

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – August 28, 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.

Vice-Chairman Stewart 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, Mickey Gillette, Karen Perkins and Stephen Stewart. Absent were Commissioners William Bauer, Gary Murphy, and Thomas Pedersen were absent. A quorum was present.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Callaghan to add Agenda, Item 13.a, To Consider and Act on a Motion concerning AED at Camp Oakdale. Discussion: none. Voice Vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

5. Special Recognitions and Presentations,--*None*

6. Communications:

- Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police, Animal Control and Building Official.

Vice-Chairman Stewart confirmed the receipt by the Commission of statistical reports from the departments for the month of July 2023. He noted a report was not received from the Building Department.

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

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the July 24, 2023. Discussion: none. Voice Vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

8. Remarks from the Public. (Agenda items only—three-minute limit.)

Vice-Chairman Stewart asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

9. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford reported the Police Department statistics for month ending July 31, 2023. Reported were 1016 calls for service. A total of 97 citations were issued that included 21 infractions, 12 misdemeanors, and 64 written warnings. He also noted the 200 increase in calls for service from that of June that he identified as true numbers. Lt. Radford remarked he was remiss last month by not presenting each commissioner with a patch in honor of Independence Day; the first day of school is this week and coverage will be at all the schools; and traffic control or enforcement will be increased in the area of the schools. The new K9 Officer Sig will begin training on September 11 with Officer Witts and will be on the road by the end of the year. The Lieutenant responded to Vice-Chairman Stewart about the replacement of Department service weapons with Glocks which every officer is now carrying. He also confirmed for Commissioner Perkins that canine patches are still available.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported Fire Marshal Statistics for the month ending July 31, 2023, as follows: Inspections (37), Fire investigations (2), Incident responses requested to the scene (2), and Plan Reviews (1). During the month of July, a total of eight (8) hours was spent on Emergency Management obligations. The Fire Marshal is in the process of hiring a new firefighter, a replacement for an already funded position for which there are 10 applicants as of the closing date on Friday, August 25th. The Town Human Resources Director will be calling the applicants today. Interviews will be conducted next Wednesday and Thursday, September 5th and 6th at the Public Safety Building and at least three (3) commissioners are needed to conduct the interviews. Fire Marshal Barnes asked that he not be locked out of the interviews and that no executive sessions be held. He remarked that it seemed the firefighters was the only Town entity in which this happens. He noted that Lt. Radford is able to attend the interviews as a supervisor and he requested the same courtesy. An email will be sent with the interview times that will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the applicants' names. Vice-Chairman Stewart thanked Fire Marshal Barnes for getting the Millwood issue completed.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins noted for the record the stipends determined at the Firefighter Relief Fund meeting held last month which she did not attend. Stipends were awarded as follows: Montville 10 stipends; Mohegan seven (7) stipends; Chesterfield three (3) stipends and two (2) tax abatements for the periods January thru March and April thru June; and Oakdale six (6) tax abatements and eight (8) tax abatements. The individual Fire Company statistical reports for July 2023 were submitted as follows:

Montville Fire Company (July 2023)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	14
EMS Calls	85
Fire Calls	3
Motor Vehicles Accident Calls	6

Other Calls	20
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Mohegan Fire Company (July 2023)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	3
EMS Calls	83
Fire Calls	2
Motor Vehicles Accident Calls	8
Other Calls	19

Oakdale Fire Company (July 2023)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	12
EMS Calls	44
Fire Calls	1
Motor Vehicles Accident Calls	5
Other Calls	14

Chesterfield Fire Company (July 2023)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	14
EMS Calls	23
Fire Calls	1
Motor Vehicle	4
Other Calls	26

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

The statistical reports for the month ending July 31, 2023, submitted by ACO Swanson are as follows:

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (July 2023)

	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded	13	13
# of Animals Sold as Pets	6	6
# of Animals D.O.A.	1	1
# of Animals Euthanized	1	1
Total Complaints Investigated	94	94
Total Animal Bites Investigated	1	1
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (July 2023)

	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded	1	1
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	5	5
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	0
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

Town Councilor Yuchniuk questioned how the data was calculated if two (2) fire companies respond to an incident. Commissioner Perkins will send an email tonight and hopes to have an answer by tomorrow. Fire Marshal Barnes remarked he no longer sees the individual fire company reports.

