

**Town of Montville Town Council**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**May 30, 2024, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Montville Town Hall – Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, May, Sabilia, Southard, and Yuchniuk. Also present was Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

4. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit  
Chesterfield Fire Company Chief Keith Truex, 1046 East Lake Road, expressed his support for the allocation of funds for a new M-37 Rescue Vehicle in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. The new medium-duty vehicle is comparable to the existing vehicle, which is 27 years of age and experiencing issues due to age. After extensive research, the original price estimate of \$800,000.00 was reduced to \$580,000.00 from a new, reputable company. The truck would include all the necessary specs, radio, and rescue tools. The truck, which would have an estimated lifespan of 25 years, would be a sound investment in the Town's safety and future.

Brian Baker, 560 Chesterfield Road, Member, Public Safety Commission, also spoke in favor of allocating funds for the new M-37 Rescue Vehicle in the Town's FY2024/25 Capital Improvement Plan. He stated that the Fire Company has requested the item be included in the Town's Capital Plan for the last two (2) years, during which it has experienced substantial price increases. Due to the 2026 EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Diesel Engine Standard Increase, continuing raw material shortage, continuing supply chain issues, increasing labor costs, and the estimated two- to three-year delivery time, it would be more fiscally responsible to purchase the vehicle before it becomes unaffordable.

Laurie Pallin, Superintendent of Schools, requested the Town Council consider increasing the Board of Education (BOE) Budget based on the following:

- 1) the BOE has been operating with a deficit budget for the last two (2) years and has no contingency funds
- 2) the proposed BOE Budget includes the bare minimum of their needs
- 3) several community members who spoke in support of the proposed BOE Budget
- 4) the anticipated number of students and related class sizes, some of which are close to or at their maximum class sizes

She requested the Councilors consider three (3) possible revenue sources:

- 1) the anticipated Connecticut Excess Cost Grant of \$695,000.00 of rather than the budgeted \$450,000.00. These funds are provided by the state to help offset special education costs
- 2) the anticipated receipt of \$150,000.00 from the Cannabis Sales Tax
- 3) defer or consider a lease option for two (2) buses and (1) van included in the Town's Capital Plan and re-allocate the funds to the BOE's operating budget

The acceptance of the Mayor's Proposed Budget would also result in a reduction of extremely important programs and services and would be detrimental. She also explained a discrepancy between the starting figures used by the Town Council and BOE and provided a document clarifying the difference. The proposed adjusted BOE budget increase, as of nine (9) days ago, is 4.112%.

Wills Pike, Chairman, Board of Education, also spoke in support of the proposed BOE Budget and requested they express their humanity. He commended the school system, staff, and BOE members and stated the importance of providing a quality education. While no one enjoys paying taxes, he has found that residents are agreeable to paying additional taxes to receive certain services, including education. He warned that the budget cut would result in cuts to school security and custodial services. He reiterated the importance of preserving their education system and requested they consider the Superintendent's comments.

Timothy Shanahan, 12 Dubois Road, spoke in support of the BOE's proposed budget and the allocation of funds for the new M-37 Rescue Vehicle.

5. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2024-29. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the Suspense List at the request of the Tax Collector in the amount of \$133,827.40 (one hundred and thirty-three thousand eight hundred twenty-seven dollars and forty cents). (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2024-30. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to extend the auditing services of Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) Wealth Advisors, LLC, for the FY2023/24 Audit for the Town of Montville. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2024-31. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to adopt the Town's five-year Capital Improvement Plan in the total amount of \$45,143,322.00 (forty-five million one hundred forty-three thousand three hundred twenty-two dollars). (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Yuchniuk. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2024-32. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to amend the Capital Improvement Plan line-item by line-item. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to move Community Center Bathroom for \$130,000.00 (one hundred and thirty thousand dollars) to LoCIP in the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to remove \$77,500.00 (seventy-seven thousand five hundred dollars) for Cameras in the Capital

