

Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2019 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order Council Pike (acting as Chairman for Council McNally) 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 Jaskiewicz, Pike, Pollard, Rogers, and Rogulski. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations –
 - a. Special Presentation from the Montville Economic Development Commission On behalf of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and Town Council, EDC Chairman Walter Hewitt and EDC Liaison Councilor Rogers gave special recognition to and presented Oakdale Pizza with an Excellence Award for its 45 years of serving delicious pizza and other quality food as well as its dedication to the Town of Montville and its unwavering support of non-profit organizations in the Town.
 - b. Review of 2018 Audit –
 - (i) Michael of Mahoney, Sable reported on the 2018 Audit.
 - (ii) He provided the councilors with a report regarding the Town's financial statements as well as Federal and State Single audit reports.
 - (iii) Audits were performed on the Town's financial statements pursuant to the auditing standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the government auditing standards issued by the Government Accountability Office.
 - (iv) The Federal Single audit was performed in accordance with the Uniform Administrative requirements and the State Single audit was performed in accordance with the State Single Audit Act.
 - (v) In addition, procedures and engagement was agreed upon pursuant to the State of Connecticut Department of Education requirements for end of School Year reports.
 - (vi) Mahoney, Sable provides reasonable assurances that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether due to error or fraud, and that they have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.
 - (vii) A clean compliance report was also issued regarding internal control over financial reporting. However, an opinion is not made relative to the Town's compliance with laws or federal regulations or on the effectiveness of internal controls. Had any been identified they would be noted in this report. None were identified.
 - (viii) Regarding the Federal Single audit, a report is issued and an opinion made concerning the Town's compliance with major program awards.
 - A. Federal awards expended in 2018 total \$1.8 mil.; the Major program was the Special Education Cluster at the Board of Education. An unmodified clean report and opinion was made over compliance as no weaknesses or significant deficiencies were found.
 - B. In connection with the State Single Audit regarding compliance with state assistance funding, the Town received \$16.1 mil. In fiscal year 2018; the majority of state assistance funding is exempt from testing; the non-exempt portion was about \$2.8 mil.; major program was the payment in lieu of taxes on state-owned property and the local transportation capital improvement program. Unmodified clean reports were issued over the Town's compliance with these programs. No internal control problems were identified over compliance with these programs.

- (ix) In terms of overall reporting, the audit went over very well and there were no significant audit findings.
- (x) Overall financial highlights:
 - A. The net change in fund balance was an increase of \$1.7 mil.
 - B. Revenues were \$1.9 mil. more than budgeted (due to favorable tax collections)
 - C. Expenditures were \$411,000 less than budgeted (due to favorable budgetary variances across all departments).
 - D. There is no use of fund balance assigned for fiscal year 2019 budget. No budgetary instances of non-compliance were found.
- (xi) Governmental Funds -
 - E. Combined ending fund balance as of year-end totaled \$13 mil.; \$1.4 mil increase from prior year. Total fund balance is \$11.5 mil. In the general fund; a \$1.1 mil. Increase over prior year.
 - F. On bonded projects – a deficit report of \$966,000 is reported which is no change over the prior year and relates to the unfinished school construction project.
 - G. There is approximately \$ 2.4 mil. in all other funds which is an increase in \$233,000 over the prior year.
- (xii) In addition to bonded projects, a deficit is reported of \$60,000 for the transfer station capital fund (no change from prior year) which will need to be funded in the future.
- (xiii) The internal service fund shows a net \$2.4 mil.; a decrease of \$1.1 mil but still within the range of acceptable reporting.
- (xiv) Government-wide financial statements which include assets, capital assets and related debt utilized to acquire those assets – the Town shows an unrestricted positive balance of \$19.6 mil.; of that \$9.4 is in government activities and \$10.3 mil. is in business-related activities (i.e., water & sewer funds).
- (xv) CT Municipal Employee Retirement System pension liability allocated to Montville is \$8 mil.; a decrease of \$1.4 from prior year.
- (xvi) Other post-employment benefits included a new accounting standard for health-care related benefits for Board of Education employees which resulted in a \$1.7 mil liability to the Town as of 6/30/18.

5. Alterations to the Agenda

- a. Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz and seconded by Councilor Rogulski to make the following amendment to the agenda: 13(f) Conservation Commission Report. Discussion: None; Voice Vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion Carried.
- b. Motion made by Councilor Rogulski and seconded by Councilor Rogers to make the following amendment to the agenda: 16(f) Avalonia Conservancy Resolution.

The Town of Montville hereby resolves to support the open space water shed land acquisition grant application for the bond property.

Discussion: None; Voice Vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion Carried.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:

- a. Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz and seconded by Councilor Rogers to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2018. Discussion: None; Voice Vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion Carried.
- b. Motion made by Councilor Rogers and seconded by Councilor Rogulski to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2018 (Minutes Clerk Interviews). Discussion: None; Voice-Vote, 4-0; Abstention 1 (Jaskiewicz not present). 4-0 in favor. Motion Carried.