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Commissioner Gillette had nothing new to report but noted interviews will be conducted tomorrow for an ACO Assistant.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

Commissioner Stewart remarked that no statistical report was received for July 2023.

2023-2024 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued												
Pending Permits												
Inspections												
Plan Reviews CO's												
Violation Notices												
Unsafe Notices												
Blight Identified												
Blight Abated To Date												

11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- None

12. Unfinished Business.

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to discuss and take possible action on adding a new or part-time Animal Control Officer.

ACO Swanson reported she has worked in her position for 13 years and in that time has had seven (7) part-time officers. Most have sought the job in another town where there is more pay or have determined the job does not suit them. The position also requires additional training and a lot of law enforcement. Training occurs six (6) days or two (2) days per week; field training is two (2) weeks or two (2) months. The majority of calls happen during the evening. Calls do occur during the day but most people are working. Most other towns have transitioned the position to full-time; ACO Swanson has had a part-time person and one (1) who was per diem. Per a question from Commissioner Perkins, the ACO has not contacted the Finance Department about her proposal. Currently, the ACO is looking for a candidate for a career position, not part-time, and remarked the salary for the job is lower percentage-wise than that of other towns. A new ACO will have evening hours; ACO Swanson currently is the trainer for dog-to-dog interactions. Vice-Chairperson Stewart questioned Town Councilor Yuchniuk who is currently an ACO for Waterford that has two (2) full-time ACOs as does East Lyme. He reported these positions that were initially part-time were transitioned to full-time a year ago that has resulted in increased adoptions. New London and Groton have two (2) full-time ACOs. Town Councilor Yuchniuk remarked that a part-time ACO position requires working nights and weekends with no benefits; instead, the position is not a job it is a profession, a career position. ACO Swanson remarked the position is a responsibility as well as a liability for the Town and that funding for the position is an issue that must be overcome stating it is time to do something new. ACO Swanson responded to Commissioner inquiries about training that the State does not provide and annual training. **Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to forward the proposal for a new or part-time ACO to TARP (as suggested by Town Councilor Yuchniuk as a job description would be needed for the position) for consideration and action. Voice vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

13. New Business.

a. To Consider and Act on a Motion concerning AED at Camp Oakdale.

Vice-Chairman Stewart noted for the record that this motion was related to the email from Town Councilor Yuchniuk. Fire Marshal Barnes remarked the AEDs are regularly checked at Town buildings and can be operable one week and inoperable the next. The Pads for them have been out-of-date for almost a year having spoken to a supplier regarding the same. Fire Marshal Barnes is in the process of getting new batteries and pads for the AEDs as told to him by a distributor.. The AEDs are physically removed from their housing and checked for a green or red light but are not done every day as it will wear down the battery. The Police Department and Youth Services do call when their AEDs are not working. Vice-Chairman Stewart inquired about the number of AEDs; Fire Marshal Barnes remarked that every Town building has one (1) and there are two (2) at Camp Oakdale. Per an inquiry by Commissioner Callaghan as to how often the AEDs are checked, Fire Marshal Barnes remarked the AEDs are checked one (1) time a year and if he is in a Town building. He plans to include this item in a CIP to acquire new ones. He also noted that he does not maintain the ones at the schools and also noted a green light on an AED deems it in working condition. Fire Marshal Barnes also remarked there is not a log for checking AEDs; they are in Town buildings and fully checked once a year regularly as per the fire code; fire extinguishers are also required by fire safety code, AEDs are not. He will also contact Steve Carroll, Director of Maintenance for the Board

of Education as to their protocol regarding AEDs. Commissioner Perkins inquired how the Commission could help. Vice-Chairman Stewart deemed no action was required on the item on the part of the Commission.

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

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Matt Suarez of 18 Cranberry Drive remarked that the AEDs at Camp Oakdale be researched as some of them are 18 years old.

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel was absent from the meeting.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison. -- None

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins wished everyone a healthy, safe holiday weekend. Vice-Chairman Stewart wished everyone a safe, happy Labor Day and reminded the Commission to respond to email from the public and the Commission for a complete cycle of communication.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Callaghan to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0-0; 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.**