

Town of Montville Town Council  
**Regular Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2016**  
7:00 p.m. – Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order  
Chairman Jaskiewicz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.
3. Roll Call  
Present were Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz.  
Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda  
The following alteration was made to the agenda:  
Item 16(d): **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to ~~adopt~~ *accept* the fiscal year 2016-2017 Montville Water Pollution Control Authority proposed sewer budget in the amount of \$4,706,453.00 (four million seven hundred six thousand four hundred fifty-three dollars). (Councilor May)
6. To Consider and Act on a motion to approve:
  - a. The Special Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2016  
Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: None.  
Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
  - b. The Regular Meeting Minutes on April 11, 2016  
Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: None.  
Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
  - c. The Public Hearing Minutes of April 26, 2016 regarding the Board of Education Budget  
Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None.  
Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
  - d. The Public Hearing Minutes of April 27, 2016 regarding the General Government Budget  
Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None.  
Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
7. Executive Session
  - a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing a candidates for a re-appointment to the Uncas Health District and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.  
  
Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None.  
Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Chambers for Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. Chairman Jaskiewicz resumed the meeting at 7:14 p.m. No formal votes were taken during Executive Session.
8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit  
Lt. Leonard Bunnell, 5 Little John Drive, spoke in favor of item 16(b), stating that there are no municipalities currently utilizing this particular State Statute and urging the Town Council to

Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2016

continue Sgt. Dennis Mathers' employment. Not doing so would be an extreme waste of experience, knowledge, and contributions as he works very hard and for long hours.

Bob Manfredi, 9 Heather Brook Road, questioned the sewer budget and its projected amounts for the Mohegan Sun and Rand-Whitney as well as the 9% being returned to both entities, resulting in a significant reduction in revenue, which can be used to balance the Town's budget.

Sgt. Mark Juhola, Resident State Trooper, respectfully requested that the Town Council extend Sgt. Mathers' employment in the Town. An invaluable Senior Supervisor to the Detectives and the Patrolmen, he provides insight, planning, accountability, and experience and, as a resident of the Town of Montville, he gives back to the community in a professional manner.

9. Communications

- a. Copy of the April budget report from Ms. Terry Hart, Finance Director  
Finance Director Hart provided corrected copies of the Capital Plan to the Town Council.
- b. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of February 2016
- c. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of March 2016

10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred

The Town Attorney is currently in the process of reviewing the following items:

- Exclusive Service Agreements for the Fire Departments
- Tax Incentive Plan, as introduced by the Economic Development Commission
- Unfavorable review letter received by the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding the Capital Plan

11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred

Mayor McDaniel reported that much of his time has been spent attending budget hearings, budget meetings, making preparations for the negotiation meetings with the seven (7) Union Bargaining Units, and dealing with the legislature and their budgetary ideas and solutions. Municipalities are currently concerned with the Budget Implementation Bill, which often hides a number of measures. While they were able to fight off a number of the Unfunded State Mandates, the State continues to be working on passing off a number of State expenses to the municipalities. The State is currently seeking to cut approximately \$481,000.00 from the Town's originally projected revenue for the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget.

Chairman Jaskiewicz added that, with this in mind, the Finance Committee is continuing to work with each of the Departments and hopes to vote on the budget at the end of the month.

12. Reports from Standing Committees.

- a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *no meeting*
- b. Finance – Councilor Longton  
The Finance Committee recently conducted a line-by-line review of the budget with Superintendent Brian Levesque, who understands pressures of the Town and is cooperating with the Town and searching for innovative ways to achieve their goals. Also discussed was the transferring of funds for the Fire Marshal (item (16(c))).
- c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron  
Though no meeting was held last month, this month's meeting agenda will include a discussion on the Department's wish list of maintenance and repairs of the Town's infrastructure and the institution of an Adopt-a-Road Program.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

- a. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging; Social Services; Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund  
Councilor Caron thanked the Mayor, Chairman, and Councilor May for their support and help in creating a successful fundraising event of the Veterans in Need concert. He also

Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2016

thanked the Tribe and local businesses that donated 20 (twenty) tickets for the event for the local veterans, the School for helping sell tickets, and commended Director Kathie Doherty-Peck for an awesome job. Lastly, he thanked the Mayor for organizing the painting of the Social Services Building.

b. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education

Chairman Jaskiewicz was somewhat dismayed by an interesting Special Meeting that was held regarding the non-renewal of contracts. The Board and Superintendent Levesque are aware of the budgetary issues and are continuing to work with them to achieve their goals. The Regular Meeting recognized the Montville Marvels, who make exceptional contributions to the Board and Schools.

c. Councilor Longton: Library – *no report*

d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority; Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board

The acceptance/approval of the WPCA budget is included on this evening's Agenda.

