

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – September 26, 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, Thomas Pedersen, Karen Perkins, and Stephen Stewart. Absent was Commissioner William Bauer. 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 receipt of the monthly statistical reports by the commissioners. Commissioner Stewart noted the Building Report was not submitted. He also read into the record correspondence from the Town Council Secretary of the reappointment of Commissioner Bauer to another term on the Commission.

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

- a.** The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2022.

Motion by Chairman Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the August 22, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Remarks from the Public.

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for comments. There were none.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lieutenant Radford reported interviews were conducted last week to fill vacancies in the Department. Four (4) candidates were forwarded on to meet with Mayor McDaniel this week. Thanks were extended to Commissioners Gillette, Pedersen, and Stewart for assisting with the interviews. On September 11, the Department also assisted with the annual Montville Race Day in addition to the Montville Fire Police Association who volunteered their time, as usual, and was very appreciated. No issues occurred at the event. There also new breast cancer awareness patches available from the PD for a fundraiser for the same. Lt. Radford also reported general MVA/summons activity (275) was added to the monthly report ending August 31, 2022, with total calls for service for the period of 980.

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported calls for service for the month ending August 31, 2022, totaled 297. Of those calls, 81% were EMS incidents or 224 and 19% were fire related. He also reported on two (2) systems in the Atlantic that he is watching. Storm Ian if it reaches Connecticut is expected to be a tropical lull in the region with 20-30-mile winds and heavy rain. Tomorrow, there will be a Millstone exercise or rehearsal for the actual exercise on November 1 that will be evaluated by FEMA and Millstone. For tomorrow’s exercise, Commissioners Gillette and Stewart have volunteered as radiological monitors.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins apologized for her absence from the last two (2) meetings. The Volunteer Fire Relief met on July 25 and approved stipends as follows: Mohegan 12 and Oakdale 5 (7 with tax abatement). Chesterfield and Montville departments were not present. The next meeting is scheduled for October 24 at 5:00 p.m.

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

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

Town of Montville Animal Control Report August 2022)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	15	25
# of Animals Sold as Pets	6	19
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	1	1
Total Complaints Investigated	72	155
Total Animal Bites Investigated	1	2
Total Infractions/Summons	2	2

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (August 2022)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	2	2
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0

# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	5	8
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	0
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

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

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics report for July 2022 was submitted as follows:

2021-2022 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	110	171										
Pending Permits	159	143										
Inspections	187	141										
Plan Reviews	62	67										
CO's	2	0										
Violation Notices	2	1										
Unsafe Notices	0	0										
Blight Identified	182	188										
Blight Abated To Date	454	459										

*These August figures were submitted to the Commission on September 30 prior to posting of the minutes.

Commissioner Stewart reported he spoke with the Building Official on Wednesday and was told the report was needed; he will visit the office tomorrow. The assistant building position is still vacant.

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 Asst. Fire Marshal Milton put flyers in the mailboxes at Town Hall with a QR Code on it. A key code reader is in the Town Hall lobby and will be included as a link in the end-of-the year report. The system is up and running with positive attendance and feedback.

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

Chairman Murphy reported no meeting was held but there is not a time constraint for action as more work needs to be done.

12. New Business. -- None

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

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Steven Frischling of 1606 Route 85, Oakdale remarked on his comments at last month's Commission meeting and referenced a meeting in August 2021 held by Mayor McDaniel with the Fire Chiefs regarding on the Everbridge System and subsequent reporting on it.

14. Remarks from the Mayor.

Chairman Murphy reported Mayor McDaniel notified him he would not be attending the meeting. The Mayor's report was reported into the record by Commissioner Stewart. On September 8, Mayor McDaniel attended the annual CEO/EMD meeting of the Region 4 Emergency Planning Team at the Council of Governments (COG). Budget allocations were set for the upcoming fiscal year. On September 12, he attended an ADA Compliance Webinar; ADA duties will be assigned to the new HR Director, Public Works Director, and the Building Inspector so that each may address their particular areas. There was a Zoom meeting on September 22 to discuss the conceptual designs for the new Animal Control Facility; Town Councilor Yuchniuk can provide more details. On September 29, Mayor McDaniel will be interviewing the four (4) recommended candidates for the police department.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Yuchniuk remarked on a special Town Council public hearing concerning an independent police department; 33 spoke in favor of the proposal and one (1) spoke against it. On September 22, a special meeting of the Town Council was held and 18 spoke in favor of the proposal and one (1) against. The Town Council voted unanimously to move forward and transfer from a State Police RST to an independent police department. Town Councilor Yuchniuk also remarked architects have developed two (2) conceptual designs for the new Animal Control Facility that was narrowed down to one (1) with adjustments as reviewed by the ACO and some members of the Town Council.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins apologized for her absence from the two (2) previous meetings and thanked the police and fire personnel, career and volunteer, for their service. Also, notice was given of the Town Senior and Social Services Director who is holding Annual Veterans Fund to be held on October 22 from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. with a raffle and band to raise funds for veterans in Montville. Commissioner Stewart attended the annual State Firefighters Convention held in Yantic that was celebrating its 175th anniversary. There were legislative items in their booklet regarding payment to firefighters for response on limited access highways; a payment \$500 each response provided with each application. Another item highlighted concerned a

cancer bill for firefighters who are subject to cancer causing substances while doing their job. In January 2024, municipalities will be charged \$10 for each firefighter or career firefighter and \$5 or \$10 for each volunteer that will be keep under review. Also, data delivery for fire and EMS services in the state is another item and the set up of a data collection program in state. Chairman Murphy remarked to Resident Frischling to obtain a copy of you have information attributed to Fire Chief Truex; he spoke with Mayor McDaniel who referred to Asst. Fire Marshal Milton, not the fire chief. Some of the issues remarked upon this evening by the resident will go to the fire marshal and hopefully will be presented to the Commission. There is a lot to the system and frustrating to get an answer. Chairman Murphy also congratulated Lt. Radford concerning the approval by the Town Council for an independent police department; the decision was great and long overdue and supported at both meetings attributed to the PD support of residents over the years.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 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.**