

AMENDED

**Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2019 - 6:00 PM**

Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers
(Amended July 22, 2019)

1. Call to order.

Chairman Yuchniuk 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 Mickey Gillette, Victor Lenda, Jr., Jon Leonard, Jim Moran, Karen Perkins, Stephen Stewart, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present Fire Marshal Bundy, Lt. Dave Radford, and Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers. 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 Yuchniuk confirmed the Commission did not receive the Building Report. Commissioner Lenda said he did not receive the report from Animal Control.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2019.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the amended Regular Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2019. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Remarks from the Public (Agenda items—three-minute limit).

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three times for remarks. There were none.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford reported to the Commission there were 889 total calls for service in May that included Type 1 calls (75), arrests (19), and juvenile arrests (4). The source for these calls were Troop E (195), PD (169), Walk-ins (75), and By Officer (1050) as summarized in the PD May 2019 monthly report. As to staffing, Lt. Radford reported Officer Steve Fazzino who is near completion of the FTO Program; Officer Brian Kelly who graduates from the Academy on June 26th that will be held at the Waterbury Palace Theater; and Officers Hagios and DiColella who are doing well and are midway through the Academy. Lt. Radford also reported the hiring period has ended with the swearing in of new officers Ryan Cassidy and William Kuckel on June 17th. He said seven (7) new staff were hired over the past year and with those hires the Department is at full staffing on the books. He also commented on police presence at the Carnival over the weekend and said all went well.

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Bundy reported on the statistics for May 2019 as follows: There were 265 calls for service of which 180 were medical or EMS calls, or 67.9% of all calls for service. There was also one (1) passenger vehicle fire for a loss of \$5,000; AIN (140), and seven (7) plan reviews. As for Emergency Management, he is working with DEHMS Region 4 and closing out the EMPG 2017/18 Grant, and the NESF 2018/19 Grant. Fire Marshal Bundy also reported on the SAFER Grant for additional paid staff and the AFG Grant for two (2) more firefighters for Chesterfield and Oakdale. He commented on a meeting with Chesterfield and Oakdale fire chiefs, two (2) attorneys, and former Oakdale Chief Gary Murphy concerning part-time firefighters. He reported the attorneys are drafting policies that mirror issues from neighboring towns. Fire Marshal Bundy responded to Chairman Yuchniuk that full staffing would be set for full-time firefighters, not part-timers.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison (*Perkins*)

Commissioner Perkins reported she visited Dispatch on Monday, June 17 and said two (2) people were there which *she* thought should be a regular occurrence. She thanked Fire Marshal Bundy and Commissioner Leonard for their time and said they welcomed visits. Commissioner Perkins also said she had been reaching out to the firehouses and recently toured Mohegan and rode on the M21 but said she plans to set times to meet with the other firehouses as well. She asked how it differed from the M32 and whether the M21 could be kept for its parts. Commissioner Lenda said the parts from the 28-year old truck might not be interchangeable. Commissioner Perkins said she would continue to work with the firehouses and report back to the Commission. She also said she shares positive feedback on social media and she also thanked the Fire Marshals, Oakdale volunteers who were there all weekend, the Montville Fire Trucks, and the Police for their participation and assistance with the Carnival.

b. Report from Animal Control Liaison (*Gillette*)

Commissioner Gillette reported on the Town and Salem Animal Control monthly reports submitted electronically to the Commission as seen below.

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (May 2019)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	19	126
# of Animals Sold as Pets	16	68
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	4
# of Animals Euthanized	0	4
Total Complaints Investigated	132	1083
Total Animal Bites Investigated	5	24
Total Infractions/Summons	0	8

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (May 2019)

Town of Montville
Public Safety Commission
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	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	0	8
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	1
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	2
Total Complaints Investigated	7	97
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	2
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

c. Report from Police Department Liaison (*Lenda*)

Commissioner Lenda stated he had no report but said he had spoken with Lt. Radford and said things were going well. He thanked the Department for hiring seven (7) new officer this year and mentioned the *FTO* trainings and the full staff of 26 officers. He also asked about the RST. Lt. Radford said Sgt. Juhola was on vacation but would still be in Town as there was no one to fill the position. *Commissioner Lenda* asked if the *troopers* came into Town to take case numbers to which Lt. Radford responded, “No.” He then asked Lt. Radford about the Norwich pickup trucks with cones working highway jobs in Town and asked why it happened. Lt. Radford spoke of building relations with neighboring towns, mentioned the bad blood in the past with Norwich, and shorthanded *for* road jobs. He also responded the Department had not been asked to go to Norwich and said there was mutual aid with Norwich.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison (*Leonard*)

Building Department Report

2018-2019 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	88	118	108	167	133	135	101	76	77	126		
Open Permits	3104	3119	3167	3210	3254	3269	3099	2967	2876	2906		
Inspections	91	136	115	136	119	116	99	66	88	122		
Plan Reviews	21	24	17	13	19	29	22	16	8	23		
CO's	7	11	17	8	8	1	9	4	3	15		
Violations	0	1	3	2	0	3	1	0	4	4		
Unsafe Notices	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1		
Blight Identified To Date	509	512	514	515	515	515	519	523	524	532		
Blight Abated To Date	237	249	258	265	274	279	286	289	292	292		

Commissioner Leonard reported he had a good conversation with Building Inspector Vesey and said he asked him questions about blight issues and how they are handled. He said the Building Inspector did not have the manpower to follow up on each complaint; was currently revisiting the Building Department fee structure; and spoke of the residential housing at the former Faria site and the large data center and the safety follow up that would be conducted for each project. Commissioner Leonard spoke to the strain on the Department and the

proposal for a temporary, part-time position (19 hours) for regular Department follow up. Town Councilor Rogers clarified for Chairman Yuchniuk that the Blight Enforcement Officer was hired to enforce blight when determined.

e. Report from School Security Subcommittee (*Lenda, Leonard, Moran*)

Commissioner Lenda reported school officials had not called about upcoming meetings. He discussed how the Subcommittee was formed a year ago for the security and protection of schools and spoke of the transition of Ms. Pallin from Asst. Superintendent to Superintendent of Schools who said the PSC was not needed. Commissioner Lenda also said there was some dissent when the Subcommittee was formed to provide assistance although it was originally requested. He spoke about the approval of the grant for in-school security per information he received from Town Councilor Pike and the skills training shared with the school officials by former Commissioner Butterworth. Commissioner Leonard suggested a meeting with Superintendent Pallin that Commissioner Lenda said she should do or to attend a Board of Education meeting as proposed by Chairman Yuchniuk which Commissioner Lenda said had been done in executive session. Commissioner Lenda ruminated on the time it takes for things to get done referencing the needs of the fire, police, and the schools. Town Councilor Rogers addressed how the school budget process works and the control of budget by the Superintendent and Board of Education who make the decisions as to how it is spent once that budget is approved by the Town Council. Commissioner Moran asked if the school budget was created by line item and Town Councilor Rogers said he would discuss that point in his report this evening. Chairman Yuchniuk asked if a School Resource Officer is anticipated-- Commissioner Lenda said school security was being handled by the former RST Mike Collins. Lt. Radford responded “not at this time” but said it can be revisited. He also said the DARE Officer is in the schools daily throughout the school year.

10. Unfinished Business. -- *None*

11. New Business – *None*

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three times for comments.

Resident *Robert* Forrester of 831 Old Colchester Road remarked that the recording for last month’s meeting was not on the Town website and said Commissioner Stewart would be an asset. Town Councilor Rogers commented there had been difficulties with several recordings and IT is aware.

13. Remarks from the Mayor

In the absence of Mayor McDaniel, Lt. Radford remarked on his behalf on the following:

- His sincere thanks and gratitude to the Police, Paid and Volunteer Fire personnel, the Fire Police and the Public Works employees for the contributions to a very successful Carnival event this weekend. He said a great job was done by all of the Parks & Recreation Commission volunteers who planned and executed a great event.

- He expressed his pleasure in welcoming Officers Cassidy and Kuckel III and looked forward to Officer Kelly's graduation on Wednesday, June 26th.
- The Town Attorney continues to work on the volunteer issue to explore ways to try and make this work for all.
- The road job on Old Colchester Road between the Community Center and Fellows Road is getting pushed further into the fall due to engineering issues with the prefabricated culvert design drawings. The road will be closed with a detour route so we are eager to get this underway.
- Road preparations for summer/fall paving projects continue and will cause small duration closures from time to time. We anticipate that the Eversource gas job will be completed prior to the start of school.

14 Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Rogers answered Commissioner Moran's earlier budget question. He spoke of how the Mayor's budget is created, the department budgets go to the Finance Department where each department will defend them; Finance finalizes the department budgets and sends them on to the Town Council for approval; and thereafter the Town can push for referendum. Town Councilor Rogers said many do not understand how the budget process works. He then addressed Commissioner Perkins' comments about the struggle of the M-21 to go uphill and confirmed with Fire Marshal Bundy that the weight of the truck, its diesel engine, and the location of the firehouse manifests the struggle. The question about the M-21 truck parts asked earlier by Commissioner Perkins was discussed with the conclusion that truck accessories will stay as determined by the chief. Asst. Fire Chief Forrester explained that when a truck leaves a station the engine is cold but attains more power once it is warm. He also said the M-21 has 180 HP compared to newer trucks with 300-450 HP. Commissioner Stewart said the ladders, hoses, and other accessories on the trucks are Town-owned.

Town Councilor Rogers then commented on the swearing in ceremony of the new officers that he addressed in an email to Mayor McDaniel and sent to the Commission which said he wanted them to be held at a Commission or Town Council meeting as it is done in Waterford. He also said it is not the decision of the recruit as to when the ceremony occurs but said he recognized time constraints having to do with meeting dates and Academy ending dates. Lt. Radford commented the recruits do not choose the swearing-in date. Town Councilor Rogers spoke to the distinction between the ceremony versus the oath to swear in recruits. Lt. Radford said the ceremony could be delayed and looked into further.

Town Councilor Rogers also commented on assistance provided by Norwich PD discussed earlier stating he understood establishing relationships but said while under the RST the call for assistance should be the PD, RST, and Fire Service adding that the RST is being paid. Lt. Radford explained that payment is going through Eversource to Norwich who are supplemental to the Town. He also stated Eversource wanted three (3) troopers but it could not be done.

Town Councilor Rogers also commented that citizens reporting blight concerns deserve a follow-up call and not doing so he described as "pathetic." Commissioner Moran asked if the Building Inspector has a secretary who could make the calls. Town Councilor Rogers then

asked Lt. Radford and Fire Marshal Bundy if they did follow up calls and they responded, “Yes.” Commissioner Lenda suggested utilizing the Enforcement Officer to make the follow calls to take the burden off of Building Inspector Vesey.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins commented on the request for three (3) firefighters that was not approved for the upcoming budget year. She asked Town Councilor Rogers to obtain an answer about the same.

Commissioner Leonard remarked he *observed the training on social media* last week with the Oakdale and Chesterfield fire stations and discussion included where information could be obtained. He mentioned using the “robust” radio system in the future that he said was underused. Commissioner Stewart said he was happy to be on the Commission having served on it years ago and said he wanted to make a difference and that manpower would always be a concern.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m.
Discussion: none. Voice vote; 7-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORDING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN’S WEBSITE.