Improvement Plan for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Discussion: The proposed security cameras were to be installed in the Town's Parks & Recreation facilities. The installation of a more comprehensive grant-funded system that will provide video feeds to the Police Department is being planned for all of the Town's facilities. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to add \$75,000.00 (seventy-five thousand dollars) for Turn Out Gear in the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to add \$180,000.00 (one hundred eighty thousand dollars) for Air Pack/Bottles in the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to add \$625,000.00 (six hundred twenty-five thousand dollars) for M-37 Rescue Vehicle to Lease Purchase in the Capital Improvement Plan. Discussion: Councilor Lathrop noted that the motion to fund the item failed during the recent Public Safety Commission meeting and felt that the Commission's vote should be considered, especially during this difficult budget year. Chairman May stated that, while the motion is to include the item on the Capital Plan, it does not authorize its purchase and would need to go through the process and return to the Town Council for final approval. Councilor Yuchniuk stated the Fire Departments' Truck Purchasing Policy, which was adopted in 2018, should be followed and felt that approving the motion was premature. Chairman May reiterated that the process, including those outlined in the Policy, will need to be completed before the vehicle is purchase. Roll Call vote, 5-2. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Lathrop and Yuchniuk. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to approve all amendments to the main motion and to adopt the Town's five-year capital improvement plan in the total amount of \$45,945,822.00 (forty-five million nine hundred forty-five thousand and twenty-two dollars). Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Yuchniuk. Motion carried.

e. **Resolution #2024-33. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to adopt the fiscal year 2024-2025 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 24, 2024, and the General Government proposed budget on April 25, 2024, 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, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025, to be adopted as follows:

General Government	\$ 24,603,658.00
Board of Education	\$ 44,343,086.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 1,771,601.00
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	\$ 70,718,345.00

- f. **Resolution #2024-34. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to amend the budget line-item by line-item.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to amend the budget line item by line item. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to increase Police Reimbursement Private Duty (10100-49005) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$405,000.00 (four hundred five thousand dollars). Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to increase Use of Undesignated Fund Balance (10100-41050) by \$2,300,000.00 (two million three hundred thousand dollars) in the proposed budget. Discussion: The amount is in addition to the Mayor's proposed allocation of \$500,000.00 (five hundred thousand dollars) from the Undesignated Fund Balance for a total of \$2,800,000.00 (two million eight hundred thousand dollars). Councilor Yuchniuk commented on the legitimacy of allocating the same funds that he had proposed using to fund the construction of a new Animal Control Facility. Roll Call vote, 6-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Yuchniuk. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to increase United Community Family Services (10360-52084) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$2,000.00 (two thousand dollars). Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to add Thames River Community Services (10360-52085) in the Mayor's proposed budget for \$2,000.00 (two thousand dollars). Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to increase Debt Principal (10450-53208) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$550,000.00 (five hundred fifty thousand dollars). Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to decrease Debt Interest (10460-53210) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$126,750.00 (one hundred twenty-six thousand seven hundred fifty dollars). Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to decrease PT Dispatcher's Salaries (10870 -51070) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$15,000.00 (fifteen thousand dollars). Discussion: The full-time Dispatchers are currently alleviating the need for part-time Dispatchers. Should the situation change, funds may be allocated to supplement the line item. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to decrease Engineering Services – Other (10620-52148) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$30,000.00 (thirty thousand dollars). Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to decrease Registrars' Salary (10570-51014) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$6,000.00 (six thousand dollars). Discussion: Councilor Yuchniuk felt that it was improper to reduce the Registrars' salaries given the increase from three (3) to 28 (twenty-eight) election days, to comply with the state's requirements. Chairman May stated that the line item includes a \$10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars) increase in addition to a recent salary increase. Additional funds will be added to accommodate any additional necessary hours to comply with the state's requirements. Roll Call vote, 5-2. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Lathrop and Yuchniuk. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to decrease Road Foreman (10910-51018) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$15,000.00 (fifteen thousand dollars). Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to decrease Medical Insurance (10420-52020) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$20,000.00 (twenty thousand dollars). Discussion: The reduction is based on the past years' trends. Roll Call vote, 6-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Yuchniuk. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to decrease Pension (10420-52025) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$80,000.00 (eighty thousand dollars). Discussion: Similar to the Medical Insurance line item, the reduction is based on the past years' trends. Roll Call vote, 6-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Yuchniuk. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to decrease Police Private Duty (10840-51041) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$200,000.00 (two hundred thousand dollars). Discussion: The line item includes funding for police officers hired to work outside their regular employment, including traffic control during road/construction jobs. The funds are paid by outside companies and deposited into the Town's General Fund. \$205,000.00 (two hundred five thousand dollars) remains in the line item. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to increase Board of Education (10950-53051) in the Mayor's proposed budget by \$540,765.00 (five hundred forty thousand seven hundred sixty-five dollars). Discussion: Councilor Yuchniuk expressed his opposition to the motion, stating that the children should be their highest priority and that decreasing the BOE's proposed budget request would result in a negative impact. As BOE Chairman Pike stated, the BOE will be cutting School Security from their budget; he hoped that nothing would happen due to a lack of funding. Roll Call vote, 4-2-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Lathrop and Yuchniuk. Voting in Abstention: Councilor Sabilia. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to approve all amendments to the main motion and to adopt the 2024-2025 budget as follows:

General Government	\$ 24,664,908.00
Board of Education	\$ 44,883,851.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 1,819,101.00
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	\$ 71,367,860.00

Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 4-2-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Lathrop and Yuchniuk. Voting in Abstention: Councilor Sabilia. Motion carried.

- g. **Resolution #2024-35. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to set the mil rate for the 2024-2025 fiscal year at 27.77 mils using at collection rate of 98.7%.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: The mil rate represents a 0% (zero percent) increase. Roll Call vote, 6-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Yuchniuk. Motion carried.

- h. To Consider and Act on a Motion to authorize Mayor Leonard Bunnell to make application for a Community Investment Fund Planning Grant, Round Five, in the amount of \$250,000.00 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) to fund the Norwich-New London Turnpike Investment Plan. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: The CIF (Community Investment Fund) offers a Planning Grant for qualifying municipalities to promote economic or community development. If awarded, the Grant would be allocated to improving and transforming the Route 32 Corridor and lay the groundwork to attract development. A similar project is being conducted in Plymouth, Connecticut (<https://www.plymouthct.gov/ShapingOurCommunity>). Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Lathrop, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

6. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit  
Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin expressed her deep disappointment and requested a meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the possibility of applying the three possible funding sources she had earlier stated to the BOE Budget.

Deeann Morton, Assistant Tax Collector and Resident, informed the Town Council that there are two separate mil rates for personal property and real estate. She also questioned the amount of state aid funding the Town would be receiving.

7. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Chairman May thanked the public for attending their meeting. He felt that a good budget was passed this evening and several of the necessary Town functions and needs were funded, including the Air Pack/Bottles, Turnout Gear, Police Department Body Armor, Fair Oaks Bathroom Renovations, Police Department Vehicles, Police Department Outreach Program, new Firefighter, and a Part-time Senior Center Program Assistant, with a zero-mil rate increase. The Finance Committee also collectively reduced town department budgetary expenses — the majority of which were overruns or overbudgeted items. The BOE Budget was increased by \$1,622,000.00 or 3.75%.

Mayor Bunnell expressed his appreciation to everyone for their hard work, including the BOE. He has learned a lot throughout the process. The budget includes many recurring items that were previously funded through the Town's surplus funds that needed to be funded. He expressed his concerns with decreasing the schools' security to accommodate the BOE's funding losses.

Councilor Southard stated the importance of education and wished to have confirmation that the Superintendent's suggestions would be considered and acted upon.

Councilor Jaskiewicz stated his appreciation to the Finance Committee for their hard work.

Councilor Caron concurred with the previous comments.

Councilor Sabilia, an employee of the BOE, expressed his difficulties and reiterated Superintendent Pallin's recommendations.

Councilor Lathrop thanked the public for attending and speaking this evening. He looks forward to good things and keeping the town moving forward. He has had a big learning curve and had the pleasure of meeting many residents in the process.

Councilor Yuchniuk requested the Unassigned Fund Balance amount and expressed his disappointment with not fully funding the proposed BOE Budget, which does not reflect their signage that states, "Montville – Proud of Our Schools". He felt that the children would suffer due to the lack of funding and apologized to the BOE and Superintendent.

Finance Director Barbara Griffin stated that the remaining Unassigned Fund Balance is just over 13% of the Town's Operating budget.

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 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**