

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 26, 2017 - 6:00 PM
Montville Town Hall – Room 203

1. Call to order.
Chairman Jetmore called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance.
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call.
Present were Commissioners Elizabeth Adams, Michael Doherty, James Moran, Karen Perkins, Wills Pike, and David Jetmore. Also present were Mayor Ronald McDaniel, Lt. Leonard Bunnell, Fire Marshal Raymond Occhialini, Town Council Liaison Laura Tanner, RST Sgt. Mark Juhola, and Fire Chief Keith Truex. Commissioner Gary Allyn was absent. A quorum was present.
4. Amendments to the Agenda. -- None
5. Communications: Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police, Animal Control and Building Official.
Chairman Jetmore confirmed that the monthly reports were received by all. Lt. Bunnell commented on the letter from a resident regarding a noise issue.
6. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2017.
Motion made by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Jetmore to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2017, as written. Discussion: none. **Voice Vote, 6-0; all in favor. Motion carried.**
7. Remarks from the Public (agenda items—three-minute limit).
Chairman Jetmore asked three times for remarks. There were none.
8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Report

Per the electronic monthly statistics report submitted by Lt. Bunnell for the police department, there were 1515 calls for service during May 2017. The source of those calls were as follows: Troop E – 268; PD – 419, Walk In – 50; and By Officer – 778.

Lt. Bunnell reported on the entry level applicants who will begin working the second week in July and on the resignation of an officer who is taking a job in Clinton. He also referenced the letter regarding the noise complaint stating he hoped to have an ordinance in future to mirror the State statute. Commissioners discussed the noise factor of the idling truck, the intensity of the noise, and the reasonableness of the same. Lt. Bunnell added that

noise complaints are not easily resolved. As to staffing, he reported it is down by four (4) people—two (2) are on desk duty due to workers compensation.

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Occhialini submitted his monthly report to the Commission via email and summarized his report to the Commission. The May 2017 monthly report highlighted current and pending projects and other information.

- There were 212 Fire and EMS calls as of May 2017.
- A Deputy Fire Marshal, who formerly worked part-time at the Chesterfield Firehouse for nine (9) years, began work today at Oakdale Firehouse.
- He proposed having meet and greet for the new fire marshal at the next Commission meeting.
- A new hire is being sought for the Chesterfield Firehouse, since the person hired took the position as the new fire marshal.
- In April, there were three (3) plan reviews, 48 inspections, one (1) Fire Marshal monthly training, and one (1) LEPC Meeting investigation. All of the NFIRS was completed for State reporting.
- Application has been made for a \$74,000 federal Fire Safety Grant to provide smoke detectors to the transient population within all types of dwellings within the area of the casino.
- During the month of May, inspections will be focused on multi-family and large apartment complexes that take a great deal of time.
- As of June 22, 2017, annual fire safety inspections and fees for operating permits have netted \$72,812.45 which is \$27,812.45 over the projected income for the fiscal year.
- The fifty (50) Kidde 10-year smoke detectors donated by Home Depot in Montville for distribution to residents who cannot afford new ones continue to be installed as needed within the community.

Emergency Management

- This month, the Fire Marshal will attend the quarterly Millstone Planning Meeting in Norwich. The next large scale drill is scheduled for March 2018.
- A grant from Millstone was received in the amount of \$30,400 for 2016-2017 for drills, equipment replacement and repair, and participating in the Millstone Plan.
- K1 tablets are still being distributed for the Millstone Zone per the State Plan.
- The Town of Montville Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) is in the process of being revamped with assistance from the State Region 4 planner. The process will take four (4) months and should be complete by July 2017.

9. Reports from Committee and Public Safety Liaisons. -- None

10. Unfinished Business.

- a. Consideration and action upon the report and findings of the Sub-committee's meetings with Fire Chiefs on Public Safety Plan. (*Update*)
Commissioner Adams reported that a meeting with the fire chiefs is scheduled for Friday, July 14 for further discussion of the Public Safety Plan. Commissioner Perkins added that the plan will not be considered final since the firefighter contract is not ratified.

- b. Consideration and action concerning the proposed agreement with district fire houses. (*Update*).
Mayor McDaniel reported that he got an email from the Town Attorney who is away but should return on July 3. He also said that the Emergency Operation Plan needs to be sent to the State. Sgt. Juhola added that the wording of the agreement needs clarifying.

11. New Business.

- a. Consideration and action concerning the Uniform Policy.
Lt. Bunnell referenced the draft policy sent by email to the Commissioners. He stated that current uniform has a military look, very dark in color with sewn on embroidery—nothing to command attention. Lt. Bunnell stated changes to the uniform were to make the officer more visible. For example, the baseball cap would evolve into a 4-corner cap to create better visibility and recognition of officers working in the field. Lt. Bunnell asked for feedback from the Commission on the proposed policy. Commissioner Doherty asked what is the change and Lt. Bunnell responded that it was more descriptive regarding the ranks. Lt. Bunnell also spoke the BDU, the distinctions between the Class A ceremonial uniform look versus the Class B look for events in more direct view of the public. Commissioner Jetmore commented that the new caps would be a major change to the policy as officers would look more professional and more easily seen in public. He added that visibility is important particularly at night. Lt Bunnell responded to the costs for the proposed uniform changes which was \$50 for the hats as the name tags and buttons the officers already have. Town Councilor Tanner asked that the Commission veer on the side of caution as to the letter it received about the proposed changes. She said that since no sources were identified in the letter received from T. McNally it would could be deemed as rhetoric. Mayor McDaniel suggested that Lt. Bunnell provide the Commission the existing policy, the proposed policy, costs, the Board of Finance information regarding the costs, and pictures of the uniform look for the review and that the topic is tabled to the next meeting.

12. Remarks from the Public (non-agenda items—three-minute limit).

Chairman Jetmore asked three times for comments. There were none.

13. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel reported on the opening at the Chesterfield firehouse, the two (2) candidates, and the request for interviews. He said that technically there are supposed to be three (3) candidates but the Charter requirement could be waived since they are trying

to expedite the process. Commissioners Doherty and Pike stated they could be available for the interviews after 1 p.m.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Tanner thanked all of the public servants for the great job they did this past weekend. She also wished everyone a safe July 4th and promised feedback per the rhetoric from the letter mentioned earlier in the meeting.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

The Commissioners wished everyone a safe and happy July 4th holiday. Commissioner Adams thanked the fire and police departments for their presence during the carnival. Commissioner Pike commented on the conversations regarding the fire trucks, the upcoming interviews, and brain storming regarding the school bus issue.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Chairman Jetmore; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote; 6-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

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