7. Executive Session

To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Water & Sewer Commission to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel. Motion made by Councilor Rogers and seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None; Voice-Vote 5-0, all in favor. Motion Carried. Invited parties exited

Chambers for Executive Session at 7:23 p.m. Councilor Pike (for Chairman McNally) resumed the meeting at 7:33 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – none
9. Communications
 - a. Copy of December, 2018 Budget from Ms. Terry Hart, Finance Director.
 - b. Copy of Halloran & Sage legal bill for Labor/Employment for November, 2018.
 - c. Copy of Halloran & Sage legal bill for November, 2018.
 - d. Copy of Suisman, Shapiro legal bill for October-November, 2018.
10. Report from Town Attorney on Matters Referred
 - a. Referred drafting of Gold Star Ordinance
11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred
 - a. Swearing in ceremony for Montville Police Officer, Brian Kelly.
 - b. Promotion ceremony for Detective Radford to promote him to lieutenant on January 28, 2019 at the Public Safety Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
 - c. Senator Austin & Representative Ryan have scheduled a community conversation at Town Hall to be held on January 22, 2019 at 6:00 pm
12. Reports from Standing Committees
 - a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure (Councilor Jaskiewicz)
The ordinance to provide exemptions for property tax for Gold Star parents and spouses, pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 117.65, questions have been posed to attorneys and will be brought up at the next meeting to set a public hearing.
 - b. Finance (Councilor Pike) no meeting was held in December; a meeting will be held at the end of January.
 - c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal (Councilor Pike for Councilor McNally)
 - (i) No meeting due to the holidays.
 - (ii) The transfer station upgrade is almost done and we're expecting it to be mostly complete within the next two weeks.
 - (iii) Don, Public Works Director, is looking into the cost of getting automatic doors to make it easier for elderly/disabled persons to enter and exit Town Hall.
13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors
 - a. Board of Education (Councilor Pike)
 - (i) December 18, 2018 meeting they talked about ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) regarding intrusion/security measures. Will Klienfelter and Anthony Occhollini training to be facilitators for the staff in the school system.
 - (ii) Solar Project – still in planning department. There was some discussion about putting solar panels on Oakdale School.
 - (iii) Minimum Budget Requirement - the State of CT has found us delinquent in our funding the school system appropriately re: minimum budget based on 2018 appropriations in July (delinquency found was \$670,000). It should be noted that funds were taken from our budget in the Fall (recession) and never returned. We were able to readjust the budget with the help of the Board of Education and are now solvent. Mike France and Kathy Osten have co-authored a bill to introduce to the legislative body to discuss NBR and we believe we have a lot of horse power with 16 communities including Bridgeport and Hartford.
 - (iv) PTO meeting at Murphy School – comments included middle school sports; no problem with pay for play sports; concerns about multiple languages; French not taught at this time; music, no string

instruments taught; good that class sizes are below state standard. The bus garage continues to be an issue; no one is happy with the bus garage.

Planning & Zoning (Councilor Pike)

- (i) There was a meeting held on December 11th. There was presentation about Cottage Road/St. Thomas Moore property. Some people want buy and split up the land to build houses. Discussion but nothing too serious.
- (ii) Discussion about the Rand Whitney parking lot on Maple Ave. It's been paved but they did not get approval; they are working on plans to present to the engineering department so they can get approval and make it official. 00
- (iii) The Avalonia Conservancy Agency – they want to buy a bond on the property which encompasses 669 acres off Chesterfield Road that goes all the way down Beckwith Road. Planning and Zoning has given a strong endorsement.

b. Commission on Aging (Councilor Pollard)

- (i) No meeting in December but busy schedule coming up. Refer to recording for details.

Non-Profit Organizations (Councilor Pollard)

- (i) Upcoming events. Refer to recording for details.

c. Economic Development Commission (Councilor Rogers)

- (i) Welcomed Sheila Lopinski
- (ii) Trying to start a Montville Community Development 501(c)3.
- (iii) Discussion concerning a Small Business event and what the theme should be.
- (iv) High-level discussion amongst members that believe to be effective, they need the participation from all entities form the commission, the mayor, and the town planner and are trying to schedule a meeting.

Parks & Recreation (Councilor Rogers)

- (i) The 2019-2020 Carnival – a DJ has been confirmed as well as a band for the Friday night performance.
- (ii) Looking into a Volleyball League for the month of July and August
- (iii) Scheduling a Women's Defense Program for women ages 18-59.
- (iv) 2019 Bus Trip to Rockefeller Center
- (v) Possible car show; most likely held at Camp Oakdale
- (vi) Signage for Camp Oakdale; hoping to make it an Eagle Scout project.

Public Safety (Councilor Rogers) –

- (i) 3 new hires at Police Department; one on the road; one ½ way through; and one sworn in; Detective Radford being promoted to Lieutenant.
- (ii) Fire Department hired a part-time dispatcher who began work in November.
- (iii) Discussing animal control feasibility - the cost associated with building a new facility. HVAC will be costly due to new state requirements.

