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Town of Montville
Public Safety Commission
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Uncasville, Connecticut 06382

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**Town of Montville
Public Safety Commission –Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 26, 2009 -7:00 p.m.
Town Hall - Town Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order – Chairman Jetmore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call – Present were Commissioners Allyn, Butterworth, Jetmore and Scott. Absent were Commissioners Baxter, Wehner and Wojcik. Also present was Mayor Jaskiewicz and Town Council Liaison Ed Radgowski.
4. Motion made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to approve the December 22, 2008 regular meeting minutes with the following corrections;

Page #2, second paragraph, change the spelling of the name to Edmond Bragdon;

Page #2, New Business (a) change the wording to sentence #10 from “meets building code” to meets NFPA 12.1 and Public Act 00-151.

Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Communications
6. Remarks from the Public
7. Remarks from Department Heads

Lt. Bunnell, Montville Police Department discussed the statistics report for the month of December. He indicated the report includes the report for the entire 2008 calendar year as well. He discussed the interviews held for the position of Police Officer for the Town of Montville and indicated the letters have gone out to the applicants. He discussed the openings in the Police Academy for anyone who is qualified after the screening process.

Sgt. Collins, Resident State Trooper discussed the neighborhood watch program. He stated he met with approximately twenty five residents on East Lake Road to discuss the program and to get them to know one another in order to make the program work out better. He indicated if the people who live on the street look out for one another and give the police a heads up should they see suspicious activity in the neighborhood, the program should be a success. He commended the residents for coming out and for the large response to the program. He stated there has been an increase in burglaries over the past months and he hopes by bringing the residents together they can cut down on crime in their neighborhoods. He discussed the school lock down drills at the Tyl and Mohegan Schools, stating they were both a complete success. He indicated there has been positive feedback from the staff at both schools and is happy the Town is being proactive. He stated everyone involved will be trained and ready to respond in case of an emergency in the schools.

8. Reports from Committees

a. Public Safety Plan – A discussion was held regarding if the Commission should remove this item from the agenda because of the lack of cooperation from the Town Council to move forward with the Public Safety Plan or to keep it on the agenda and approach the matter in a different way. Commissioner Scott requested the Commission write a letter to the Town Council Chairperson requesting the Town Council move forward with the Plan as it is indicated in the Town Charter that the Commission is required to have a plan; and to ask them why they would approve the funding and then when it is time to award the contract they will not act on it. Councilor Geary stated the Town Council objected to awarding the contract due in part that there was no one present from the Public Safety Commission to speak regarding the issue on the night of their meeting. He urged the Commission to write the letter and to request the Council to reconsider their decision. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated the Councilors are hesitant to awarding the contract because they believe the Charter Revision Commission will eventually vote to adopt a separate Fire and Police Commission for the Town. He stated two years ago the money was appropriated for the Public Safety Plan and the money has been approved for use. He stated the plan will be required even if there is a separate police and fire commission. Chairman Jetmore stated there is no political will present in the Town Council any longer and he will write a letter to them but he does not think the Council will reconsider its decision. Commissioner Scott stated for the record he wants the Town Council to know they are taking on the liability of not having a Public Safety Plan as written and required by the Charter should any future lawsuits come from not having a plan in place.

Motion made by Commissioner Scott (reluctantly), seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to remove item 8(a) Public Safety Plan from the agenda until further notice. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Reports from Public Safety Commission Liaisons – none.

9. Old Business

a. Discussion regarding the Firefighter interviews. Ray Occhialini, Fire Marshal, discussed the interviews for the position of firefighter for the Town of Montville.

Motion made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Allyn to forward the following names of candidates interviewed for the position of firefighter to the Mayor with a recommendation for hire; Tim Congdon from the Town of Waterford, Christopher May from the Mystic Fire Company and Will Haylon from the East Lyme Fire Department. Discussion: Mayor Jaskiewicz indicated he was very impressed with the interviewing process and thanked everyone who took the time to come out and help with the interviews. He stated there were many great qualified candidates for the position and his office will select one. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Discussion regarding the Police Department interviews. Lt. Bunnell indicated there were a total of twelve people interviewed for the position of Police Officer for the Town of Montville. He stated of the twelve people interviewed, eight of them qualify to proceed to the screening process and background checks.

Motion made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Allyn to forward the following eight candidates to the Mayor with a recommendation for hire; Brent Fitzgerald of 6 Cedar Lane, Franklin, CT; Jonathan Goss of 90 Brush Hill Road, Lyme, CT; Jason Kuhn of 28 Fowler Drive, Montville, CT; Nicholas Startz of 130 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, CT; Travis Sumpf of 229 Glenwood Avenue, New London, CT; Alexander Tedesco of 9 Hillcrest Drive, Old Saybrook, CT; Timothy Toczko of 277 Bricktop Road A2, Windham, CT; and Emily Wagner of 9 Donald Avenue, Quaker Hill, CT. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

10. New Business

a. To consider and act on a motion to set a date for a Special Meeting for the purpose of reviewing the Police, Fire, Animal Control and Building Department budgets. A discussion was held regarding the time frame for submission of all budgets to the Finance Department. It was determined the Commission would be well within the timeframe if it did not schedule a special meeting to review the budgets, but instead added this item to the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting. Chairman Jetmore requested from the Mayor the budgets for all of the departments under the Public Safety Commission from the Finance Office for review by the Commissioners prior to the meeting. He indicated the Commission will add the review of the budgets to the February agenda. He urged each of the members of the Commission as well as all of the Department Heads to attend the February 23, 2009 meeting.

11. Remarks from the Public

Lt. Bunnell, Montville Police Department, discussed the Public Safety Plan. He stated the Town needs a plan but thinks the Council is waiting until after the vote regarding the Charter Revision before making a decision.

12. Remarks from Mayor Jaskiewicz

Mayor Jaskiewicz discussed the lockdown drills held at the Mohegan and Tyl Schools. He stated he was very impressed with the whole process and the great job everyone involved does. He stated the townspeople should be very proud of everyone involved who participates in the drills as they do a great job. He discussed the DARE program, stating Karen Moorehead has done a great job with the program. He indicated the School Resource Officer is also working out really well. He thanked the members of the Commission for putting in the time to interview both the fire and police candidates.

Commissioner Scott inquired regarding the progress of the repairs to the Oxoboxo Bridge. Mayor Jaskiewicz indicated the town is still waiting on the Army Corp. of Engineers but he hopes this project will be accepted under the proposed Stimulus Package. He discussed a meeting with Senator Dodd regarding the Stimulus Package and other issues affecting the State. He indicated the town will receive some money but he is not sure of the amount as it will be distributed by the Governor when the time comes.

13. Remarks from Town Council Liaison

Councilor Radgowski apologized to the Commission for not being present at the Town Council meeting the night they discussed the Public Safety Plan. He discussed the referendum for the Charter Revision.

14. Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Scott – no comment.

Commissioner Allyn – discussed the Public Safety Plan, stating the Plan was only removed from the monthly agenda. The idea of the Plan is not dead. We will simply need to follow a different path to get a Public Safety Plan in place.

Chairman Jetmore – stated he wishes Commissioner Baxter well and he wants him to know that he has been missed and hopes he will be ok.

Commissioner Butterworth – no comment.

15. Adjournment – Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Scott to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Montville Public Safety Commission