

Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order
Chairman May 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 Leonard Bunnell, Sr., Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Kathleen Pollard, Colleen Rix, and Joseph Rogulski (7:03 p.m.). Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations
 - a. Presentation(s) from the Montville Economic Development Commission (EDC)
EDC Chairman Walter Hewitt presented Mark Lathrop, *Lathrop Vending, Inc.*, with the Montville EDC Business Excellence Award for being an exceptional business in the Town of Montville for over 15 years and providing ongoing community support. Mr. Lathrop was thanked for being a part of the community and congratulated by EDC Chairman Hewitt, Mayor McDaniel, and the Town Councilors.
 - b. Presentation from State Senator Cathy Osten
State Senator Cathy Osten requested the Councilors' support for a bipartisan, bicameral legislation entitled "An Act Concerning Jobs in and Revenue from the Gaming Industry" (Item 15(d) on the Agenda). The bill would increase the Town's revenue by allowing the casinos to take bets on sports, iGaming, iLottery, and iKeno. A casino in East Windsor has already been approved for construction and another in Bridgeport is being planned. An estimated \$50 million in funds would immediately derive from the East Windsor casino, \$13 million from sports betting, \$16 million from iGaming, and \$10 million from iKeno. The bill also includes increasing the liquor hours, which would keep the State of Connecticut in line with its neighboring States who have extended their serving hours to 4:00 a.m. Furthermore, the bill would also raise the assessed value of (pre-1993) recognized tribal lands from 45% to 100%; post-1993 recognized tribal lands are already being assessed at 100%. The funds would arrive in the form of PiLOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payments. The bill would increase funding to \$88 million in gaming revenue for all towns and an additional \$9 million for those located in eastern Connecticut. It is their hope that the bill will be one of the first bills the Governor will sign. In addition, the bill requires the Governor to negotiate the compact within 90 days, placing pressure on the Executive Branch to complete the process in a short timeframe.

Councilor Rogulski thanked Senator Osten for her efforts and stated his concerns regarding the increased liquor hours and its effect on the local businesses who would not have the same curfew, resulting in individuals to travel from the local businesses to the casinos to further indulge. Senator Osten stated that the bill would allow casinos to serve alcohol two hours beyond the current 2:00 a.m. curfew on Friday and Saturday nights. This section of the bill responds to concerns regarding those patrons' who depart from or do not patronize the Connecticut casinos and venture to either Rhode Island or Massachusetts who have a later curfew at their respective gaming institutions. As such, this portion of the bill would keep the State of Connecticut in complete comportment with its surrounding States.

In response to his question regarding whether the estimated \$220,000.00 of lost tax revenue that was to be offset by the State's PiLOT funds was ever received, Mayor McDaniel clarified that the Town received/receives approximately 30 cents per dollar from the State. Councilor Rogulski expressed his concerns, stating that, while the Town would be estimated to receive a certain amount, the final amount would be dependent upon how much the State decides to fund the particular program. In the past, the State has chosen not to fund a particular program, leaving the town(s) without the anticipated funds. He questioned whether the State would be relying on the gaming funds to fund the PiLOT Program. The PiLOT Program, Senator Osten stated, is a completely different legislation that she is currently working on. The Program is currently approximately \$417 million short; her plan to help remedy the shortage includes the

utilization of funds saved from the payment of pension plans for both the State employees and teachers' retirement. Due to their time and efforts, they have been able to correctly account for the true costs of pensions and predicted that the Town's PiLOT funds should increase annually as the costs for the pension plans decrease.

Councilor Rogulski stated his hopes that those funds that are generated by the gaming industry would be properly appropriated to those towns that are directly affected by the casinos. In response, Senator Osten stated that, should the bill pass in its entirety, Montville would receive an additional \$750,000.00 and a total of over \$1 million following the construction of the East Windsor casino. In addition, there would be an increase in jobs and foot traffic generated from the allowance of sports gaming and the bill would remedy the amount of funding the (host) towns are currently receiving from the gaming industry.