WPCA (Councilor Rogers) –

- (i) RFP for emergency work scheduled for February 1st at 10am.
- (ii) Working on Kitemaug Road and Dairy Hill Road pump stations upgrade.

d. Library Committee; Youth Services Bureau; Advisory Board (Councilor Rogulski) No Meetings held

e. Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund, Social Services (Councilor Caron) – Not Present.

f. Conservation Commission (Councilor Pike for Councilor McNally)

- (i) Despite no meeting for several years, they have had 3 meetings over the last few months.
- (ii) Recommended grant be approved for the Avalonia land of 600+ acres to be purchased and managed by a non-profit organization. The land would remain open to residents and the public for walking trails, etc.

- (iii) History Channel is looking to do a show on a parcel land on Fire Street with historical stone monuments and Indian history. Private land; the commission will look into contacting the Tribe for advice.

14. Appointments and Resignations (see New Business)

15. Unfinished Business - None

16. New Business

- a. Resolution #2019-01. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$2,466.76 (Two Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-six and 76/100) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Rogers.
Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Jaskiewicz, Pike, Pollard, Rogers, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed

- b. Resolution #2019-02. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to accept the resignation of Agnes Miyuki as the Town Council Minutes Clerk effective immediately. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Rogers, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz.
Discussion: Councilors thanked Agnes for all of her hard work throughout the years and appreciate her service. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Jaskiewicz, Pike, Pollard, Rogers, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed

- c. Resolution #2019-03. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to appoint Mari Evans as the Town Council Minutes Clerk with a term to expire November 11, 2019. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz.
Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Jaskiewicz, Pike, Pollard, Rogers, and Rogulski, Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed

- d. Resolution #2019-04. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to accept funds under the Region 4 Homeland Security Grant Program and execute any and all documents pertaining thereto.

RESOLVED, that the Town of Montville may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ronald McDaniel, as Mayor of the Town of Montville, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Montville and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Rogers, seconded by Councilor Rogulski.
Discussion: This will allow us to accept monies to be used for MRE's, generators etc. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Jaskiewicz, Pike, Pollard, Rogers, and Rogulski, Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed

- e. Resolution #2019-05. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to set the date of April 24, 2019, at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding the General Government proposed Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 at Montville High school Auditorium and to set the date of April 25, 2019, at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding the Board of Education proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 at Montville High School Auditorium. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Rogers, seconded by Councilor Rogulski.
Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Jaskiewicz, Pike, Pollard, Rogers, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed

- f. Resolution #2019-06. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to support the open space watershed land acquisition grant application for the bond property.

WHEREAS, the Bond property is a large land parcel, approximately 669 acres, that currently maintains high value surface waterways and groundwater (classifications of AA, and GAA representing the highest quality ranking in CTDEEP). The property contributes to the Niantic River Watershed through Latimer Brook (one of two major tributaries) and has been identified through the Niantic River Watershed Plan as a including high priority conservation and restoration areas. The property is contiguous with two reservoir properties feeding the New London water supply, and maintained as open space for watershed protection. The mosaic of habitats across the site include forested uplands, forested wetlands, meadows, and shrubland which provide a wide range of habitat and edge conditions supporting a diversity of wildlife. Gravel removal on the site has resulted in multiple states of forest regrowth across the property. The CTDEEP has identified a protected species or supporting habitat within the northwestern portion of the site. There are two access points to the property that can provide ample parking and excellent public access supporting a wide range of passive recreational users including mountain bikers, equestrian users, hikers, cross country skiers, or snowshoes on trails, while flooded quarry areas may provide possible paddle and fishing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Bond property will provide significant benefits to the community including habitat protection and water resource protection; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the Bond property is consistent with the Montville Plan of Conservation and Development and has been endorsed by the Montville Planning and Zoning Commission, the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Conservation Commission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montville Town Council supports and encourages the preservation of open space watershed land; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Ronald McDaniel, as Mayor of the Town of Montville, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver a letter of endorsement for the Open Space Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Application for the Bond Property. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogers.
Discussion: Councilors all strongly supported this Resolution and

discussed the open space and use for residents. None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Jaskiewicz, Pike, Pollard, Rogers, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed

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

a. Colleen Rix, 74 Roselund Hill Rd

(i) Great holiday season; bring down candy cane wreaths in a timely fashion; Happy New Year

b. Gary Murphy, 1439B Old Colchester Rd

(i) Regarding the bond land; great piece of property; great place for townspeople as well as the public.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

a. Jaskiewicz – nothing; hope all had a good holiday.

b. Avalonia property; Antonino family donated in Groton; can give people an insight of the good it can do for the Town.

c. Councilor Rogulski – Happy New Year to all; thoughts and prayers are with the elderly couple (Adams) who lost their lives in the car accident and their family.

d. Councilor Pollard – Happy New Year to all; thank you for all for attending being involved.

e. Councilor Rogers – Happy New Year; another year to go.

f. Councilor Pike

(i) One thing to add: The Board of Education met with a CT financial group led by Erica Kane (non-profit organization) who did a presentation regarding school budgets and where Montville sat in terms of surrounding communities – the presentation is online with facts and figures. Thank you and I look forward to a great 2019.

19. Adjournment – Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz and seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None; Voice-Vote 5-0, all in favor. Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Mari E Evans, 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