The Youth Services Bureau held a Mini-Vacation Camp during the students' Spring Break, Summer Center registration began on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and is already full, and the MYSB Annual Fun Day was held last week ending with a Cinco de Mayo Celebration.

e. Councilor Rogulski: Economic Development Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission

Members of the EDC attended the recent CERC (Connecticut Economic Resource Center) and seCTer (Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region) meetings and are working on incorporating their newfound knowledge into their plans. The Commission is waiting to hear back from the Town Attorney regarding their proposed Tax Incentive Plan, which may be renamed "Business Incentive Plan" and reworded.

Due to a meeting conflict, he was unable to attend the Planning & Zoning Meeting.

f. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations

Councilor Pollard reported that the introductory letters have been mailed and she has met with Raymond Library and will be attending their meeting this month. She has also spoken with and will be meeting with Ms. Georgette Katin, Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Willimantic and New London, as well as with Ms. Catherine Zeiner, Safe Futures.

Mayor McDaniel added that the Comstock Library Book Fund, which was recently passed by the Town Council, is being followed up upon through the Finance Department.

g. Councilor Tanner: Parks & Recreation Commission; Public Safety Commission

The Parks & Recreation Commission voted to approve the purchase of a stage in the amount of \$12,000.00 - \$13,000.00 and have secured Wicked Peach and Frankie Justin for their upcoming summer concerts. The Commission is also actively working on beautifying their website with the help of Mrs. Donna Geary. She encouraged everyone to donate funds to the Dog Park Committee, which has raised \$3,500.00 of their \$30,000.00 goal.

14. Appointments and Resignations

a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Ms. Allyson Schmeizl to the Community Center Building Committee.

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Mr. William Carlos, Jr., to the Youth Advisory Board with a term to expire April 14, 2018.

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2016

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Ms. Brianne Messer to the Youth Advisory Board with a term to expire April 14, 2018.

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Mr. Bruce R. Duchesneau as an Alternate to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term to expire on May 9, 2020.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2016-24. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$1,040.00 (one thousand forty dollars) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2016-25. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to allow Sergeant Dennis Mathers to continue his employment with the Town of Montville Police Department for a period of one year from June 18, 2016 as per Connecticut General Statute 7-430. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: Chairman Jaskiewicz stated that Sgt. Mathers has served on the Police Department for a number of years and is willing to work whenever needed and required. Councilor Longton added that he is an invaluable resource to the Town and would leave a tremendous hole should he retire. In response to Councilor Pollard, Mayor McDaniel stated that they are currently working on a transition plan for the two senior members in the Department. He also echoed the previous comments, further adding that Sgt. Mathers is always available and resourceful, holds a number of responsibilities, and would definitely leave a huge hole should his employment not be extended. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2016-26. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to allocate the \$15,000 in the Radio Receiver Benjamin Court line (#30999-54057) for the radio system redundant loop. (Councilor Longton)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Councilor Longton stated that the radio system redundant loop would provide a 911 backup should the microwave fail at the Chapel Hill Tower at the Oakdale Firehouse. There is no room on the Benjamin Court Receiver for any additions. The Finance Committee unanimously approved the allocation of funds. Mayor McDaniel clarified that it is not a re-allocation of funds, but a re-naming and re-planning of an existing project and is being brought before the Town Council for approval in an effort to maintain transparency. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2016-27. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to **accept adopt** the fiscal year 2016-2017 Montville Water Pollution Control Authority proposed

sewer budget in the amount of \$4,706,453.00 (four million seven hundred six thousand four hundred fifty-three dollars). (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2016-28. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to adopt the fiscal year 2016-2017 Town of Montville Water Pollution Control Authority proposed water budget in the amount of \$1,509,725 (one million five hundred nine thousand seven hundred twenty-five dollars). (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Administrator Brian Lynch stated that the increase last year was in anticipation of an increase by the town of Groton due to the upgrading of their plant. The increases this year primarily reside in the purchasing of water, of which they are expending more each year, and engineering costs for the investigation and planning of increasing the water lines. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit

Mike Lopez, 19 Hunters Run, Oakdale, thanked the Town Council and Mayor for holding the Public Hearings regarding the budgets. He understands the challenges and dilemmas with declining revenues that the Town is facing and appreciates their outreach efforts and communication and ongoing collaboration with the BOE and School administrators. Similarly, he understands the challenges that the BOE is facing with the declining enrollment and rumors regarding the potential proposal of a school closing, which he felt would result in a death spiral for the Town leading to declining home values and the inability to attract young families. He also spoke on the issue of NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation, a true accomplishment for the District, and fears that constant disruptions to their resources could result in an interruption of their accreditation, negatively impacting both the Schools and the Town.

