

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – May 22, 2023 -- 6:00 PM**  
**Town Council Chambers – Town Hall**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**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 Traci Callaghan, Gary Murphy, Thomas Pedersen, Karen Perkins, and Stephen Stewart. Absent were Commissioners William Bauer and Mickey Gillette. A quorum was present.

**4. Amendments to the Agenda**

**Motion** by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Callaghan to consider and act on a motion to move up New Business, Item 12.a, Special Recognitions and Presentations to Item 4.a and make it a permanent Agenda line item. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. **Motion carried**

**4.a Special Recognitions and Presentations**

Police Chief Wilfred Blanchette presided over the presentation of “two well deserved promotions” to the position of sergeant. Officer Matthew Shepard was introduced as a 10-year veteran patrol, day shift officer and a vocal person in the Department. Sworn in by Town Clerk Katie Haring, Sgt. Shepard was pinned by his wife Jennifer. Officer Kenneth Stuart who shows true leadership on the team was introduced as a 8-year patrol, day shift officer and having a bachelor’s degree in criminal investigation. He was also sworn in by the Town Clerk and then pinned by his wife Meghan. Chief Blanchette congratulated the sergeants for work protocol and this achievement. Chairman Murphy congratulated the sergeants on behalf of the Commission.

**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 statistical reports from the departments for April 2023. Mayor McDaniel reported Building Inspector Jensen will be retiring to focus on his recovery and the loss of his wife. An official from another municipality

may want to apply for the position; but at present Vern Vessey is still providing coverage for the department along with the Administrative Assistant Carmen.

**6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve minutes:**

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2023.

**Motion** by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Pedersen to approve the April 24, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: none. Voice Vote: 5-0-0, all in favor.  
**Motion carried.**

**7. Remarks from the Public.**

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

**8. Remarks from Department Heads.**

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford echoed the sentiments of Police Chief Blanchette regarding the promotions of Sgt. Shepherd and Sgt. Stuart and thanked the Commission for accommodating the Department for the swearing in ceremony this evening. He reported there were 809 calls for service by the PD for the month ending April 30, 2023. There were 42 infractions, 1 juvenile summons, 12 misdemeanors, and 70 written warnings for a total of 125 citations. Chairman Murphy noted that traffic speed enforcement in Town has been great; Lt. Radford reported patrols are in different areas all over town.

Fire Department Report

The Activity Report received from Fire Marshal Barnes for the month ending April 30, 2023, is as follows: Inspections of businesses and apartments (57), Fire investigations (4), Investigation of possible hoarding (1), Incident responses/requested to the scene (2), and Burn permits issued (8). During the month of April, a total of two (2) hours was spent on Emergency Management obligations.

**9. Committee and Liaison Reports:**

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins read into the record the Fire Marshal statistical report for month ending April 30, 2023. She also read statistics into the record the Dispatch statistics for the period April 1, 2023 – June 1, 2023 and for the individual fire companies for the month ending April, 2023. The Fire Chiefs were thanked for submitting their reports.

**Dispatch: Fire Department Activity Report**

Total calls for Service	<b>244</b>
Fire/ MVA / Utility Emergencies/ Other	<b>46 = 18.85%</b> of Call Volume
Emergency Medical Service Calls	<b>198 = 81.14%</b> of Call Volume
Transports	<b>146 = 59.83%</b> of Call = <b>73.73%</b> of EMS Calls
Non Transports	<b>52 = 21.31%</b> of Call Volume and = <b>26.26%</b> of EMS Calls

Ambulance Transports Per Station

Montville	<b>52 = 35.61%</b> of Ambulance Transports
Mohegan	<b>46 = 31.50%</b> of Ambulance Transports
Chesterfield	<b>12 = 8.21%</b> of Ambulance Transports
Oakdale	<b>36 = 24.65%</b> of Ambulance Transports

Ambulance Transport Calls with No Career Staff	<b>26 = 17.80%</b> of Transports
Ambulance Transport Calls with Career Staff	<b>120 = 82.19%</b> of Transports

**Montville Fire Company (April 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>15</b>

**Mohegan Fire Company (April 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>10</b>

**Oakdale Fire Company (April 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>10</b>

**Chesterfield Fire Company (April 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>9</b>

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

The statistical reports for the month ending April 30, 2023, submitted by ACO Swanson are as follows:

**Town of Montville Animal Control Report (April 2023)**

	Month	YTD FY
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	7	117
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	6	72
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	0	1
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	1	4
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	92	891
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	2	12
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	3	9

**Town of Salem Animal Control Report (April 2023)**

	Month	YTD FY
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	4	6
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	0	1
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	0	0
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	0	0
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	7	45
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	1	3
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	0	0

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Commissioner Gillette remarked he had nothing to report. He welcomed Chief Blanchette and wished him good luck on his new assignment and looked forward to working with him.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

There was not a Building Department statistics reported for April 2023.