Councilor Caron thanked the Senator for attending the meeting and spoke in favor of parts of the bill, while opposing others. Having been an outspoken voice regarding the amount of funding the Town receives for the Mohegan-Pequot Grant, he expressed his appreciation for her efforts. He stated his hope that, should the bill pass and the Town receive additional funding, the State does not compensate for those funds by eliminating other funding. In response to Councilor Jaskiewicz' question regarding the possibility of locking those funds, Senator Osten felt that there were ways to protect the funds. She agreed that the State has been decreasing their funding over the years and currently retains more than it ever has, on a percentage basis. To this end, she is working on a bill to keep those funds out of the General Fund. She felt that there would be no reason to support the expansion of gaming without the municipalities receiving the revenue they should be receiving.

Councilor Bunnell also thanked Senator Osten for introducing the bill and taking the time to attend their meeting and discuss the bill. He, like others, felt that the Town was shortchanged since the establishment of the casinos and that the bill would correct and offset some of the expenses incurred as the result. While understanding Councilor Rogulski's concerns regarding the extended hours for the serving of alcohol, he did not foresee any significant issues, stating that the extended hours is working in other States and felt that, while some may go to the casino(s) to continue drinking, most will not. He also felt that the casinos' law enforcement teams have a good record of monitoring those who are becoming inebriated and was confident that they would continue to do so. Councilor Rogulski felt that, while it may work in other States, the extended hours would not level the playing field.

In response to Councilor Pollard, Senator Osten stated that she has personally approached the towns of Norwich, Ledyard, and Montville — those towns that would be the most affected by the bill. The Norwich City Council has voted to support the bill and it is her understanding that Ledyard will be presenting the bill at their next meeting for approval. In addition, East Windsor, Norwich Chamber of Commerce, Eastern Chamber of Commerce, and seCTer (Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region) have signed the resolution. An analysis of the Grand List for all 169 towns was conducted to ensure that each town would be receiving the same reflective dollar amount. The benefit would be evident and the bill would be beneficial to as many towns as possible.

The Councilors thanked Senator Osten for her hard work and discussing the bill with them.

5. Alterations to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix, to add the following item to the Agenda:

15(d) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to support Connecticut General Assembly Bill No. LCO397 "AN ACT CONCERNING JOBS IN AND REVENUE FROM THE GAMING INDUSTRY" as it is in the best interest of the Town of Montville and the State of Connecticut. (Councilor May)

Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
 - a. The Special Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2020 (Town Attorney Candidate Interviews)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
 - b. The Regular Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2020
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Executive Session – *none*
8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit
Tony Siragusa, 39 Hillcrest Drive, spoke in opposition to the gaming bill, feeling that the 4:00 a.m. curfew for serving alcohol should apply to all businesses, not only the casinos. While the Town would receive additional tax revenue following the establishment of the East Windsor casino, he expressed his confusion over exactly how much the Town would be receiving as the result of the bill. He also felt that the Town should be able to impose taxes on their land and personal property.
9. Communications
 - a. Copy of the January 2020 budget report from Terry Hart, Finance Director
 - b. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of December 2019
 - c. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of December 2019
 - d. Copy of a letter received from the Auditors
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 Officers William Kuckel III, and Ryan Cassidy have graduated from the Academy and are currently being trained on the field. A new Assistant ACO (Animal Control Officer) was recently hired and will be entering her training. The Town is currently seeking prospective employees for the positions of Zoning/Inland Wetlands Officer and Career and Part-time Firefighters.

He, along with Town Planner Marcia Vlaun, met with Sustainable CT Program Manager and Community Engagement & Outreach and Montville Conservation Commission Chairperson Jessica LeClair regarding the possibility of participating in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program, which lists a number of achievements for towns to check off and become recognized as a sustainable community. He also attended the Board of Education's (BOE) Special Meeting regarding the FY2020/21 Budget.

A tour of the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center for interested Town Councilors has been scheduled for February 27. The time is to be determined.

He also recently attended a birthday party for resident Mildred Mimi MacDonald who celebrated her 100th birthday with 100 of her friends and family.

The Grand List, which grew 3.5%, was recently certified. The overall growth in real estate was approximately \$2.8 million due to new constructions, renovations, and subdivisions, offsetting the nearly \$1.2 million Mohegan Hill demolitions. In addition, the motor vehicle growth has been strong throughout the State due to the high cost of new vehicles, which is also driving up the cost of used vehicles. Most significantly, Eversource's infrastructure upgrades added approximately \$44 million to the Grand List, which is slightly offset by the Town's expanded exemptions for Veterans. In response to Councilor Caron, the Mayor and Finance Director Hart stated that the Grand List grew only slightly the previous year.

