

**Town of Montville Finance Committee
Special Meeting Minutes for
April 29, 2019
4:30 P.M.
Town Hall Room 203**

Councilor Pike called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilor McNally, Councilor Jaskiewicz (5:10 PM) and Finance Director Hart were present.

Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Pike, to approve the minutes of the 4/22/19 meeting. Motion passed.

Remarks from the public:

Full-time Firefighter Tim Condon of 19 Olive Street in Waterford supports the request for three additional full-time firefighters. He stated that there has been a decline in volunteers and the departments are relying on mutual aid. He said there should be four firefighters on duty around the clock.

Chesterfield Fire Chief Keith Truex of 1036 East Lake Road in Chesterfield also supports the additional three firefighters especially if it allows for 24-hour coverage at the Chesterfield department.

Fire Marshall Bill Bundy discussed his budgets with the Committee. He explained that most of the increases were contractual. Councilor McNally asked if there was sufficient funding for Emergency Management training and conferences. Mr. Bundy stated that an increase would allow him and the Fire Inspector to attend conferences. Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Pike, to increase the EM Training and Conferences line (10810-53004) by \$500. Motion carried.

The Committee reviewed the Fire Marshal budget and the following actions were taken: Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Pike, to decrease Fire Prevention Program Supplies (10830-53038) by \$400. Motion carried. Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Pike, to decrease Reference Materials (10830-53024) by \$400. Motion carried. Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Pike, to decrease Office Equipment (10830-53052) by \$250. Motion carried. Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Pike, to increase Cellular Phone (10830-53060) by \$360. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed the Dispatchers' Salaries, which includes a fourth dispatcher. Dispatcher Jon Leonard stated that this has helped decrease answer time. Councilor McNally felt the Mayor's request for Dispatchers' Salaries was too high. The Finance Director will review this line and report back to the Committee.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding adding funding for three additional full-time firefighters as request by the Fire Marshal. He explained that call volume has increased 15% over the past 10 years and there has been a steady decline in volunteers. He is concerned that the

Town is not maintaining the current standard of having two men in and two men out when going to a call. Councilor McNally stated that there is a need for EMTs. He feels the Fire Marshal, the four Fire Chiefs and the Mayor need to discuss what staffing is needed. He does not feel the budget should be increased until this is done. The Mayor stated he did not add the additional firefighters in his proposed budget because he had to consider the overall budget. The Town has applied for a grant that would fund two firefighters but Towns will not be notified until the fall if they are a recipient. Councilor McNally explained that the WPCA has hired a maintainer and the Town may be able to reduce the Fire Hydrant Maintenance line by \$32,500. The WPCA Commission should be voting on this at next month's meeting.

The Committee discussed the Capital Improvement plan for the Fire Marshal and Fire Departments. Mr. Bundy explained that he received a grant for a portion of the Cook Drive Radio Tower. Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to reduce the funding for Cook Drive Radio Tower by \$40,000. Motion carried. Councilor Jaskiewicz moved, second by Councilor McNally, to approve the funding for the Knox Box Replacement for \$15,500. Motion carried. Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to fund the Repeater Radio Replacement at \$30,000 for fiscal year 2019-20 and \$30,000 for fiscal year 2020-2021. Motion carried. There was discussion regarding fire trucks. There is currently no money remaining in the Contribution to Capital line item. Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to add \$150,000 to Contribution to Capital (10960-54131). Motion carried.

The Committee discussed revenue for the Fire Marshal and Building Inspector. The Fire Marshal stated that the Faria project would generate over \$100,000 in permit fees. Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to increase the Fire Marshal Permits line (10100-42026) by \$100,000. Motion carried. Councilor McNally stated that the Building Permit revenue line might also be increased. The Finance Director explained that she spoke to the Building Inspector regarding this. He is expecting the applicant to apply for permits in June. The Town will receive the funds with the application. She will confirm this with him to check if there is a possibility of it coming in after July 1.

Remarks from the Public:

Matt Suarez of 18 Cranberry Drive stated that the increase in call volume for the Fire Departments needs to be addressed.

Public Safety Commissioner Karen Perkins of 22 Sachem Lane in Uncasville stated that the Fire Marshal was hired for his expertise related to staffing of the Fire Departments. She supports the additional three firefighters.

Public Safety Commissioner Vic Lenda of 121 Kitemaug Road in Uncasville agrees with Commission Perkins and supports the funding for three additional firefighters.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Theresa Hart, Director of Finance