

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.

Town of Montville

Town Administration/Rules and Procedures Standing Committee

Monday September 26th. 2022 @ 5:00PM

Montville Town Hall - Room 102

Meeting minutes

1: Call to order.

Meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM.

2: Pledge of allegiance.

All stood for the pledge.

3: Roll call.

Councilors Bunnell and Yuchniuk present, Councilor Mandler absent.

Also present: Lt. Dave Radford, MPD, FM Paul Barnes, Liz Burdick, Steve Frishling, Gary Murphy, Steve Stewart.

4: Amendments to the agenda.

No amendments to the agenda.

5: Approval of meeting minutes from TARP meeting August 22nd 2022.

Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, second by Councilor Yuchniuk, no discussion, vote 2-0 in favor.

6: Remarks from the public, agenda items (3-minute limit).

Councilor Yuchniuk asked three times, no comments from the public.

7: Old business.

7a. Discussion and possible action on adding wording to blight ordinance regarding property owners maintaining donation boxes on their property.

Discussion ensues, Councilor Mandler has not returned with input from town attorney on matter, matter remains on old business.

8. New Business.

- 8a. Discussion and possible action on adding public works snow plow drivers to the town emergency notification policy.

FM Paul Barnes speaks against this proposal, stating that snow plow drivers can be notified on the town radios if their plow is needed to assist police or fire. He believes having them pull out their phones to read texts will be unsafe. He also feels that adding more people to the list may slow the system down.

Discussion ensues, Councilor Bunnell agrees that having them look at their phones may be unsafe, Councilor Yuchniuk confirms that all the trucks have radios and dispatch can contact them to direct them where they are needed.

Motion by Councilor Bunnell to NOT add public works drivers to the town emergency notification policy, second by Councilor Yuchniuk, motion passes 2-0.

- 8b. Discussion and possible action on the Montville citizen alert policy.

FM Barnes speaks on this item, insisting that if a policy is going to be written on this, he, as the emergency management director should be the one to write it, not a member of the volunteer fire service. He reports that the Mayor and himself have determined that only Town of Montville employees will utilize the system, and only under certain circumstances. He states that this system would not be utilized to report temporary road closures due to a motor vehicle accident, that various Facebook pages would be used for those purposes.

Lt. Radford speaks on the item, he agrees with FM Barnes and states that if the system is misused by an employee, the town can hold the employee accountable.

Discussion ensues, FM Barnes is asked to prepare his own version of a policy and return to TARP. (note: at the end of the meeting, it was determined that this item will go to public safety first for review, rather than coming directly back to TARP).

Motion by Councilor Bunnell to table this item, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk, no further discussion, motion passes 2-0.

- 8c. Discussion and possible action on policy for the Montville WebEOC user access.

FM Barnes speaks on this item, he reports that the State of Connecticut sets the Policy on who has access to WebEOC, not the towns. He states that the four fire departments do not need access to the system and he is against their having access to the system.

Mr. Frishling speaks on the item, stating that the town attorney has already ruled that the four fire departments are independent and as emergency service agencies, the fire chiefs should have access to the system.

Discussion ensues, Councilor Yuchniuk inquires if the town of Montville has any written policy regarding this, learning that there is not one, he asks that the FM come up with a written policy, even if it just repeats what the state policy says. Councilor Yuchniuk also

requests Mr. Frishling compile supporting documentation to support his claims and return to TARP. (note: at the end of the meeting, it was determined that this item will go to public safety first for review, rather than coming directly back to TARP).

Motion by Councilor Yuchniuk to table the item so FM Barnes and Mr. Frishling can gather more documentation and return, second by Councilor Bunnell, no further discussion, motion passes 2-0.

- 8d. Discussion and possible action on changing the name of the "Planning Department" to "Department of land use and development".

Liz Burdick, director of Planning Department speaks on issue, reports that her department does much more than just planning, wishes to change the name to "Department of land use and development". She feels this will better reflect the work they perform and will assist citizens in getting to the right section of the town website quicker.

Motion by Councilor Yuchniuk, seconded by Councilor Bunnell to approve this request and forward to the entire council for a full vote. No discussion, motion passes 2-0,

- 9: Remarks from the public, non-agenda items (3-minute limit).

Gary Murphy, Chairman Public Safety Commission speaks, reporting that in reading the town charter and the rules and procedures of the PSC, any and all changes in policies need to first go through the PSC.

Steve Stewart agrees with Gary Murphy and also expresses his frustration on not being more involved in processes such as budgets.

Councilor Yuchniuk asked three times, no further comments from the public.

- 10: Remarks from councilors.

Councilor Bunnell remarks that he agrees with Gary Murphy that we have gotten away from sending items through PSC before coming to TARP. He makes a motion that items 8b and 8c be returned for review by the PSC before coming back to TARP. Motion seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk. Discussion: Councilor Yuchniuk will contact Chairman McNally to have him discuss matter with town attorney, there is concern that this may greatly slow down the process. Motion passes 2-0.

- 11: Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 1800.