In an effort to take advantage of the historically low energy prices and lock in the pricing, the Town has gone out to bid for electric and gas service. The current contract is scheduled to expire in December 2020.

Eversource will be hosting an informational session on energy assistance tomorrow, February 11 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

In response to Councilor Caron, Mayor McDaniel reported that a temporary gas line at the Old Colchester Road Bridge is currently being relocated; the section of the road they are interrupting will be repaved.

Finance Director Hart informed the Councilors that Line Item 10830-53021, Equipment, Maintenance and Repairs, in the Fire Marshal's budget is currently overbudgeted due to recent major repairs. In addition, Line Item 10830-53015, Uniforms, might also be overbudgeted due the anticipated purchase of uniforms and gear for the two new firefighters. A request to transfer funds to balance the budget will be made at the end of the fiscal year. In response to Chairman May's questions, she stated that the budget should be balanced prior to audit of the Town's funds and that part of the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance (Rainy Day fund) was utilized to fund Capital projects during the previous fiscal year.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz

The Councilors discussed the Noise Ordinance and, questioning some of the items, referred the Ordinance to the Town Attorney for review.

Chairman May felt that the Noise Ordinance would prove beneficial, citing a recent complaint he received from a resident who contacted the Police Department who unable to deal with an issue due to the lack of a Noise Ordinance. In response to Councilor Caron, Councilor Bunnell, a former Montville Police Department Lieutenant, stated that noise complaints are, primarily, seasonal and mainly occur during the Summer months. While statutory language exists to enforce noise, such cases are difficult to prosecute in the courts due to its subjective nature; instituting a Noise Ordinance would establish objective minimum standards. Councilor Jaskiewicz added the possibility of specifying the Ordinance to include certain types of instances. The currently proposed Ordinance has been reviewed by the CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection).

b. Finance – Councilor Jaskiewicz

A positive discussion was held between the Committee, Montville Police Lt. Dave Radford, Mayor McDaniel, and Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr., regarding the police vehicle that was involved in an accident. Answers to the questions that were raised during the meeting have been received and the issue will be further discussed at their next meeting.

An open and general conversation was also held regarding the upcoming budget with the Mayor and the BOE, who will be seeking an increase. Items discussed included the technology equipment and the ongoing issues with the Tyl Middle School roof. Immediately following the Finance Committee Meeting, he attended a presentation provided by the State, which included a discussion regarding the volatility of special education costs.

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron

The Committee engaged in a discussion regarding the future of the historical Raymond Hill Church, the utilization of the old Town Hall, the Transfer Station's new bar code system, trees, and the possibility of hiring additional summer help to pick up the trash being left alongside the Town's roads.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Bunnell: Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau

Public Safety Commission – Councilor Bunnell reported on the following statistics:

The Police Department received 1,386 Calls for Service during the month of December. Officers Joseph DiColella and Russell Hagios have completed their Field Training Program and are now patrolling the Town. As noted by the Mayor, Officers Kuckel and Cassidy have both graduated from the Academy and are currently in the Field Training Program, bringing the Department's staffing level to its budgeted amount. Preparations are being

taken to provide better coverage at Gardner Lake State Park as ten (10) officers have been sent to take the Boating classes.

The Fire Department received 272 Calls for Service, 173 of which were EMS (Emergency Medical Services) calls and 19 of which were life safety calls. The job for the three (3) new positions has been posted.

The Animal Control Officer received 76 calls during the month of December, totaling 560 for the year. Of those calls, 5 were for the Town of Salem, bringing their total number of calls for the year to 42.

He was impressed with the Fire Department Subcommittee, which discussed the various possibilities to increase their volunteer staffing levels. The Subcommittee will continue to meet and will be drafting a list of recommendations for the Commission to review.

Youth Service Bureau – no meeting

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services

Councilor Caron reported that the Commission discussed the possibility of strengthening the home health care bill and the possibility of adding additional programs and inviting speakers. He expressed his appreciation to Charter Oak Credit Union for donating \$3,000.00 to Social Services' Food Bank and an additional \$3,000.00 to the Senior Center for the acquisition of a SmartBoard for their Media Room. He also contacted the Mohegan Tribe for a possible donation to help fund the upgrading of the Senior Center's Movie Night system. Social Services continues to be in need of food items and has secured a Fundraising Concert at the Mohegan Sun Casino. He also reported on the phenomenal success of the Re-use Room.

