resumed the meeting at 7:09 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit
Kathleen Calash, a long-time resident who has served on the Montville Youth Football League for 25 years in a variety of roles, thanked the Town Council for allowing her to speak. She spoke with respect to Item 16(d) on this evening's Agenda. Due to the pandemic, the program was not offered for the past few years. As a result, they do not have adequate funding to purchase necessary football equipment, including helmets, for the approximately 270 athletes who have enrolled. Other communities in the region have found themselves in a similar position. Helmets, especially for those at the younger level, are especially difficult to acquire due to the high demand. The League was recently informed that their March order for 150 helmets, which originally cost \$15,000.00, will now cost \$20,000.00. A fundraising campaign to help offset the cost was held and approximately \$7,000.000 was raised. The League's first game will be held on August 21. She stated the importance of sports leagues for the children and the community's involvement.

9. Communications

- a. Copy of the July 2022 Financial Reports from Terry Hart, Finance Director
- b. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of June 2022
- c. A thank you letter from Safe Futures for their yearly allocation of funds

10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred – *none*

11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred

Mayor McDaniel reported that Casella, also known as WilliWaste, suddenly informed the town that they are no longer accepting bulky waste. As a result, the Town sent their bulky waste to Sterling Superior Services at a slightly higher cost. They will be working with SCCRA (Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority) to recoup the additional cost, per their contract.

Household Hazardous Waste Day was held on Saturday, August 6, with approximately 550 vehicles, which is slightly less than usual.

Due to production delays and material supply issues, the estimated date of completion for the Chapel Hill Cross Culvert Project is Friday, August 12. The road is also expected to be closed for one day next week for paving. Chesterfield Road, between Cottonwood Lane and Old Colchester Road, is also expected to be closed for two days next week for paving.

A meeting was held with the SCCOG (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments) to discuss Regional Code Enforcement due to issues filling the Assistant Building Official

position. Currently, the former Building Official Vernon Vesey, II, and Mohegan Tribal Commission Building Official Christopher Ida have been filling in, as needed. Recognizing that it is not a unique issue, the SCCOG is seeking a regional solution.

They have been working on updating the SCCOG's Regional Hazardous Mitigation and Resiliency Plan. The Plan should result in improved flood insurance rates and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Reimbursements for catastrophic events.

With the help of Sandra Dawson, Pullman & Comley, LLC, the explanatory text of November's Bonding Referendum was approved by the SEC (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission). The text will be published in the Montville Community Booklet; publication on the town's website is prohibited.

The staff offered well wishes to Finance Director Hart during her retirement party last week.

Planning Director Liz Burdick reported on the following items which are included on this evening's Agenda:

The Planning & Zoning Commission provided a favorable §8-24 review for the location of the proposed Animal Control Facility. An architectural firm has been hired and is in the process of designing the facility. The civil engineering will be conducted by CLA Engineers, Inc.

A Resolution to accept road widening strips, per the 2004 Subdivision Plan for the Lombardi Business Park, was never completed. The property is being sold and to ensure a clean title, the project must be completed as previously approved.

A resolution to accept road widening strips and drainage easements for the Subdivision Plan for East Lake Road & Fire Street was removed from the Agenda to allow the Owner's Attorney additional time to review the deeds.

She also reported on the following upcoming items:

Receipt of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Grant, a pass-through grant, for the fishing pier. The final numbers are to be determined for the Town match.

The Town was also approved for a LoCIP (Local Capital Improvement Plan) Grant for the Route 32 sidewalk project from the Waterford Town Line to Maple Avenue Extension. She is expecting to report on the definitive figures at their next Regular Meeting.

The Planning & Zoning Commission recently received a record number of applications.

In response to Councilor Caron, Planning Director Burdick stated that the recreational marijuana regulation has not yet been discussed by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure

The Committee discussed the possibility of receiving a portion of the funds received from parking tickets. Upon researching the item, it was found that the Town Charter prohibits such action from taking place until the Montville Police Department is established as an independent police department. Also discussed was the possibility of creating an Ordinance regarding the maintenance of donation boxes. At the suggestion of the Planning Director, new language will be drafted and added to the Town's existing Blight Ordinance.

b. Finance

The Finance Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, August 30 to discuss the year-end transfers which, upon approval, will be sent to the Town Council.