Bob Manfredi, 9 Heather Brook Road, Uncasville, questioned line item 10960-54316 All Season Bodies. It was explained that an All Season Bodies are a multi-purpose bodies that can be used as either a dump body or a spreader. With regards to his comment regarding the Police Department Staffing, it was clarified that the Town is currently budgeted for 26 Officers for \$1.7 million and is proposed for the same amount. In response to his recommendation that the \$400,000.00 that the State is seeking to cut from the Town be balanced out by not providing the 9% reduction to the Mohegan Sun and Rand-Whitney, it was explained that the WPCA budget is not part of the Town's budget. Furthermore, Administrator Lynch explained the WPCAs budgetary process, adding that they work diligently to increase efficiency and be fiscally responsible and is currently in excellent financial shape, allowing them to provide the 9% reduction rate to the Mohegan Sun and Rand Whitney, both of whom allow the Town to utilize their SBRs (Sequencing Batch Reactor).

Tony Siragusa, 39 Hillcrest Drive, Uncasville, spoke on the letter to the Town Council from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding the Capital Plan in hopes that certain improvements can be incorporated into the Plan. He recommended the Town Council prepare the budget without the funding from the State and create a list of priorities so that they can easily allocate any received funds to those priorities. Councilor Longton stated that they are in the process of setting up priorities.

Lt. Leonard Bunnell, 5 Little John Drive, Uncasville, expressed his appreciation to the Town Council and the Mayor for their unanimous support in extending Sgt. Mathers' employment. He responded to claims regarding the credibility and accuracy of the Activity Reports, which he provides to the Town Council and Public Safety Commission, and urged those who have any

questions, to come and ask him. He personally reviews the Reports, which reflects not only how busy the Department is, but is also utilized as an investigative tool, on a daily basis to ensure its consistency and accuracy.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Rogulski questioned the reasoning behind the Town being the only municipality that must vote on continuing the employment of an Officer to which the Mayor provided a brief history of the Statute.

Councilor Pollard thanked the public for expressing their thoughts and opinions this evening.

Councilor Longton thanked the public for attending the meeting this evening and assured the public that the Town Council is working diligently on the budget, searching for any savings, and doing their best to conserve funds without cutting any necessary services.

Councilor Caron thanked Councilor May and Administrator Lynch and commended the Administrator and his staff for their hard work. He also stated his disappointment in hearing about the comments regarding the Police Activity Reports and thanked he and Sgt. Juhola for speaking in support of Sgt. Mathers, whom he feels is a great asset to the Town. He also thanked Mr. Lopez for his comments.

Councilor May thanked Councilor Caron for his complements. He added that the WPCA is the recipient of a number of awards from DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) and commended Administrator Lynch and WPCA Superintendent Michael Didato on doing a good job and looks forward to the future with the installment of the new digester. With regards to Lt. Bunnell's comments, he added that, while serving on the Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee, the Lieutenant presented the data and those numbers were discussed. Hundreds of hours were spent discussing, creating, and confirming the accuracy of their final report that a number of residents have since claimed to be fictitious via social media and dismayed by the mistrust and deception that exists in the public today. He also thanked Councilor Caron for organizing the Veterans for Montville benefit and raising nearly \$7,000.00, adding that the veterans are very fortunate to have someone like himself looking out for them.

Councilor Tanner echoed Councilor May's comments, adding that she has personally reviewed the numbers with Lt. Bunnell at the Public Safety Building and is saddened at the news that members of the public are questioning his actions as he works tirelessly for the Department and the Town. She thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and stated the budget is a grueling process that they are working through. A meeting was held tonight and another will be held tomorrow and Wednesday evenings; she welcomed the public to join them.

Chairman Jaskiewicz commended both the WPCA and the Lieutenant for doing a good job and reminded everyone to attend the 11th Annual Senior Art Show at the Senior Center on May 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Mayor McDaniel thanked the public for attending and expressing their opinions both tonight and at the Public Hearings. He looks forward to hammering out the budget, which he hopes will be completed over the next two weeks. He announced that he will be on vacation at the end of the month and will be unable to attend the Memorial Day Parade.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Longton to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING IS ON FILE IN THE MONTVILLE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**