At Chairman May's suggestion, Councilor Caron will discuss the possibility of creating and posting a list of items the Town's Food Bank is seeking with the Director. He added that the Town is very fortunate with the ongoing generous support they receive from the area's businesses and residents to help those in need and reiterated the year-round need for items.

In response to Councilor Pollard, Councilor Caron believed that part of the home health care bill did pass, but that the Commission was seeking to have the bill strengthened. He has spoken with Senator Osten and plans to speak with Representative Paul Formica and other legislators regarding the bill.

c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education – *unable to attend the meeting; no report*

d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA)

Councilor May reported on the WPCA's savings of approximately \$20,000.00 in sludge hauling for the month of January and the near completion of the fuel cell project. The Subcommittee's draft of the revised Purchasing Policy Rules & Procedures will be reviewed, discussed, and, possibly, voted upon during their next meeting.

e. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations

Councilor Pollard attended the New London Homeless Hospitality Center's tour and informative meeting on Tuesday, January 21, which was also attended by New London Mayor Michael Passero and State Representatives Joe de la Cruz and Anthony Nolan. The Center, while based in New London, serves individuals and families from all towns and cities, including Bridgeport and Hartford. She has invited Executive Director Catherine Zall to provide a presentation to speak about the Center at a future Town Council meeting.

e. Councilor Rix: Economic Development Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission

The Economic Development Commission held an informational meeting as no quorum was reached. A realtor from the Londregan Commercial Real Estate Group spoke with the Commissioners regarding his active pursuit to lease three vacant properties located in the former Beit Brothers Shopping Center and by the Mobil Gas Station. The Commission also discussed additional businesses to consider as recipients for the Business Recognition Award.

The Parks & Recreation Commission also held an informational meeting due to the lack of a quorum. A tentative date for the carnival has been set and they are awaiting the receipt of the contract. The Commissioners held an extensive discussion regarding the timely de-installation of the holiday decorations installed along Route 32, the purchase of additional holiday decorations at a discounted rate, and the possibility of installing other types of decorations during the interim. Seats are still available for the March 15 On-Your-Own Bus Trip to Boston, Massachusetts. Future bus trips include a Summer trip to Newport, Rhode Island, and a Winter trip to New York City.

The Planning & Zoning Commission approved a proposed zone change for Applicant/Owner Village Apartments, LLC, from R-20 to R-20-M for the property located at 232 Route 32. Opposition to the zone change was received by those residents concerned with the location of the right-of-way, the possible increase in trash and people, and the lack of police presence in the area.

- f. Councilor Rogulski: Library Committee, Fire Fighters Relief Fund – *no meeting; no report*

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Kate Southard to fill a vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire on October 12, 2023.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Monica MacNeil from the Commission on Aging effective immediately.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, and Jaskiewicz expressed their regrets. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Gary Murphy to fill a vacancy on the Commission on Aging with a term to expire on January 10, 2023.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2020-09. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$11,087.56 (eleven thousand and eighty-seven dollars and fifty-six cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2020-10. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to Support Participation in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program. (Mayor McDaniel)

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is a comprehensive, statewide, action-oriented voluntary certification program, built by and for municipalities, with the vision that: *Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking. They build community and local economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents. And they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment.*

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs, and provide grants and additional support to municipalities.

WHEREAS, Montville embraces an ongoing process of working toward greater sustainability, selecting which actions it chooses to pursue from the voluntary menu of actions provided by Sustainable CT.

RESOLVED, by the Montville Town Council of Montville that we do hereby authorize the Mayor to serve as Montville's Sustainable CT contact person for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification process and authorize him/her to complete Municipal Registration on behalf of Montville.

RESOLVED, that to focus attention and effort within Montville on matters of sustainability, and in order to promote Montville Town Council's local initiatives and actions toward Sustainable CT Municipal Certification, the Montville Town Council establishes an advisory Sustainability Team.

RESOLVED, that the first meeting of the Sustainability Team must be held within 90 days of passing this resolution and that the Sustainability Team shall meet as frequently as needed, but no less than quarterly.

RESOLVED, that the Sustainability Team shall report annually to the Montville Town Council on the progress of its activities toward Sustainable CT certification, with reports and presentations made publicly available.

