

Town of Montville
Public Safety Commission
310 Norwich New London Turnpike
Uncasville, Connecticut 06382

860-848-3030

**Town of Montville
Public Safety Commission –Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 3, 2010 -6:00 p.m.
Town Hall – Room 102**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jetmore called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Butterworth, Jetmore, Loiler and McNally. Absent were Commissioners Allyn, Scott and Wehner. Also present were Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf, Lieutenant Bunnell and Sgt. Collins from the Montville Police Department, Fire Chiefs Keith Truex from Chesterfield Fire Company, Ron Turner from the Montville Fire Company, and Gary Murphy from the Oakdale Fire Department.

4. Remarks from the Public – none.

5. Discussion, review and approval of various Public Safety budgets

Chairman Jetmore noted Jane Greenwood, Animal Control Officer, was not present to discuss the Animal Control budget for the Town of Montville with the Public Safety Commission. He stated her budget discussion will be placed on the February 22, 2010 regular meeting agenda for review and approval. He stated the Town Charter clearly states the budget must be presented to the Public Safety Commission for approval and forwarded to the Town Council.

Fire Chief Gary Murphy discussed the proposed budget request for the Oakdale Volunteer Fire Department with the Commission. He reviewed each line item and gave an explanation for each request. He stated he is not requesting an increase for the upcoming year and hopes he will stay within his budget as long as electricity and heating oil does not increase. His budget request is in the amount of \$90,353, ten cents lower

than last year. He indicated a total of over \$300,000 was spent last year, with the difference being made up by fund raising and ambulance billing.

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner McNally to approve the proposed budget request presented by Chief Murphy for the Oakdale Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$90,353.00 and to forward the budget request to the Town Council with a recommendation for approval from the Public Safety Commission. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Lieutenant Bunnell of the Montville Police Department submitted his mission statement and budget to the Commission for review. He discussed his goals for the upcoming year. He discussed the projected increases to the budget that include and increase of \$239,544 for police salaries. This represents contractual raises that were not funded last fiscal year and it also reflects adding one officer at an entry level rate of pay in the amount of \$45,947. He discussed and increase to the resident trooper salaries and a training increase of \$2,000 due to an increase in the law Enforcement Council assessment and anticipated upgraded training. He discussed funding for older equipment and replacement ballistic vests that are about to expire. Under Capital Improvements the department is requesting the purchase of two new police cruisers in order to keep up with the car replacement program started in 1992. He indicated he had requested three cars last year and was approved for one. His total budget request reflects a twenty five percent increase over last year, due in part to the fact he added overtime costs and a part time clerical person to help out with answering telephones and greeting people at the door. He also discussed money added to the budget to purchase ten vests in the amount of \$600 each. He discussed the overtime budget, stating this money goes toward shift coverage, administrative overtime, training, special events such as parades and fireworks. He stated additional police officers are required for nights and weekends. He discussed the additional burden put on the police department by the casino and new hotels that bring in large quantities of people after hours. He hopes by adding additional staff during peak hours it will enable the department to be pro-active instead of reactive and to make the community a safer one. He stated visibility reduces problems. A discussion was held regarding grants for DUI programs.

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Loiler to approve the budget request from the Montville Police Department and to forward the budget request to the Town Council with the recommendation for approval by the Public Safety Commission. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Fire Chief Keith Truex submitted the budget request from the Chesterfield Fire Company to the Commission for review. He stated they are requesting a zero increase in the budget for the upcoming year. He discussed structural firefighting turnout gear, stating the NFPA has requested the turnout gear must be tested annually and can only be used for interior structural firefighting for a maximum of ten years. The cost to replace one complete set of gear in approximately \$2,500 and this cost was not incorporated into the budget. He suggested the Town include \$20,000 a year in the Capital Plan so that

each fire department can replace two sets of gear each year or allow each of the fire houses to include \$5,000 a year in their own budget for the cost to replace the gear. The cost to replace all of the gear for all four departments should they have to do so all in one year would exceed \$100,000. In order to break it up over several years, it would be fiscally responsible to purchase the equipment over a period of several years to avoid having to replace all the equipment at one time.

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Loiler to approve the proposed budget request and to forward the budget request to the Town Council with a recommendation for approval by the Public Safety Commission.

Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Chief Ron Turner, Mohegan Fire Department distributed a copy of the proposed budget to the Commission for review. He reviewed each line item, indicating there is a three percent proposed increase this year due in part to heating costs. He discussed routine vehicle maintenance and stated he can not predict any breakage before it happens but he hopes there will not be significant costs this year. He discussed replacement tire costs and stated they are only replaced on an as needed basis because they are costly.

Motion made by Commissioner McNally, seconded by Commissioner Loiler to approve the proposed budget request and to forward the budget request to the Town Council with a recommendation for approval by the Public Safety Commission. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Chief Ron Turner, Mohegan Fire Department distributed copies of the proposed Fire Department Capital Improvement Plan to the Commission for review. He indicated it is preliminary and not completed yet, but wants the Commission to have a chance to look it over. Chairman Jetmore stated he will place this on the February 22, 2010 regular meeting agenda for discussion.

No one was present to discuss the Mohegan Fire Company budget with the Commission. Chairman Jetmore stated he will add this discussion to the February 22, 2010 regular meeting agenda and requested a representative from the Fire Company attend the meeting for this discussion. It was noted the email sent from the Chief was incomplete and therefore there could not be a determination as to the monetary amount of money the Company is requesting.

Motion made by Commissioner McNally, seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to table the discussion of the Mohegan Fire Company proposed budget until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 22, 2010. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Chief Murphy stated he would like to clarify the two fire companies that are requesting increases to their budgets have a much higher call volume than the other two fire companies in the town and are justified in asking for increases. He stated he budget

should be looked at individually and given funding as deemed necessary, taking into consideration the call volume at each station. He stated the Mohegan Fire Department has a very high volume and is one of the busiest stations and should be treated as such.

6. Remarks from Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf

Councilor Buebendorf indicated she will be looking over all of the numbers from all of the budgets submitted at this meeting and will be commenting on them after she has had a chance to do so.

7. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor Jaskiewicz was not present for comment.

8. Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Butterworth discussed the need for incentive programs to draw volunteers to the town. He discussed volunteer incentive programs and discussed ways to help to keep the volunteers the town currently has. Chairman Jetmore stated the Commission and Fire Companies need to come up with ideas and present them to the Commission to work on. A discussion was held regarding tax breaks as incentive. A discussion was held regarding training and how the State makes it difficult by requiring so many hours of advanced, complicated training in order to become certified.

Commissioners Loiler and McNally thanked everyone for coming out and discussing their budgets with the Commission.

Commissioner Jetmore suggested anyone with incentive ideas or ideas for generating revenues to bring them to the Commission for discussion. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

9. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Loiler to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville