

Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2017
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, and Jaskiewicz. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda
Motion made by May, seconded by Longton, to add the following item to the Agenda:
16(g) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to appoint a member from the Town Council to serve as a representative to the Board of Education for the purpose of teacher negotiations. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
6. Executive Session – *none*
7. To Consider and Act on a motion to approve:
 - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2017
Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Voice Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*
9. Communications
 - a. Copy of the August 2017 budget report from Ms. Terry Hart, Finance Director
 - b. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of July 2017
10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred – *none*
11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred
Mayor McDaniel reported that they are in the process of completing the existing paving projects and are delaying others due to unknown State funding issues. The Black Ash Road straightening project is slated to begin; a schedule will be provided to the Councilors.
A Convocation was held at the High School to welcome the new teachers and kick off the new school year on August 28, 2017. A Swearing-In Ceremony for the transfer of Officer Tyler Smith from the Norwich Police Department and promotion of Officer Michael Pierce to Sergeant was held that same day.
Last week, a Region 4 Annual Regional Emergency Planning Team Meeting was held to discuss their funding. Also held was a meeting with the Town's Fire Chiefs to discuss the Fire Service Agreement.
The State is planning to vote on the budget this week and communication updates regarding the budget have been provided to the Councilors. The funding for such items as the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) Program, Pequot, and Teachers' Pension Funds is unknown at this time. He has been meeting with the Finance Director and Treasurer regarding the Town's budgetary issues in preparation for the budget cuts. Projects that have not already been funded by other funding and any new hiring have been placed on hold.
Councilor Rogulski expressed his appreciation for keeping the Councilors informed regarding the State budget.

12. Reports from Standing Committees.

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz

General conversation was held regarding the items on their agenda; discussion regarding trees and parking was tabled, pending further investigation.

b. Finance – Councilor Longton – *no meeting*

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron

Councilor Caron reported that, though no meeting was held, he had a lengthy discussion with Public Works Director Don Bourdeau regarding the roads (*see item 11*) for which many compliments and few complaints have been received. The Commission on Aging provided some positive feedback regarding the new recycling bins. Seniors wishing to trade in their larger bin for a smaller bin may contact the Town's Public Works Department.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging; Social Services; Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund

Senior and Social Services Director Kathie Doherty-Peck has applied for and received approximately \$112,000.00 in grant funding. In addition, approximately \$178,000.00 was raised in 2016-17 through the efforts of the Director, staff, and volunteers. The Senior Center has grown to 832 members.

The Department of Social Services distributed approximately 4,000 meals last month and, due to the current economy, there has been an increase in the number of those needing assistance. The Department is currently receiving applications for energy assistance and will soon be seeking donations for their annual Holiday Baskets. He commended the Director, her staff, and all of the volunteers who take the time and energy to serve those in need.

Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund – A meeting was held with the Fire Chiefs, Mayor, and Finance Director to discuss the future; a meeting will be held in the near future for further discussion.

b. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education (BOE), Parks & Recreation Commission, Public Safety Commission

The BOE held a meeting to discuss their goals for the school year. No meetings were held for the Parks & Recreation and Public Safety Commissions.

In response to Councilor May, Chairman Jaskiewicz will request clarification regarding a \$50.00 fee, which is deposited into the Public Works fund, which is being charged to various school organizations that wish to utilize the Montville Community Center to host their fundraisers; he would like to request that the organizations receive a fee waiver.

c. Councilor Longton: Library – *no meeting*

In response to Councilor Jaskiewicz, Councilor Longton stated that the windows are in the process of being cleaned and deglazed.

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

No meeting was held by the Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board.

The WPCA is preparing to go out to bid for a new contact chamber, which disinfects the water before being drained into the Thames River. They are currently investigating the replacement of the SBR (Sequencing Batch Reactor) system for wastewater. The current system is over 20 years old and has been experiencing a number of maintenance issues. They have inquired with DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) and DPH (Department of Public Health) regarding the permitted SBR rate, which they are hoping to have increased to 6,000 BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand)/day, per the manufacturer, from their current rate of 4,000 BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand)/day. An upgraded rating will allow the Plant to greatly increase its capacity.

- e. Councilor Rogulski: Economic Development Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission
Unable to achieve a quorum, the Economic Development Commission held an informational meeting and discussed the redesigning of their website. In response to their request for a more prominent link on the Town's homepage to a listing of the Town's Board/Commission vacancies, the Mayor stated that he would place a request to the Information Systems Director.

The Planning & Zoning Commission held a workshop and approved an application for a property located at Butlertown Road. He commended the hard work of the Zoning/Wetlands Enforcement Officer Liz Burdick as well as the other members of the Team.

Chairman Jaskiewicz reported that there is an interested party to purchase the old drive-in.

- f. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations – *no report*

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Mr. Allen V. Polhemus to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term to expire November 9, 2021.

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Voice Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Ryan Hartman from the Community Center Building Committee, effective August 7, 2017.

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- c. Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Gary S. Allyn to the Uncas Health District with a term to expire November 14, 2020.

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Jeremiah Ross from the Community Center Building Committee, effective September 4, 2017.

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: Chairman Jaskiewicz express his regrets and reported that a copy of the results of the Committee's recent survey has been received. Voice Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2017-63. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$8,401.06 (eight thousand four hundred one dollars and six cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2017-64. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that Mayor Ron McDaniel be and hereby is authorized to execute a contract for 360 units of medical visit service for seniors totaling \$9,500.40 (Nine thousand five hundred dollars and forty cents) between the Town of Montville and the Senior Resources Agency on Aging, Inc., and further, to approve the Mayor to execute any and all documents that may be necessary. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: Chairman Jaskiewicz stated that items 16(b), (c), and (d) are presented and approved by the Town Council annually. Councilor Caron stated the importance of these three grants for the

seniors and encouraged the Councilors to approve the items. Mayor McDaniel added that they are being funded at the same level as the previous year. Though the funding for these items typically exceed the grant amount, any unused funds must be returned to the Federal Government. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2017-65. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that Mayor Ron McDaniel be and hereby is authorized to execute a contract for 1,620 units of medical transportation service for seniors totaling \$16,394.40 (Sixteen thousand three hundred ninety four dollars and forty cents) between the Town of Montville and the Senior Resources Agency on Aging, Inc., and further, to approve the Mayor to execute any and all documents that may be necessary. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2017-66. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that Mayor Ron McDaniel be and hereby is authorized to execute a contract for 432 units of mental health counseling service for seniors totaling \$11,232.00 (Eleven thousand two hundred thirty two dollars and no cents) between the Town of Montville and the Senior Resources Agency on Aging, Inc., and further, to approve the Mayor to execute any and all documents that may be necessary. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Councilor Caron stated that the well-needed program has flourished over the years and encouraged those seeking additional information to contact/visit the Director. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2017-67. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to transfer \$85,000 from General Fund Balance to Environmental Remediation (14999-52170) in the Brownfields fund to complete the engineered cap at 14 Bridge Street (Mayor McDaniel).

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: Finance Director Terry Hart provided a brief background of the property, stating that, in December 2007, then-tenant Impulse Design revoked their lease/purchase agreement with the Town due to the property's environmental issues. Due to these issues, the Town foreclosed on the property and applied for and received a \$165,000.00 Brownfield Grant and obtained a loan for \$55,000.00 in December 2011 to remediate the property. During the remediation process, the site was excavated and the extent of the contamination was determined. The funds have since been exhausted, Impulse Design has vacated the property, and the \$55,000.00 loan has been repaid. The Town proceeded to apply for and received an additional grant for \$355,560.00, \$277,364.00 of which has been budgeted for the remediation of the property. The project went out to bid and a low bid of \$384,947.00 was received in April 2017. In an attempt to lower the cost, the Town, working with the Engineering Consultant and the State, decided to remove the drainage portion of the project, which will be handled by the Town, and send the project out to bid a second time and a low bid of \$359,210.00 was received in August 2017. Due to the State's current fiscal crisis, they are not expecting to receive any additional funding for the project. Rather than owning an abandoned building on contaminated property, they are recommending that the funds be transferred, the property remediated, and sold. The property is currently valued at \$185,000.00. The Mayor has spoken with Tim Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development, who stated the possibility of returning the Brownfield Grant funds and reapplying for the grant at a later time. The Mayor stated that he is not comfortable with doing so in light of the State's current economic climate.

Chairman Jaskiewicz commended the Mayor and Finance Director on their handling of the issue. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- f. **Resolution #2017-68. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to accept the resignation of Mr. Ryan Hartman from the Montville Town Council, effective September 6, 2017, and to appoint Denise Gladue to fill the vacancy on the Montville Town Council, with a term ending November 7, 2017, as recommended by the Montville Democratic Town Committee. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Chairman Jaskiewicz stated that both he and Mr. Hartman were unaware that, as a member of the military, he is unable to run for an elected position. As such, the Democratic Town Committee nominated Ms. Gladue, who he introduced to the public. Ms. Gladue is an active member of the community and is currently serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- g. **Resolution #2017-69. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to appoint a member from the Town Council to serve as a representative to the Board of Education for the purpose of teacher negotiations. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Chairman Jaskiewicz stated that a letter from the Superintendent of Schools was received requesting the appointment of a representative from the Town Council to the Board of Education for the purpose of teacher negotiations. The Councilor may provide any necessary input to the negotiations, but is not able to vote or take part in the Executive Sessions. Because Chairman Jaskiewicz's daughter is a current employee within the school system, he recused himself from serving as the representative. Mayor McDaniel reminded the Councilors to keep the State's current discussions regarding the teachers' pension funds in mind during the negotiations.

Motion made by Chairman Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor May, to nominate Councilor Longton as the representative to the Board of Education for the purpose of teacher negotiations. Discussion: Councilor Longton accepted the nomination. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – *none*

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Rogulski expressed his thoughts regarding 9/11 and his dismay regarding the State's current budget crisis, the burdens of which are being passed down to the towns. He encouraged everyone to attend a carnival-themed fundraiser for high school student Marissa Sartoro, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, on Sunday, September 17, 2017.

Councilor Pollard also expressed her thoughts regarding 9/11 as well as the hurricane victims.

Councilor Longton thanked the Councilors for their faith in him and reminded them that it was recently also the anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Councilor Caron echoed the sentiments regarding 9/11 and the recent hurricanes. He welcomed Ms. Gladue to the Town Council.

Councilor May also echoed the sentiments regarding 9/11 and the recent hurricanes.

Chairman Jaskiewicz also echoed the sentiments and reflected upon the positive actions of such tragic events as people come together to aid those who have been affected. He strongly urged everyone to come together more often and not only during such times. He announced that Town Planner Marcia Vlaun will be providing a presentation regarding the Hidden Heroes program for military caregivers.

Mayor McDaniel echoed the previous sentiments and the importance of continuing to remember this day and keeping it in the back of their hearts at all times. He also expressed his heartfelt prayers and best wishes to those affected by the recent storms. He announced that an Awards Ceremony celebrating the High School's recent receipt of the ENERGY STAR Certification will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, September 12, 10:00 a.m., at Montville High School.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Longton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE
LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – FORM REPOSITORY – MEETING RECORDINGS**