

**Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 23, 2015– 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall**

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Jetmore called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Joseph DePasquale, James Moran, Karen Perkins, and David Jetmore. Also present were Lt. Leonard Bunnell, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, Town Council Liaison Laura Tanner, and Fire Marshal Ray Occhialini. Commissioners Elizabeth Adams, Gary Allyn, and Eric Rousseau and Resident State Trooper Sgt. James Smith were absent.

4. Amendments to the Agenda -- None

5. Communications: Copies of monthly statistics reports from the Fire Marshal, Fire Departments, Police Department, Animal Control and Building Official.

The Fire Marshal and Building Official reports were submitted electronically prior to the meeting. The Police report was emailed later. A copy of the report was given to the Recording Secretary.

6. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2014 and Special Budget Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2015; and the Regular Meeting minutes of January 19, 2015

Motion made by Commissioner Jetmore; seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2014 and Special Budget Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2015; and the Regular Meeting minutes of January 19, 2015; discussion, none; voice vote 4-0; all in favor, motion carried.

7. Remarks from the Public

Commissioner Jetmore asked three times for remarks. Oakdale Fire Chief Gary Murphy asked whether Item 11.a on the agenda referred to the Public Safety Plan. Commissioner Jetmore

confirmed the question and stated that the Plan had not been formally accepted by the Commission. Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex

8. Remarks from Department Heads

Lt. Bunnell reported that he sent his monthly report out late. A copy of that report was given to the Recording Secretary.

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex spoke about the reporting system for the fire department and a meeting that will be held on March 11 at 6:00 p.m. on the same. He invited the Commission, Mayor McDaniel, and Town Council Liaison Tanner to the meeting that will be held at the Chesterfield Firehouse. Also, Chief Truex made a request for a paid firefighter at his station. He also commented on the Agenda Item 11.a having to do with acceptance of the Public Safety Plan. He stated that a lot of the fire information in the report was "junked" and questioned what happened to the meetings with fire stations to discuss the report. Commissioner Jetmore stated that he was asked by Commissioner Allyn to send letters to the fire stations which he did.

Fire Marshal Occhialini commented on the excessive snowfall this winter and storm reimbursement (\$160,000) that is being sought from the State. He also reported on RPM training.

9. Reports from Committees and Public Safety Liaisons

Commissioner DePasquale reported that the Montville Feasibility Committee would be submitting its report along with a PowerPoint presentation to the Town Council within the next two months. Commissioner Moran asked about Governor Malloy's plan for full payment to Resident State Troopers. Commissioner DePasquale referenced two (2) bills asking for a reduction of fringe benefits and his plan to meet with a senator regarding this issue.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Modify the current policy on police uniforms to include the newly purchased lime green "construction type" shirts and vest for road jobs.

Motion made by Commissioner DePasquale; seconded Commissioner Moran, to remove the agenda item regarding modification of the current policy for police uniforms; discussion: Town Council Liaison Tanner asked if there is not a policy would officers use the vest. Lt. Bunnell replied in affirmative stating that it is a requirement of OSHA.

b. Update on interviews for lateral transfer police applicants.

Lt. Bunnell reported that applicants were interviewed for lateral transfer and three (3) names were forwarded to the Mayor.

c. Status update on interviews of entry level candidates.

Lt. Bunnell reported that conditional letters are being sent to the candidates.

11. New Business

a. Consideration and action to accept the Public Safety Plan/Almont Study (Jetmore).

Commissioner Jetmore proposed postponing the vote on the Public Safety Plan until the March meeting so that Commissioner Perkins has an opportunity to review it.

b. Consideration and action on a phone bridge for meeting attendance (Allyn).

The Commissioners discussed the idea for a phone bridge and the legality of it. Commissioner Jetmore commented that it would be prudent to resign if you are unable to attend Commission meetings.

c. Discussion of budget presentations (Jetmore).

Commissioner Jetmore stated that due to a lack of communication that firefighters were not notified of the budget meeting on January 5th. Fire Chief Gary Murphy reported that the budget for the Oakdale station has increased from \$88,295 last year to a proposal of \$94,428 for the upcoming fiscal year. He commented that this is the first time in six (6) years that an increase has been sought that is relative to higher fuel costs and for electricity that was \$16,800 last year. Another factor for the increased budget is having to cut back on two (2) major fundraisers, the Haunted Hayride and Santa's Breakfast, due to parking issues, at a loss of approximately \$25,000.

Motion made by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Jetmore, to approve the FY 2015-2016 budget of \$94,428 for the Oakdale Firehouse; discussion, none; voice vote 4-0; all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion followed by Commissioner Jetmore about budget requests that he did not receive. He further said that Animal Control, Public Safety Building, and Chesterfield budgets for FY 2015-2016 were done. Mayor McDaniel left the meeting briefly to obtain copies of the Mohegan and Montville Firehouse budgets. In his absence, Lt. Bunnell, discussed the upcoming year police budget that includes a staff of 26 officers, sound proofing for the interview room, detective area, and the interview room in the Community room, a full-time custodian, additional funds for training, a radio upgrade, repairs to the boat, and a Capital Improvement item for the replacement of five (5) police vehicles.

Motion made by Commissioner Jetmore; seconded by Commissioner Moran; to approve the FY 2015-2016 budget; discussion; none; voice vote, 4-0; all in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner Perkins asked for a hard copy of the Public Safety Plan that she can mark up. Town Council Liaison Tanner suggested that she contact the Town Clerk for it.

The meeting briefly recessed at 7:6 p.m. and resumed open session at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor McDaniel gave copies of the Mohegan and Montville Firehouses to the Commissioners who then reviewed them.

Motion made by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Jetmore; to approve the FY 2015-2016 budgets for the Mohegan and Montville Firehouses; discussion, none; voice vote, 4-0; all in favor; motion carried.

d. Discussion of recommendation to Town Council on phase-in of independent police department (Jetmore).

Commissioner Jetmore stated that per the Feasibility Committee the Commission has not taken a position on an independent police department.

Motion made by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Jetmore; that the Public Safety Commission recommends a review for phase-in of an independent police department; discussion, none; voice vote, 4-0; all in favor, motion carried.

12. Remarks from the Public

Commissioner Jetmore asked three times for remarks. Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex commented that he did not hear the police department capital plan discussed or approved. Mayor McDaniel stated that the capital plan was submitted and forwarded to Planning and Zoning. Chief Truex then stated that he understood that there would be no votes on budgets unless a department head is present. He further said that all fire departments were not present hence they were singled out and subject to unfair treatment regarding the budget. Commissioner Jetmore asked Chief Truex whether the letter he received was sent by the same person to which Chief Truex replied, "yes."

Gary Murphy stated that he has been quiet for a few years but feels that Chief Truex's department needs to be manned 24/7 that is justified by the calls it receives saying it would further benefit the Town. G. Murphy added that Fire Chief Occhialini's statistics justify the viability of the Chesterfield Firehouse particularly its emergency calls. He concluded that since the casinos appeared, the strain is starting to effect the fire departments. G. Murphy asked the Commission to be mindful if funds become available.

13. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel said that in spite of the brutal weather the Town services have excelled in coping with it. He stated that there are have been many compliments received from the services provided by police and fire officials and other Town services. Mayor McDaniel added that the budget for the current year has been surpassed and EMS, fire and police are stressed and overworked.

14. Remarks from the Town Council Liaison

Town Council Liaison L. Tanner stated that she would get all of the budgets at the Finance meeting tomorrow, February 24 and would forward them on.

15. Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Perkins commented that she was glad to be a part of the Commission and would be there each month. Commissioner DePasquale asked Town Council Liaison Tanner whether the Town charge for the Feasibility Committee has changed. L. Tanner replied that the topic was brought forth by Town Council Chair Joe Jaskiewicz and the time for the same had been extended.

16. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Jetmore; seconded by Moran to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.; discussion, none; voice vote 4-0; all in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by: Gloria J. Gathers/Recording Secretary