

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – November 27 , 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 Chairman Gary Murphy; Vice-Chair Stephen Stewart, and Commissioners Traci Callaghan, Mickey Gillette and Karen Perkins. Commissioners William Bauer and Thomas Pedersen were absent.

4. Amendments to the Agenda – *None*

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

6. 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 the month ending November 2023. Vice-Chair Stewart remarked that there is no report from the Building Department nor did he receive fire company reports. Commissioner Perkins reported she emailed the fire company reports for Oakdale and Montville to the Commission; she will send the Chesterfield report tonight but has not received a report from Mohegan.

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

- a.** The Regular Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2023.

Motion by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Callaghan to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2023. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor.
Motion carried.

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

Chairman Murphy 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 October 31, 2023. Reported were 891 calls for service. A total of 98 citations were issued that included 32 infractions, 1 juvenile summons, 6 misdemeanors, and 59 written warnings. The Lieutenant also read into the record complimentary and/or Performance Observation Reports (POR) issued as follows: (1) Alexandra Richardson submitted a report about Sgt. Shephard and his presence at an incident in 2021—she thanked him for his words that helped her silence blame and condemnation; (2) Officer Smith, Officer DiColella, and Officer DeSimone were praised by Donna Callicutt involving an auto accident on October 25, 2023, in which she and her daughter were rear-ended—she emphasized the officers professionalism and kindness; their attention to her daughter making her feel good and proud, and their taming of the scene. (3) Officer Hughes and Officer Fazzino were commended for their outstanding work in locating their missing granddaughter who was currently out-of-state. Lt. Radford also reported that Officer Hughes and Mora Serna have completed their field training and are working independently in the field. Officer DeSimone, the lateral hire, has completed his FTO. The Department is now at full staff. Chairman Murphy questioned the monthly report regarding prisoner transports and fingerprints. Lt. Radford responded that the prisoner transports are inclusive of all court visits, which has increased; fingerprinting is required for all job applicants, pistol permits, and Town employees.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported Fire Marshal Statistics for the month ending October 31, 2023, as follows: Inspections of businesses and apartments (21), Fire investigations (0), Incident responses/requested to the scene (3), Burn permits issued (9), Plan Review (0), Final C/O Inspection (1) and Complaint (1).. During the month of October, a total of eight (8) hours was spent on Emergency Management obligations. The Fire Marshal reported that firefighter second interviews will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, November 29 and 30. Initial interviews for assistant fire marshal were held last week; second interviews will take place this week or the next.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins emailed the monthly statistical reports for the fire companies to the Commission as shown below.

Montville Fire Company (October 2023)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	7
EMS Calls	72
Fire Calls	0
Motor Vehicles Accident Calls	5
Other Calls	19
Total Calls:	103

Mohegan Fire Company (October 2023)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	
EMS Calls	
Fire Calls	
Motor Vehicles Accident Calls	
Other Calls	
Total Calls:	

Oakdale Fire Company (October 2023)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	12
EMS Calls	40
Fire Calls	0
Motor Vehicles Accident Calls	5
Other Calls	6
Total Calls:	63

Chesterfield Fire Company (October 2023)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	4
EMS Calls	14
Fire Calls	0
Motor Vehicle	4
Other Calls	22
Total Calls:	44

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

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

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (October 2023)

	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded	17	47
# of Animals Sold as Pets	6	26
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	2
# of Animals Euthanized	2	4
Total Complaints Investigated	87	381
Total Animal Bites Investigated	3	4
Total Infractions/Summons	2	6

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (October 2023)

	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded	3	5
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	1	2
Total Complaints Investigated	7	21
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	0
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

Commissioner Callaghan had nothing new to report.

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette) -- *None*

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart) -- *None*

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. -- *None*

13. New Business.

a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve a Policy to systemize and retain firefighter data to observe trends and effectiveness.