Mayor McDaniel stated that, in an effort to encourage residents back into their communities, Sustainable CT is working with towns to be sustainable from both an environmental/energy and arts and culture perspective.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to nominate and appoint a Town Council Liaison to the Conservation Commission. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski, to nominate and appoint Councilor May as the Liaison to the Conservation Commission. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2020-11. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to support Connecticut General Assembly Bill No. LCO397 "AN ACT CONCERNING JOBS IN AND REVENUE FROM THE GAMING INDUSTRY" as it is in the best interest of the Town of Montville and the State of Connecticut. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: Councilor Rix expressed her appreciation to Senator Osten and Representative Mike France for their hard work on the bill and expressed her concern regarding the possible loss of revenue from the opening of the casino in East Windsor. In response, Mayor McDaniel stated that, just as East Windsor is currently receiving revenue from the Mohegan Sun Casino, the Town would, likewise, receive revenues from the East Windsor casino. He explained that, compared to previous years, a smaller portion of the revenue is being distributed to the towns and cities; the bill would ensure that the towns and cities would receive a more appropriate portion of the revenues and, furthermore, would guarantee that the host communities would also receive the proper funding. In addition, the bill would bifurcate the PiLOT Program, ensuring that the town would receive adequate funding. While the final language for the bill would, most likely, be changed in the near future, he stated the importance of the Town showing its support for the bill from the onset. Councilor Caron agreed, stating his support for the bill as a starting point, while reiterating his opposition to parts of the bill. While understanding Councilor Rogulski's concerns regarding the extended serving hours, Councilor Rix stated that she did not feel that the extended hours would have a major effect and would keep the State in line with its neighboring States. Chairman May pointed out that one of the Town's goals is to receive more funding from the State through the Mohegan Pequot Fund and the figures provided in the bill

of the estimated receipt of an additional approximately \$1.2 million is a conservative number. Councilor Bunnell felt that the bill would result in an enormous benefit to the Town and, having witnessed the impact of the casinos since their establishment, the Town's services, e.g., Public Works Department, Board of Education, Police and Emergency Services, are currently in a much better position to deal with any possible adverse effects. Mayor McDaniel stated that the purpose of the bill is to ensure that the towns and cities are treated fairly and that the host towns are fairly compensated. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

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

Chesterfield Volunteer Fire Company Chief Keith Truex announced that the Fire Company recently received their new tanker truck and their members are currently working hard to complete their qualifications while the radio and SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) Packs are being installed.

As a resident, Mr. Truex requested that the Councilors seriously consider placing two of the new paid firefighters at the Chesterfield Volunteer Fire Company. While agreeing that the Chesterfield area receives less calls for service, he reminded the Councilors that such developments as the Indoor Go Kart facility and Wide World of Indoor Sports has increased the number of calls being received and the proposed housing developments will further increase the number of calls. Timely responses to the emergencies taking place in the area are as equally important as for other areas. The other Fire Companies are covered by career firefighters six (6) days a week, 24 hours a day while Chesterfield Fire Company is covered by a career firefighter five (5) days a week, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. He has voiced his concerns to the Public Safety Commission on numerous occasions to no avail. The Fire Company is actively working with the Public Safety Commission and the other Fire Companies to recruit additional volunteer firefighters.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Bunnell responded to Chesterfield Volunteer Fire Company Chief Truex's comments, stating that the call volume should not dictate the numbers at the Firehouse. While he has always supported the addition of firefighters, it has not been possible due to fiscal restraints. The changes and increases that have been negotiated, through the Mayor's efforts, will benefit the entire Town and, while the additional staffing in Chesterfield would benefit the public, the additional coverage at the other Firehouses would, by far, benefit the entire Town. He felt that the Fire Company would receive additional firefighter(s) in due time, relaying his 15 year fight to hire one additional Police Officer. He praised and expressed his appreciation to the Public Works Department, most especially John Carlson, who does an outstanding job, and the Volunteer Fire Police, who, he felt, is the best kept secret in Town. He wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Councilor Caron thanked the public for attending the meeting. He is pleased to hear about the growth in the Grand List and will speak with the relevant parties to educate himself with regards to the placement of the new paid firefighters.

Councilor Pollard wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and thanked those who take the time to attend their meetings. She encouraged everyone to be safe and stay healthy.

Chairman May was also pleased to hear about the Grand List growth and commented on becoming enlightened at the recent BOE Budget Meeting regarding the various intricacies of their budget.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. 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**