

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – January 23, 2023 -- 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)**

**Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comments by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced.**

**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 William Bauer, Traci Callaghan, Mickey Gillette, Gary Murphy, Karen Perkins, and Stephen Stewart. Absent was Commissioner Thomas Pedersen. 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 by the Commission of the statistical reports from all departments. He also read into the record a communication from Alfred Mandler, a taxpayer, resident of the Oakdale Fire District, and Town Councilor. He inquired about the rationale and authorizing party that left fire districts uncovered by full-time paid, scheduled staff on several occasions, a direct violation of the bargaining agreement with the Montville Firefighters Association, Local 3386, IAFF, in addition to authorization to add shifts.

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

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2022.
- b. The Special Meeting Minutes (Fire Department Interviews) of December 28, 2022.

**Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the November 28, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes and the Special Meeting Minutes (Fire Department Interviews) of December 28, 2022. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel noted a clerical

error under Roll Call, a correction to read “*quorum*” not “*forum*” was present. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Remarks from the Public.**

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for comments. Fire Marshal Paul Barnes addressed Agenda Item 12.a, under New Business stating it should be removed from the Agenda as it already exists in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Fire Department and the Town of Montville, Article 26.1. *“Irrespective of any past practice or any prior Agreement, employees shall not leave their fire station while on duty for any reason, except when performing fire, rescue, or other job-related activities or functions, unless the same has been approved by the Mayor or his/her designee.”*

**8. Remarks from Department Heads.**

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford reported 819 calls for service by the PD for the month ending December 31, 2022. There were also 29 infractions, 1 juvenile summons, 7 misdemeanors, and 125 written warnings for a total of 162 citations. He also reported two (2) new officers were sworn in last month and both are currently attending the POST satellite Police Academy at LEC in Norwich; Officer Mora Serna and Officer Hughes. For sale is a 20-year anniversary patch in commemoration of Officer Joseph Sachatello. The cost of the patches is \$10 and proceeds will be donated to the Sachatello Memorial Scholarship Fund; today is incidentally the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The PD Liaison Commissioner Gillette and an additional Commissioner will soon be called upon for the second interview with Police Chief applicants. Also received was a letter for “Recommendation for Department Award,” from a CSP Sergeant for Officer Fazzino assisted by Officer Miller. The recommendation was for an incident that occurred on December 25, 2022, where \$68,000 and an illegal firearm prepared for street sale. Involved were the Department of Homeland Security, the New York PD, and the State PD.

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported the Fire Department had 279 total calls for service for the month ending December 31, 2022; of those calls 216 were EMS incidents. For the year ending 2022, there were 3196 total calls for service, 174 more calls for service than in 2021 or 3024 total calls. In 2022, Dispatch had 19,248 calls of which 8,433 were 911 calls. Chairman Murphy reported the State Report not showing this data; Fire Marshal Barnes is aware of this reporting and working with ESO on it.

**9. Committee and Liaison Reports:**

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins reported the Montville Volunteer Fire Relief Committee met earlier this evening regarding quarterly stipends that were reviewed and approved as follows: Montville 8, Mohegan 9, Chesterfield 3 and 3 tax abatements (for quarters two, three, and four) and Oakdale 5 stipends and 10 tax abatements. Also, the Radio Subcommittee met on January 18 at the Public Safety Building. The police are already set up and using the State Police system; it was agreed the Fire Department should use it as well. The Fire Chiefs will submit to Commissioner Perkins a list of equipment needed for their access to the State system by the

next Public Safety Commission meeting. The meeting was attended by the Fire Chiefs, Dispatch, and Fire Marshal. Mayor McDaniel inquired about minutes for the meeting; Chairman Murphy reported it was not a posted meeting as only two (2) commissioners were present as discussed with the Town Clerk.

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

The statistical reports for month endings November 30, 2022 and December 31, 2022, submitted by ACO Swanson are as follows:

Town of Montville Animal Control Report November/December 2022)

	Month November	YTD November	Month December	YTD December
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>73</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>43</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>533</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (November/December 2022)

	Month November	Month November	YTD December	YTD December
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Commissioner Gillette remarked he had no report but did meet with Lt. Radford.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics report for November/December 2022 was submitted as follows:

<b>2022-2023 Building Department Report</b>												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
<b>Permits Issued</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>205</b>						
<b>Pending Permits</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>136</b>						
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>127</b>						

<b>Plan Reviews</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>70</b>						
<b>CO's</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>						
<b>Violation Notices</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>						
<b>Unsafe Notices</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>						
<b>Blight Identified</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>203</b>						
<b>Blight Abated To Date</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>478</b> v						

Commissioner Stewart read it into the record the statistics for the months ending November 30, 2022 and December 31, 2022. He also reported an Asst. Building Inspector has not yet been hired.

**10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. – No report**

**11. Unfinished Business.**

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

Fire Marshal Barnes reported there was no update on the Everbridge System. Chairman Murphy inquired whether school cancellations are reported on Everbridge; Fire Marshal Barnes reported the Board of Education has its own reporting system.

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

Chairman Murphy reported no meeting was held.

- c. Report from Town Administration on the progress of the formation of the Montville Police Department.