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal

A new Public Works Director was hired; he has been busy with numerous projects – some of which are included on this evening’s agenda.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Bunnell: Library Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission, Volunteer Fire Fighters’ Relief Fund

Parks & Recreation (P&R) Commission – This year’s Summer Camp is full with 230 participants. Children have taken field trips to a Connecticut Sun game and a trampoline park. P&R Director Pete Bushway met with a representative of the National Fitness Campaign to discuss the location of the proposed 38’ square outdoor gym. The Food Truck Festival was held on Saturday, August 6. The Commissioners discussed the success of the Carnival, which turned a profit this year, and the various ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funded projects, including the proposed ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-Playground, outdoor grills, Schofield Park, Camp Oakdale Pavilion roof, soccer field bleachers, and tennis courts.

Volunteer Fire Fighters’ Relief Fund – The Committee approved the stipends and tax abatements for Mohegan Volunteer Fire Company #2 and Oakdale Volunteer Fire Company #4.

Library Committee – The Committee did not meet; however they are moving forward with the ARPA-funded projects. The Library’s electrical system was upgraded to 200Amp to accommodate the new lighting, new HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) system, and ADA upgrade(s), among other items. The Committee will be meeting tomorrow, August 8, to sign the HVAC contract.

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services, Non-Profit Organizations
Social Services has been busy due to the heat; they continue to help those in need of food items.

The Commission on Aging did not meet however a successful BBQ event was held for the seniors and the new BINGO machine has arrived and will soon be installed.

Non-Profit Organizations – He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Calash for attending this evening’s meeting, adding that the Town Council supports the non-profit organizations, which are a very important to the members of the community.

c. Councilor Mandler: Water Pollution Control Authority, Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Impact Study Committee

Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) – The WPCA recently experienced a power outage, which was without incident. The expenditure for emergency roof repairs at the Avery I Pump Station was approved. The Authority also discussed the additional per day poundage of influent from Rand-Whitney Containerboard and were assured by the Superintendent and the Engineers that the town will continue to have a buffer.

Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Impact Study Committee – The Committee has received several requests for funding which will be discussed during their meeting tomorrow evening.

d. Councilor May: Conservation Commission

The Commission hosted a well-attended presentation on invasive plant species provided by a representative from CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection). Additional similar events are planned for the future. The Commission continues to work on the Conservation Center improvements and will be working with the Planning Department to obtain a permit from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission to work on the property.

- e. Councilor Rix: Board of Education, Farmers Market Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission

Board of Education (BOE) – The BOE held a Special Meeting to discuss the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Montville Police Department to utilize its officers as School Resource Officers and the purchasing of buses.

Farmers Market Committee – The Town’s Farmers Market events have been very successful with 20 (twenty) vendors and 25 (twenty-five) guest vendors weekly. This week’s theme is National Farmers Market/Tractor Week. The event is held weekly on Tuesday evenings, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The Planning & Zoning Commission’s items are included on this evening’s agenda.

- f. Councilor Yuchniuk: Economic Development Commission, Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board

The Economic Development Commission discussed reviving the Business Spotlight Award and presenting the awards quarterly. Also discussed was the possibility of creating a Montville Business Community Forum page on social media.

The Public Safety Commission briefly discussed the receipt of a letter received from Former Commissioner Vic Lenda regarding the unsafe and unsanitary conditions at the Gardner Lake State Park. It was noted during the meeting that the Park is under the jurisdiction of the CT DEEP, State Police, and Gardner Lake Authority. The Police Department received 1,090 Calls for Services for July 2022.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Mathieu Beaupre to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire on October 11, 2026.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Irene Taylor to the Commission on Aging with a term to expire on October 12, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2022-91. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$1,033.41 (one thousand thirty-three dollars and forty-one cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2022-92. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the favorable 8-24 review for the construction of a new Animal Control Facility at 225 Maple Avenue (M/B/L 077-041-000) as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2022-93. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to increase the wages of part-time Public Works employees to \$1.00 (one dollar) over minimum wage and senior part-time Public Works summer help to \$2.00 (two dollars) over minimum wage. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion:

Chairman McNally stated that issues regarding the difficulty in finding workers were discussed at the Public Works/Solid Waste Standing Committee's July Meeting. As such, the Committee agreed to raise the wages to slightly over that of neighboring towns and to incentivize those who return annually to work for the Department. It was noted that there are two (2) returning (senior) employees. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2022-94. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to allocate an amount not to exceed \$16,000.00 (sixteen thousand dollars) of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds to the Montville Youth Football League. (Councilor Mandler)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk. Discussion:

Councilor Caron thanked Ms. Calash and the volunteers and expressed his full support. He stressed the importance of all the sports leagues to the children and families of the community. He added that they have also been discussing upgrading the facility. Chairman McNally stated that the item was not reviewed and approved by the Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Impact Study Committee due to time sensitivity. In response to Councilor Rix who questioned the difference in amounts after the fundraising, Ms. Calash stated that other parts of the uniforms are also needed, including any item that refers to the "Indians", adding that the League is voluntarily following the school's lead in honoring the Tribe's wishes. She confirmed that \$16,000.00 should be sufficient to purchase the needed items. It was noted that the Tribe also donated \$10,000.00 to the League. The League is not partnering with Waterford this year. Councilor Mandler stated that the original request was for \$15,223.90 and, after speaking with Councilors Caron and McNally, they agreed to provide a buffer for any incidentals. He also reiterated that the matter was time sensitive. It was confirmed that the helmets have a lifespan of five (5) years. In response to Councilor Yuchniuk regarding the possibility of selling the old uniforms and helmets as memorabilia, Ms. Calash stated that she will be discussing the matter with the Tribe out of respect. All donors will receive an ad in their Booster Book. Councilor Yuchniuk expressed his full support, but would be abstaining from voting due to his son's involvement in football. Roll Call vote, 5-0-2. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, and Rix. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Councilors Yuchniuk and McNally. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2022-95. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to accept road widening strips required per Planning & Zoning Commission subdivision application #204SUB3, Lombardi Business Park Subdivision, approved on September 28, 2004 in accordance with a plan entitled "Subdivision Plan, Prepared for Lombardi Business Park, Zaist Property, Montville, CT, Prepared by Boundaries, L.L.C., Dated May 2004." (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None.

Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- f. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to accept road widening strips and drainage easements required per Planning & Zoning Commission subdivision application #22SUB3, approved on July 28, 2022, in accordance with a plan entitled

“Subdivision Plan, “Record Subdivision Plan”, Prepared for Sunmar/RAF Builders, LLC, East Lake Road & Fire Street, Montville (Oakdale), CT, Prepared by Boundaries, LLC, Dated June 2022, Revised to 7/11/22.” (Councilor McNally)

The Item was removed from the Agenda.

- g. **Resolution #2022-96. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES TO** authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to execute any financial documents for the 2021 Municipal Brownfield Grant Program.

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 32-763, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for developing a comprehensive plan for remediation and redevelopment of brownfields; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Montville make an application to the State for up to \$2,000,000 for a public/private pass-through partnership with Oxoboxo Lofts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Ronald McDaniel is authorized to execute any and all documents for the 2021 Municipal Brownfield Grant Program. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that the Attorneys have signed off on the CT DECD (Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development) pass-through grant for the Oxoboxo Lofts Project. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- h. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to increase the Mayor’s salary to _____. (Councilor Caron)

The Item was removed from the Agenda.

- i. **Resolution #2022-97. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to transfer \$46,500.00 (forty-six thousand five hundred dollars) to the Public Works Equipment Line Item 10910-54000 from the General Surplus Fund for the purchase of a Ford F-250. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Chairman McNally stated that the item was originally on the Finance Committee’s August Agenda and was added to this evening’s agenda after being informed by the Public Works Director that there are only two (2) such trucks in stock in the state. One of the trucks is red and white in color. The Department will be returning \$180,000.00 to the General Fund from the FY2021/22 Budget. The Department’s current 2014 truck, which has approximately 20,000 miles, will be given to the Parks & Recreation Director for use. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – *none*

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel commended the staff for the successful completion of the grants. He is hopeful that the sidewalk and road reconstruction project on Old Norwich Road near the golf course will begin soon. He also noted that there will be an additional sidewalk project near Total Vision and is currently working on finalizing a STEAP Grant for the Community Center. He encouraged everyone to stay cool and vote tomorrow.

Councilor Bunnell commended and expressed his appreciation to the Planning Director for her hard work and efforts.

Councilor Caron also commended the Planning Director, expressing his excitement for the new pier and sidewalk and the seniors' excitement for the new Dollar General. He also thanked the Councilors for supporting the funding for the Montville Youth Football League, reiterating the importance of all non-profits.

Councilor May was pleased with their unanimous support for the Montville Football League. He also commended and expressed his appreciation to Planning Director Burdick and Assistant Planner/GIS Specialist Colleen Bezanson for their help with the Conservation Center.

Councilor Mandler questioned the Mayor regarding the reasoning behind exceeding the appropriated amount in Resolution #2022-43. He also stated that he signed up to receive notifications and has not yet received any. He continues to await the receipt of the maintenance records for the ACO, Fire Marshal, and Deputy Fire Marshal's vehicles due to their request for new vehicles and the resolution of two blighted properties. He agreed that the Mayor's salary is a discussion that is long overdue. He also expressed his pleasure in supporting youth football and the town's youth and seniors.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Mandler, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, 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 – MEETING RECORDINGS**