Chairman Murphy proposed tabling this motion given the talks between the Mayor and the Fire Chiefs regarding the same.

Motion by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to table but leave on the agenda a Policy to systemize and retain firefighter data to observe trends and effectiveness. Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve the Commission 2024 Meeting Schedule. Chairman Murphy reported receiving an email from the Town Clerk that the Commission bylaws and regulations require it to meet once a year at one (1) of the fire departments. Otherwise, it must be removed so the Commission is not in violation per its Rules and Procedures, 2.2.1.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Callaghan to hold all Public Safety Commission meetings at the Town Hall. Discussion: Vice-Chair Stewart remarked that logistics other than the Town Hall are problematic, specifically meeting recordings. Commissioner Callaghan remarked there is more space at the Town Hall and the climate at the firehouses must be regulated in addition to the set-up of tables and chairs. Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to approve the 2023-2024 Commission meeting schedule and amending the May 27, 2024 date (Memorial Day) to Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0-0; all in favor. **Motion carried, as amended.**

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

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Firefighter Union President Tim Condon, 51 Gallup Lane, Waterford remarked on the charge to the fire chiefs by the Commission to present a policy for after action review and asked that an update be obtained. He presented to the Commission a second month of data described as being in the form of charts and very wordy. Calls tracked were 252 (having a 90% accuracy); 232 fire calls, and 8 EMS calls. It was noted that some had missing calls and ambulances have not responded some of the time. There was an uptick in volunteer crews from 12% to 16% with the Oakdale station best handling the calls at 40%. EMS calls were responded to by volunteers 33% of the time. Fire calls were mostly responded to by two (2) firefighters and or one (1) or more firefighters. All of the fire companies had no response to calls 12.5% of the time. Union President Condon remarked that the information offered was not to embarrass anyone. He noted a more robust volunteer program as well as career firefighter was needed and added that other agencies are working on things. Although some are upset by the data accumulated, the aim is to determine what happens and what does not. Union President Condon responded to Chairman Murphy that no calls at any time goes unanswered. Data points are being reviewed to best utilize current assets. He also expressed discontent regarding paid versus volunteer firefighters as all must address issues. Per a question by Chairman Murphy regarding mutual aid, T. Condon remarked he has the dates and the number of times mutual aid was requested and added the Town has done mutual aid stating everyone must help each other. Chairman Murphy apologized for Union President Condon acceding the 3-minute limit as he had important information to share.

Resident Robert Yuchniuk remarked that the Town has put out bids for the Animal Control Facility that should be returned by December 5th. The status of a grant for the project should be known by mid-December.

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell remarked that Catherine McCarty sponsored the grant mentioned by Resident Yuchniuk who he thanked for the information he provided. The Mayor reported he is in the process of meeting with all Town departments and that he had reinstated the monthly department head meetings. He applauded the letters read into the record by Lt. Radford noting that the impact of words is not known as described in the letter regarding Officer Shephard. He added that the other letters highlighted the individuals who took the time to share their experience. Mayor Bunnell congratulated the police officers having completed FTO and Fire Marshal Barnes for the information on the interviews. He also reported that he met with Dave Jenkins who is recovering well and in good spirits. The Mayor remembered calls for service with the State PD and proving that some calls were not answered having spent more time responding to other towns. Also reported on the increase in the mill rate by 1 mill in the current budget. Lastly, he remarked his door was open for suggestions and of his intent to represent everyone concluding by wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas holiday.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Sabilia remarked he was new to this and he is looking forward to finding solutions. He also extended congratulations to Mayor Bunnell.

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins remarked that she has reached out to the Fire Chiefs and the Fire Marshal to get information and pictures of the fire companies. She also contacted Kathy Peck who will be having an event at the Senior Center. Vice-Chair Stewart wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season and agreed with taking a look at the after action review. He also remarked that it was good to hear good words about the firefighters, volunteers, and police officers. Chairman Murphy wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0-0, 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.**