

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, January 23, 2012
Town Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jetmore called the regular meeting of the Public Safety Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Allyn, Butterworth, Loiler, McNally, Moran and Jetmore. Absent was Commissioner Wehner. Also present was Mayor McDaniel and Town Council liaison, Candy Buebendorf.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Loiler to add agenda item 12 (a) To consider and act on a motion to discuss police uniforms. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Communications

- a. Copies of Town Council Resolution #'s 2012-001 and 2012-007 pertaining to the Public Safety Commission
- b. Copies of the appointment letters for Commissioners Allyn and McNally.
- c. The monthly statistics reports from the Fire Marshal, Fire Departments, Police Department, Animal Control and Building Official for December, 2011/January, 2012.

6. Approval of the regular meeting minutes of December 19, 2011 and the special meeting minutes of January 4, 2012.

Motion made by Commissioner McNally, seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 19, 2011 and the special meeting minutes of January 4, 2012 as submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried and the meeting minutes were approved.

7. Executive Session – none.

8. Remarks from the Public

Chairman Jetmore asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Commission.

9. Remarks from Department Heads

Fire Marshal Ray Occhialini distributed copies of the Montville Fire Marshals Report for December, 2011 to the Commission members. He indicated there was a total of two hundred and thirteen first due calls during December and listed the number of calls for each fire house and stated there were four out of town calls during the month. He stated the Fire Marshal's office has had an increase in building permit inspections due to renovations and new construction including the Orchard Grove Rehabilitation renovations, Backus Heath Care, an addition to a warehouse at Builder Tile, Natures Art Museum, an addition to the Osterman Propane facility, Anytime Fitness and the Public Safety Building. He discussed the new Dispatch Center, stating it is coming together and the equipment has been picked. The new one hundred and forty foot radio tower project has all of the permits and will be completed by early April. The infrastructure upgrade has been completed at the Cook Drive site and the Chapel Hill upgrade is in the works waiting on better weather. A capital project was submitted to install the radio receivers at the Richard Brown Drive to cover the portable radio dead spots on Route 82 and the Leffingwell Road areas.

Lt. Bunnell, Montville Police Department apologized that he did not have his monthly statistics report for this month. He commended the Fire Marshal for all the work he has done on the radio system for the Town, stating he did a great job. He discussed the Youth Services Bureau meeting regarding reviving the Juvenile Review Board and he stated the Mayor is supporting the proposal. He discussed the Public Safety building construction and staffing levels at the Police Department. Lt. Bunnell commended all who responded to a Christmas Eve cardiac arrest that resulted in first responders saving the life of a resident.

10. Reports from Committees and Public Safety liaisons

11. Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion regarding progress to the Public Safety building

Lt. Bunnell updated the Commission regarding the progress to date to the Public Safety building and stated the building is on schedule and is moving along at a great pace and should be weather tight by March.

b. Update regarding progress to the Public Safety Plan.

Commissioner Allyn discussed the Public Safety Plan, stating meetings are scheduled February 1 – 3, 2012 with Almont Associates and the department heads to begin discussions and data collection for the Plan. He distributed the agenda for the meetings to the Commission members and invited them to attend if they are available to do so. He discussed the process and the meeting packet information with the Commission.

Chairman Jetmore thanked Commissioner Allyn for all his hard work moving the Public Safety Plan forward and coordinating the special meetings and he thanked the Town Council for approving the money to move forward with the Plan.

12. New Business

a. Discussion regarding uniforms for the Police Department

Officer Mark Manley 3rd shift supervisor for the Montville Police Department is requesting approval from the Commission to change the uniforms worn by the Police Officers and he stated he has been in contact with the Police Officers in regards to their feelings about a uniform change and all but one is in favor of changing the uniform to a Patrol Duty Uniform. The Town is responsible for purchasing all uniforms for the Police Department and he is requesting permission from the Commission to outfit one member of each shift with a different make BDU or PDU uniform and to have an officer wear the uniform for thirty days. At the completion of the thirty days the three officers will attend a Public Safety meeting to report on the various uniforms. He explained Groton City Police Department, Norwich Police Department, the Department of Corrections and the Mohegan Tribal Department have switched to the requested uniforms and they have expressed only positive feedback.

Officer Jacobson stated the Union is in favor of changing the police uniforms.

Lt. Bunnell stated he is not in favor of changing the uniforms, stating officers should be recognized as police officers and therefore should look like a police officer to command respect and control. He discussed the uniform change fifteen years ago, stating the public thought the police officers looked like security guards in the BDU uniforms and not Police Officers. He would like the officers to wear full brim hats instead of baseball caps and to wear a full uniform instead of the BDU uniforms while on duty.

Sgt. Gelinis, Resident State Trooper stated his uniform will not change but he supports the proposed uniform change for the Montville troopers. He stated Norwich has changed to the BDU type tactical uniform and the dog handlers have already changed over because it is a more practical uniform for use in the field. He stated there will be pros and cons if the uniform is changed, and he stated he would still like everyone to look professional and uniform.

Councilor Buebendorf inquired if the police officers get new uniforms each year and Officer Manley stated when an officer starts out he receives three winter and three summer uniforms and pieces of the uniform are replaced on an individual basis as required.

Commissioner Butterworth discussed the uniforms, stating the uniforms requested are machine wash and will save the officers money on dry cleaning fees. He is in favor of full uniform when on duty at schools and special events.

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Moran to authorize the proposed uniforms for the Police Officers on a trial basis. Discussion, Chairman Jetmore suggested the officers wearing the uniforms poll the public regarding their thought about the uniforms and report back to the Commission with their findings . Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

13. Remarks from the Public

Chairman Jetmore asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Commission.

14. Remarks from Mayor McDaniel

Mayor McDaniel discussed the December 23, 2011 response to the resident in cardiac arrest. He met with the Fire Chiefs regarding the insurance issues and questions they had for the insurance company. He approved the MOU regarding the communication service and the Tower at Cook Drive. He discussed the budget process to date.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf

Councilor Buebendorf stated she is pleased the Public Safety Plan is moving forward and thanked the Commission for all their help and for speaking to the Town Council regarding approving the plan.

16. Remarks from Commission members

Commissioner Allyn stated the Plan is moving forward and everyone will have the opportunity to give their input and invited anyone who wants to attend the meetings to do so. He discussed the Policies and Procedures and stated the Commission did not follow the process to review the budgets and suggested the Commission review the document.

Commissioner Butterworth stated the Juvenile Review Board is a great idea and indicated the process works if you get to the juveniles soon enough.

17. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Loiler, seconded by Commissioner McNally to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville.