

Town of Montville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairman McNally called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

4. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit

Montville Public Schools Superintendent Laurie Pallin, who appreciated the opportunity to speak, spoke with respect to their request of \$43,799,600.00 for the FY2023/24. She stated that the requested budget increase of \$2,525,500 for the Board of Education's proposed FY2023/24 Budget includes the necessary costs to continue their current services and satisfy the critical needs in their education program, including the hiring of special education teachers, a certified athletic trainer, a Tyl Middle School P.E./Health Teacher, two (2) half-time custodians, and an Instructional Coach. There are no potential savings in employee benefits or fuel at this time. The budget does not include any excess funds for contingencies. She noted that, for the past two (2) years, the special education costs have exceeded their budget. After reviewing the budget several times, they believe that the budget, as presented, is *absolutely* required to adequately meet the needs of their students. She strongly requested their support.

Board of Education Chairman Wills Pike, an advocate and harsh critic of the BOE for several years, stated that their job, as elected officials, is to educate their students, allowing them to flourish. The largest population in the town is ages 24 to 50, traditionally the age at which families are born. Education is the fabric of the community and the education today's youth receive will benefit the growing senior community and their dedicated and supportive grandparents in the future. The BOE is seeking a 1% increase over its current budget to continue operations. During a recent Finance Standing Committee Meeting, the BOE requested half of the unexpected expense for the Tyl Middle School boiler to be included in the budget, offering to utilize part of their 2% non-lapsing account for the remaining amount. He thanked the Town Council for their consideration and time.

5. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2023-52. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to adopt the Town's five-year capital improvement plan in the total amount of \$35,459,380.00.

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

- b. **Resolution #2023-53. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to amend the capital improvement plan line item-by-line item.

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

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Police Car Replacement (Line Item 10960-54006) by one hundred and four thousand dollars (\$104,000.00) in the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Discussion: The town's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds will be utilized to cover the costs for two (2) of the three (3) requested vehicles. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to remove ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000.00) for Tenco Body Replacement #11 (Line Item 10960-54105) for Public Works in the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to remove fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000.00) for Fire Marshal truck (Line Item 10960-54009) in the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Discussion: Chairman McNally stated that, due to the favorable condition of the vehicle, it was agreed to remove the item from the Capital Improvement Plan at this time. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to remove one hundred and eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000.00) for the Town Hall paint/brick seal (Line Item 10960-54043) in the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Discussion: The possibility of the project being funded by the LoCIP (Local Capital Improvement Program) Grant was noted. Mayor McDaniel emphasized the necessity of the repairs. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to remove three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) for basketball court reconstruction (10960-54009) at Camp Oakdale in the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to remove sixty thousand five hundred dollars (\$60,500.00) for Van Replacement in the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to reduce MHS (Montville High School) Boiler (Line Item 10960-54009) for the Board of Education by one hundred and nine thousand dollars (\$109,000.00) in the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Discussion: As previously stated by BOE Chairman Pike, half of the project will be funded by the Board of Education Budget. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk, to approve all amendments to the main motion and to adopt the Town's five-year Capital Improvement Plan in the total amount of \$34,560,888.00. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman McNally asked if there were any additional changes the Councilors would like to make to the Capital Improvement Plan. Finance Director Griffin stated that approximately \$622,000.00 in funds remain. No additional changes were requested.

c. **Resolution #2023-54. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to adopt the fiscal year 2023-2024 Budget.**

Whereas, the Mayor has presented the budget to the Town Council; and

Whereas, the Board of Education has presented a budget to the Town Council; and

Whereas, the Town Council has caused to be published in a newspaper having circulation in the Town, a Notice of Public Hearings and a summary of the proposed budget estimates; and

Whereas, the Town Council held Public Hearings of the Board of Education proposed budget on April 27, 2023, and the General Government proposed budget on April 26, 2023, in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Charter of the Town of Montville.

Now Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the following budget on the estimated cost of current expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2024, to be adopted as follows:

General Government	\$ 26,588,260.00
Board of Education	\$ 43,799,600.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 1,183,000.00
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	\$ 71,570,860.00

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

- d. Resolution #2023-55. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to amend the budget line item by line item.

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

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May, to increase MV (Motor Vehicle) Supplement Tax (Line Item 10100-41003) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to increase Interest (Line Item 10100-41035) in the Mayor's proposed budget by twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to increase Transfer Station Disposal Fees (Line Item 10100-42040) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to increase Parks and Recreation (Line Item 10100-44005) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$2,250.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to increase Grants for Municipal Projects (Line Item 10100-47005) in the Mayor's proposed budget by forty-four dollars (\$44.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to increase Tuition Special Ed (Line Item 10100-48010) in the Mayor's proposed budget by twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease Fire Marshal Private Duty (Line Item 10100-48010) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to allocate two million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$2,900,000.00) to Use of Undesignated Fund Balance (Line Item 10100-41050) in the proposed budget. Discussion: While acknowledging the necessity, Councilor May expressed his reluctance in allocating such a large amount of their Rainy-Day Funds. Chairman McNally stated that the remaining funds after the allocation would be well within the town's Fund Balance Policy. In addition, approximately \$200,000.00 was deposited into the Fund, which currently has a balance of \$2.7 million. Regardless, Councilor Bunnell also expressed his reluctance. Mayor McDaniel stated that it would be a disservice to the taxpayers to not utilize the funds to help offset the budget and avoid a large tax increase. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to remove five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) from Use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds in the proposed budget. Discussion: The funds would be utilized for Workers' Compensation and Tipping Fees. Councilor May expressed his reluctance in allocating ARPA Funds for recurring costs. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease Mayor Fees Membership (Line Item 10310-52136) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Mayor Advertising (10310-53008) in the Mayor's proposed budget by three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Town Publication (10310-53049) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease Labor/Employment Matters (10340-52046) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to increase Raymond Community Library (Line Item 10360-52072) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: With the allocation of \$20,000.00 in ARPA Funds, the funding increase would place the FY 2023/24 Budget for Raymond Community Library at \$80,000.00. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease Eastern CT Conservation District (Line Item 10360-52077) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Safety Equipment (10370-53041) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Overtime (Line Item 10410-51100) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Social Security Taxes (Line Item 10420-52019) in the Mayor's proposed budget by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Workers' Compensation (Line Item 10420-52021) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Pension (Line Item 10420-52025) in the Mayor's proposed budget by fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Continued Education (Line Item 10420-53004) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: The proposed decrease is due to the lack of spending over the past two (2) years. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk, to decrease Part time IT (Line Item 10440-51075) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: The funding is for a new part-time position that is currently not filled. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Support/Access Fees (Line Item 10440-52036) in the Mayor's proposed budget by fifteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$15,500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease 2023 GO (General Obligation) Bond Interest (Line Item 10460-53209) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred seven thousand six hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$207,667.00). Discussion: As a result of good Bond Counsel, the General Obligation Bond Interest did very well, resulting in a credit. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Vital Statistics (Line Item 10710-53010) in the Mayor's proposed budget by three hundred dollars (\$300.00.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Fire Fighters Relief (Line Item 10480-52176) in the Mayor's proposed budget by fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00). Discussion: It was noted that the majority of Fire Fighters are receiving tax abatements rather than stipends for their service. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Land Records Expense (Line Item 10560-53023) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Land Use Overtime (10610-51100) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix, to increase Land Use Consulting Services (10610-53002) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to increase Land Use Advertising (10610-53008) in the Mayor's proposed budget by six thousand five dollars (\$6,500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Land Use Equipment (Line Item 10610-54000) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease EDC (Economic Development Commission) Secretary Salary (10650-51016) in the Mayor's proposed budget by eight hundred dollars (\$800.00). Discussion: The reduction is based on the actual expended amount over the last two (2) years. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease EDC (Economic Development Commission) Printing (10650-53014) in the Mayor's proposed budget by three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Discussion: The reduction is based on the actual expended amount over the last two (2) years. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease EDC (Economic Development Commission) Business Resource Forum (10650-53019) in the

Mayor's proposed budget by three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Social Services OT (Overtime) (Line Item 0720-51100) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Part-time Recreation Programs (Line Item 10730-51073) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500.00). Discussion: The reduction is due to the non-use of funds. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease PT (Part-time) Camp Oakdale (10730-51074) in the Mayor's proposed budget by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00). Discussion: The actual cost for the behaviorist was less than expected, resulting in a decrease. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Recreation Advertising (10730-53008) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to not fund Hardship Funding in the Recreation (Line Item 10730) budget in the Mayor's proposed budget for five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: Funding for those who are unable to attend camp due to financial hardship would continue to be provided. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion Made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease Youth Services OT (Overtime) (Line Item 10750-51100) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: It is believed that the line item was originally funded at \$4,000.00. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Emergency Management Training & Conferences (Line Item 10810-53004) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Emergency Management Reference Materials (Line Item 10810-53024) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred dollars (\$200). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease Emergency Management Office Equipment (Line Item 10810-53052) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Police Salaries (Line Item 10820-51040) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$280,000.00). Discussion: The amount was reduced due to a calculation error. The salaries are for the two (2) new School Resource Officers (SRO) which were initially funded through the town's ARPA Funds. The amount was verified by the soon-to-be Police Chief and Lieutenant. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease Police Overtime (Line Item 10820-51100) in the Mayor's proposed budget by twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00). Discussion: Because the School Resource Officers will be available to fill in for officers taking vacations during the summer months, it was

presumed that the overtime costs would be reduced. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Police Reference Materials (10820-53024) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Police Safety Equipment (Line Item 10820-53041) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to increase Police Physicals (Line Item 10820-53050) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Fire Marshal Training & Conferences (Line Item 10830-53004) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Fire Marshal Uniforms (Line Item 10830-53015) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Fire Marshal Equip Maintenance & Repair (Line Item 10830-53021) in the Mayor's proposed budget by fifty dollars (\$50.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Fire Marshal Private Duty (Line Item 10840-51042) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease PT (Part-time) Dispatch Salaries (Line Item 10870-51070) in the Mayor's proposed budget by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00). Discussion: The Fire Marshal and Police Chief are not planning to hire part-time Dispatchers; funding remains in the line item should that change. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Rix, to increase Dispatch Uniforms (Line Item 10870-53015) in the Mayor's proposed budget by seven hundred dollars (\$700.00). Discussion: The additional funding will provide new uniforms for the new hires. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Fire Protection OT (Overtime) (Line Item 10880-51100) in the Mayor's proposed budget by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to increase Fire Protection Uniforms (Line Item 10880-53015) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Discussion: Per the Union Contract, each Firefighter must be provided with two (2) sets of gear. Each set costs approximately \$4,000.00 and two (2) sets/year are purchased. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to increase Uniform Purchase/Repair (Line Item 10880-53016) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: The motion is for a new line item to allocate funds for Class A Uniforms and Repairs. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease Fire Protection Equipment Maintenance & Repair (Line Item 10880-53021) in the Mayor's proposed budget by twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00). Discussion: The line item funds routine maintenance and repairs. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Fire Protection Equipment (Line Item 10880-53086) in the Mayor's proposed budget by sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease PSB (Public Safety Building) Miscellaneous Supplies (Line Item 10890-53019) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease PW OT (Public Works Overtime) (Line Item 10910-51100) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: The reduction is based on the actual expended amount over the last two (2) years. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease Diesel Fuel (Line Item 10910-52004) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease Streetlight Repair (Line Item 10910-52008) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease Boat Launch (Line Item 10910-52156) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). Discussion: Because the Boat Launch will be undergoing renovations, funding would not be necessary; \$500.00 remains in the line item for any miscellaneous expenses that arise. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Evictions (Line Item 10910-52173) in the Mayor's proposed budget by six hundred dollars (\$600.00). Discussion: Currently, the Public Works Department is handling the evictions, and the remaining items are stored in the Connex Boxes. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease PW (Public Works) Advertising (Line Item 10910-53008) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Vehicle Expense Public Safety (Line Item 10910-53012) in the Mayor's proposed budget by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease Vehicle Expense Other (Line Item 10910-53013) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease PW (Public Works) Uniforms (Line Item 10910-53015) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease PW (Public Works) Miscellaneous Supplies (Line Item 10910-53019) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease PW (Public Works) Reference Materials (Line Item 10910-53024) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to increase PW (Public Works) Decorations (Line Item 10910-53033) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). Discussion: The additional funds will be used for the purchase of new, replacement flags. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease PW (Public Works) Safety Equipment (Line Item 10910-53041) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease PW (Public Works) Guardrails (Line Item 10910-53044) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease PW (Public Works) Road Striping (Line Item 10910-53045) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease PW (Public Works) Cold Patch (Line Item 10910-53055) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease PW (Public Works) Maintenance – Community Center (Line Item 10910-53100) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease PW (Public Works) Maintenance Social Services/Other (Line Item 10910-53206) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease PW (Public Works) Equipment (Line Item 10910-54000) in the Mayor's proposed budget by forty-four thousand dollars (\$44,000.00). Discussion: The funds in the line item are used primarily for equipment rentals. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease PW (Public Works) Mechanics Equipment (Line Item 10910-54029) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Camp Oakdale Propane (Line Item 10920-52013) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease Camp Oakdale Dog Park (Line Item 10920-52104) in the Mayor's proposed budget by six hundred dollars (\$600.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Camp Oakdale Training & Conferences (10920-53004) in the Mayor's proposed budget by six hundred dollars (\$600.00). Discussion: The funds are provided for field maintenance and fertilization training. The reduction is based on the trend over the past two (2) years. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Solid Waste OT (Overtime) (Line Item 10940-51100) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease Solid Waste Tipping Fees SCRRRA (Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority) (Line Item 10940-51124) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00). Discussion: The fees will derive from the town's ARPA Funds. There is no plan wherefrom the funding will derive for the future year(s). Voice vote, 6-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Bunnell. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease Solid Waste PT (Part-time) Landfill Operator (Line Item 10940-51131) in the Mayor's proposed budget by four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Solid Waste Recycling (Line Item 10940-52030) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: The town's Solid Waste Recycling is currently handled by Casella Waste Systems. The town is investigating the possibility of submitting a bid through SCRRRA. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Solid Waste Tipping Fees (Line Item 10940-52124) in the Mayor's proposed budget by thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to decrease Solid Waste Printing (Line Item 10940-53014) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Solid Waste Miscellaneous Supplies (Line Item 10940-53019) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May, to decrease Solid Waste Testing (Line Item 10940-53068) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Discussion: The reduction is based on the trend over the past two (2) years. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to decrease Solid Waste Equipment (Line Item 10940-54000) in the Mayor's proposed budget by one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to decrease Solid Waste Recycling Containers (Line Item 10940-54143) in the Mayor’s proposed budget by one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Bunnell, to decrease Board of Education (Line Item 10950-10950) in the Mayor’s proposed budget by five hundred thirty-eight thousand fifty-six dollars (\$538,056.00). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman McNally asked if there were any additional changes the Councilors would like to make to the General Government Budget.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Rix, to increase Line Item 10310-51001, Mayor Salary, by twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00). Discussion: Councilor Yuchniuk felt that the item should have been introduced during a Regular Meeting to provide the public with an opportunity to speak. Councilor Caron stated that the Councilors have discussed the item on several occasions. Councilor Bunnell stated that the item was originally approved by the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee and, for whatever reason, was not sent to the Town Council for approval. Councilor Mandler felt that the item should have been raised during their budget discussions. Councilor Rix noted that the Chairman just provided an opportunity to the Councilors for any additional changes. Chairman McNally agreed, adding that they have just reviewed and voted on the budget line-by-line, decreasing many of the line items by minimal amounts and are still looking at a 1 mil increase. As such, he did not feel that this was the right time to approve an increase in the Mayor’s salary. Roll Call vote. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, May, and Rix. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Mandler, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Motion carried.

A short recess was taken at 7:55 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:05 p.m.

Following all of the amendments to the main motion and the 2023-2024 budget was adopted as follows:

General Government	\$ 25,728,143.00
Board of Education	\$ 43,261,544.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 624,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 69,613,616.00

- e. **Resolution #2023-56. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to set the mill rate for the 2023-2024 fiscal year at 27.77 mills using at collection rate of 98.7%.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: The mill rate increase is 1.06. Councilor Bunnell questioned whether the revenue received from the state was accurately calculated and expressed his concerns for the following year(s) when the impact will be more strongly felt. Chairman McNally stated that the town has passed its budget before the state's budget is set for the past several years and the town has had to base its numbers on its best guestimate. Councilor May reiterated his concerns regarding the use of their Unassigned Fund Balance and ARPA Funds for recurring costs, which will present an issue in the future. Roll Call vote, 4-3. Voting in Favor: Councilors Mandler, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, and May.

- f. **Resolution #2023-57. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to allocate Cannabis Tax Revenue to Board of Education up to an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 (two hundred thousand dollars).

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: BOE Chairman Pike stated that the BOE plans to collaborate with the Youth Services Bureau

to educate the town's youth. Councilor May felt that the funds should also be utilized for Public Safety and the Police Departments, which are combating Cannabis daily. Mayor McDaniel added that the town is also receiving opioid funding which will be allocated toward mental health for the schools. 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.

6. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit

BOE Chairman Wills Pike suggested providing an explanation regarding the mil rate and how it is calculated. He also expressed his appreciation for their attention to the budget.

7. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel thanked the Councilors and commended them on a great job.

Councilor Bunnell acknowledged and appreciated the hard decisions and work that goes into crafting the budget.

Councilor Caron recognized former Town Clerk Lisa Terry's presence and the BOE members. He also thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work. He stated that his decisions are based on his personal beliefs and not his affiliation.

Councilor May expressed the difficulties in serving on the Finance Standing Committee over the past four (4) years and commended Councilors Mandler and McNally for their hard work. He commented on the difficulties the town will sustain in the future due to the additional employees and recurring costs. He also expressed his concerns regarding the tax increase which will negatively affect the seniors and those in need. He commended his colleagues and felt they did a good job, but did not agree with all of the numbers.

Chairman McNally expressed his appreciation to Councilors Mandler and May for all of their hard work. He stated the difficulties they encountered while crafting the budget and acknowledged the difficulties they will encounter in the future to balance the budget.

Councilor Rix thanked the Finance Standing Committee for their hard work and efforts and their attention to detail.

Councilor Yuchniuk stated that there are no police officers, teachers, or firemen who receive a \$25,000.00 salary increase. He also stated that adding it at the end of a Special Meeting was wrong and felt that it was done so with the sole purpose of avoiding the presence of the public to express their concerns. It is, he felt, one of the reasons many do not favor politicians.

Councilor Caron disagreed, stating that the Councilors had the opportunity to express their thoughts and vote as they wished.

Councilor Mandler stated that their future is unknown. He felt that the Councilors did their very best given the numbers at hand. He thanked the Mayor and his colleagues for all of their help with the budget.

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May, to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 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