<b>2022-2023 Building Department Report</b>												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
<b>Permits Issued</b>	110	107	171	188	117	205	111	123				
<b>Pending Permits</b>	159	87	143	136	127	136	102	95				
<b>Inspections</b>	187	197	167	193	120	127	139	120				
<b>Plan Reviews</b>	62	70	67	71	57	70	62	69				
<b>CO's</b>	5	4	0	0	2	1	2	3				
<b>Violation Notices</b>	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	2				
<b>Unsafe Notices</b>	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	1				

<b>Blight Identified</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>205</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>	<b>487</b>	<b>491</b>				

**10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.**

Chief Keith Truex thanked the Commission for recognizing the Town and its Police Department. He remarked that the Salvation Army Canteen #1 that Chairman Murphy is involved with does a lot for the Town concerning fires but also out of Town, i.e., the Boston Marathon. The personnel involved should be recognized for their voluntary hours. Chief Truex then reported on a new, career firefighter who is wearing an orange shield, an item coordinated by fire chiefs years ago to designate probationary status. This is the first time he has seen a probationary orange shield worn by a career firefighter. The orange colored shield signifies to PD officers that an individual is under 18 years of age and therefore not allowed access to a building or to perform a water rescue. The Chief contacted the Fire Marshal about the orange shield and was told career shields were on order which the Chief was told months ago and told that old ones were taken with them by retiring firefighters. Lt. Radford noted khaki uniforms are worn by probationary PD officers. Rich Dole, a career firefighter, remarked the orange, numbered shield indicates an individual is not fully qualified although hired by the Town; specifically, the individual met the standard for the job per Chairman Murphy but has never ridden in an ambulance or completed a report R. Dole. The Mike Morin, a fulltime firefighter in Lebanon explained the individual has done the testing but is in a probationary status. The individual needs someone to work with him to show him the ropes. Lt. Radford noted the probationary period for PD officers is 14 weeks. Chief Truex noted the orange shield identifies an individual as having a lack of experience and the inability to perform specific tasks. Commissioner Stewart also noted helmets and shields have continuing numbers. Chairman Murphy asked Chief Truex to reach out to Fire Marshal Barnes again upon his return from vacation and notify him of the response if not satisfied.

**11. Unfinished Business.**

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

Chairman Murphy reported the Committee had to cancel its meeting twice.

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

Lt. Radford reported everything is on track although some items are on backorder. He commended Chief Blanchette on the tremendous help he has provided.

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

Chairman Murphy reported on receipt of an email two days ago from Fire Marshal Barnes, his response as requested by the Chairman at the last meeting. The Fire Marshal was able to connect with the maintenance and management of Millwood. The required appliances that are needed will be ordered this week and once received arrangements will be made to have them

attached to the tank and once the task is completed further updates will be provided to the Commission.

**12. New Business.**

a. To Consider and Act on a Motion concerning Special Recognition/Presentations. This item was moved up to Item 4.a on the Agenda.

b. To Consider and Act on a Motion concerning an Ordinance for Gun Ranges in Town. Chairman Murphy notice Commission to get information per requests from Town Councilors and information in the newspaper. Mayor McDaniel reported there have been a half dozen complaints of people target shooting in their backyards. All of the complaints were vetted and investigated by the PD and found not to be within 500 ft of adjacent properties with a safe backdrop and safe direction. Residents have been asked to call if there is shooting in their area. Actions taken have been legal and safe. Areas where complaints were made was noted. Town Councilor Yuchniuk commented on a CT State statute about reckless endangerment although there currently is no Town ordinance. Commissioner Stewart suggested the motion be taken off of the agenda given the responses this evening.

**Motion** by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Callaghan to remove Item 12.b from the Agenda. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

**13. Remarks from the Public. (Non-agenda items only—three-minute limit)** -- None

Lt. Radford remarked he has had many order delays that he deemed to be supply chain issues.

**14. Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor McDaniel thanked the fire companies for their participation in the Memorial Day Parade. The event was well attended and the public was impressed. The PD color guard was deemed outstanding. The fire and police departments were thanked for their protection, shutting down roads, and keeping a lot of people of safe. The Mayor also remarked that he hired the two (2) candidates sworn in this evening as sergeants and commended Chief Blanchette and Lt. Radford for making the right choice for Department leadership going forward with the transition. He mentioned the writing of new policies, purchasing power, department start-up and accreditation required for the PD Department.

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

Town Councilor Yuchniuk congratulated the new police sergeants sworn in this evening and remarked there are 5 – 5 ½ weeks remaining before celebration of the new PD department. He also responded to Commissioner Stewart concerning the status of the Animal Control facility. He reported there was a 3-3 vote by the Town Council to have the project go out to bid but the vote failed and although the project is on hold State legislature is helping to obtain funds. Mayor McDaniel reported on a bill passed by the State in response to an incident in Waterbury for its Animal Control facility where the Mayor had funds for it but would not use it. The State bill passed on heating/cooling of animal control facilities. He also noted to legislators yesterday that bonding is a priority for funding of the project. Town Councilor Yuchniuk also

responded to Commissioner Perkins that the July 1 ceremony will be held at MHS and begin at 1:00 p.m. but suggested the Commission arrive at 11:00 a.m.

**16. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Pedersen congratulated the new sergeants and wished them well. Commissioner Perkins thanked the fire chiefs for submitting their monthly reports. She also reported the Farmers Market will have 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Night on Tuesday, June 20 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Oakdale and Mohegan fire companies and the PD will participate in the event and she is waiting to hear back from Chesterfield and Montville fire companies. Commissioner Stewart echoed the Mayor's comments about the Memorial Day Parade that was well received with a good turnout. He remarked he was happy to hear about the status of the Animal Control facility and also thanked the new sergeants noting he had worked with Sgt. Shepherd on past MVAs. Chairman Murphy remarked the officers sworn in will make great sergeants and noted the promotion of the officers was a great selection and stated he has known Sgt. Shepherd for a long time but does not know Sgt. Stewart well. He also thanked Chief Truex for his comments regarding the Salvation Army Canteen that serves 56 towns and acknowledged the great crew involved and the supplies it administers. He also thanked the fire companies for taking care of the canteen. The Chairman also thanked the Recording Secretary for her hard work.

**17. Adjournment.**

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0; 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.**