Mayor McDaniel reported there were twelve applicants for Police Chief and five (5) were forwarded to the Police Chiefs Association with interviews scheduled for Wednesday, February 1 and will be reported back to us, Lt. Radford and the Commission. A preliminary meeting was held with Dispatch to determine its responsibilities but it was decided it would make more sense to have a Police Chief in place. Information about the police dispatcher position was obtained from the Towns of Covington and Farmington by the Town Attorney. Funds were appropriated by the Town Council to hire a consultant at \$35,000.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion concerning possible action on the water tank installation problem at Millwood on Old Colchester Road.

Fire Marshal Barnes reported the tanks and fittings are on order.

**12. New Business.**

- a. To Consider and Act on a motion concerning the need for a written Career Firefighter Out-of-Station Policy.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to discuss the need for a written Career Firefighter Out-of-Station Policy. Discussion: Chairman Murphy remarked he placed this item on the agenda after having discussed it with the Fire Chiefs about the lack of coverage during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays leaving the Town vulnerable for a lawsuit. He referenced staff being on call but away from the stations eating and watching football and the possibility of a situation arising such as the need for an EpiPen or a defibrillator while staff is 10-15 minutes away. Paid staff should not be out of the station unless doing official Town business. Chairman Murphy also referenced policy of operational control of ambulance and fire apparatus and knowing where these vehicles are at all times, and further, should not be allowed. Commissioner Perkins inquired of Mayor McDaniel whether this issue was a personnel one; Mayor McDaniel responded, “yes” and remarked he initially saw the communication from A. Mandler this morning. Commissioner Callaghan remarked the matter should be discussed; Commissioner Bauer inquired about the amount of time the paid staff were away from the station; the response from Commissioner Murphy was six (6), eight (8) to 10 hours. **Motion** by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to table discussion for review of existing policy and the union contract. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel remarked on having given the policy to Chairman Murphy who indicated time away from the station while working is limited. Review of the coverage issue was discussed; per Chairman Murphy in years past, firefighter families would celebrate the aforementioned holidays by bringing the food to the stations but that policy has changed in the last couple of years. Mayor McDaniel will email a copy of the Collective Bargaining Agreement to the Commission and this item will be included on the next meeting agenda. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Murphy, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed*: Commissioner Gillette. 5-1 vote. Motion to table carried. No action taken on the original vote.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion concerning the Radio Transmission Policy for all emergency vehicles when leaving the station for nonemergency business.

Chairman Murphy remarked on his listening to radio communications of all firefighters including the assigning of equipment and reiterated the need to know where apparatus is at all times with a sign-in/sign-out policy. He recommended that the Fire Chiefs and Fire Marshal draw up a policy on the same for review by the Town that will differ if radio communications are halted due to a police incident. The Chairman stated he knew communication regarding apparatus is lacking but does not occur every single time. Commissioner Perkins asked about the responsibility for development of policy. Review of various policies concerning the radio system and moving discussion of it to the next firefighter group meeting for was suggested by Commissioner Stewart. There was no motion or vote on this item; it will be moved to Unfinished Business on the next meeting agenda.

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

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Resident Matt Suarez of 18 Cranberry Drive remarked on comments about accountability of firefighter staff, response to calls, and potential lawsuits as mentioned by Chairman Murphy stating these things matter. He personally did not have a problem with staff who wanted to get together but remarked that volunteers rarely respond to calls at 2:00 a.m. given most have jobs.

Union Firefighter President Tim Condon of 51 Gallup Lane, Waterford remarked he was not in opposition to oversight of the fire department which is good but proposed a look at the entire system to address policy and have real discussion which taxpayers deserve. He also remarked that Montville has been removed in the past two (2) months as a source for mutual aid to other municipalities. Addressing paid staff, the volunteer policy, having one (1) staff member at a scene in addition to support for the same was also mentioned. T. Condon remarked oversight was needed to reflect change.

**14. Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor McDaniel remarked that Lt. Radford, Fire Marshal Barnes, the Planning Director Burdick, and the Building Inspector worked with the botanists to make sure the launch of the adult-use recreational cannabis occurred without incident. He also remarked on a meeting scheduled tomorrow with Lt. Radford with POST regarding review of deficiencies, that are not earth shattering and how they will support accreditation. There is also a DOT meeting Wednesday concerning I-395 safety improvements with representation from the Fire Department. Commissioner Stewart commented on not having heard anything about budget requests as typically done in November. Mayor McDaniel said the budget requests were sent to department heads and remarked the new Finance Director may be doing things a little differently. The Mayor will follow-up and stated his budget will be discussed at the April Town Council meeting but the Commission needs to review its budgets.

**15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.**

Town Councilor Yuchniuk remarked he agreed with Union Firefighter President Congdon about fixing the Town fire services with all parties present otherwise it is a waste of time.

**16. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Stewart remarked the Animal Control Facility is not moving along as he would like; Town Councilor Yuchniuk remarked application has been made to the State for grant funding. Commissioner Stewart concurred with the comments from Union Firefighter President Congdon as to addressing overall fire department concerns and talk is needed. Commissioner Perkins thanked the police and fire departments and urged them to stay safe. Chairman Murphy remarked on the police response to residents' homes by themselves in the middle of the night stating he understands the situations and reviews the reports accordingly. He added his comments regarding paid and volunteer fire staff encompassed everyone and the dinner hours for 6-8 hours needs to stop.

**17. Adjournment.**

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 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.***