

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2020 - 6:00 PM
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

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., James Moran, Karen Perkins, Stephen Stewart, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Commissioner Jon Leonard was absent. Also present were Lt. Dave Radford, Fire Marshal Bill Bundy, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, and Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell. 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 received all of the monthly statistics reports.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2020. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford reported there were 1490 total calls for service in January that included Type 1 calls (108), arrests (35), and juvenile arrests (4). The source for these calls were Troop E (164), PD (255), Walk-in (54), and By Officer (835) as summarized in the January 2020 PD monthly report. As to staffing, Lt. Radford reported Officer Hagios completed his Field Training Program and is on his own. Officer Cassidy and Officer Kuckel graduated from the Police Academy on January 23 and both have begun their Field Training Program and are getting ready to start the second phase. Lt. Radford also reported he spoke with the Gardner Lake Authority representative and said he is in the process of putting a cost proposal for the March meeting. He then reported on Officers Stuart and Fazzino who responded to a child choking call on January 12, 2020. Upon the officers' arrival, they determined the child had an obstructed airway from a small toy. Officer Stuart performed the Heimlich maneuver on the child, which improved his breathing; although the toy was still lodged. Officer Stuart had to repeat this procedure a second time prior to EMS arriving and transporting the child. These Officers are receiving positive POR's for this incident.

Fire Department Report

Chief Truex reported to the Commission that the new Chesterfield Firehouse Tanker M32 was placed into service on February 22 at approximately 1100 hours and was in service for the county rotation and tanker task force. He thanked the Commission who voted and supported its purchase and said the tanker was outside and encouraged everyone to look at it. He also said he would answer questions about it. As he did at the January meeting, Chief Truex then said he was there before the Commission again “begging for additional paid staff at Chesterfield” that has 50 hours of coverage per week with career staff. The Chief spoke of the pending three (3), new career staff with no plan of any being placed at Chesterfield---. He reiterated he was seeking comparable staffing at Chesterfield as it is at the other three (3) stations—a 24-hour, 6-day week of paid staff with 12 hours on Saturday. Chief Truex asked the Commission to review and support this plan for Chesterfield. He said he would research the call volumes at the other stations that have 24-hour service stating he wanted Chesterfield to have the same level of service as the others and to support the district where he and others reside. Commissioner Moran asked about the 24/7 coverage as deemed by the union contract. Mayor McDaniel said it was a 42-hour week, staggered schedule of 25/6 coverage. Commissioner Lenda mentioned the upcoming Fire Department Subcommittee meeting on March 3rd suggested Chief

The Fire Department Report for January 2020 was reported by Commissioner Perkins in the absence of Fire Marshal Bundy as follows: There were 241 calls for service of which 181 were medical EMS calls, or 75% and of those there were 143 (79%) transported by ambulance (2 paid 59%, 1 paid 64%, 0 paid 20%). Commissioner Perkins also reported seven (2) or 1% transported by others; no transports seven (7); lift assists 22; refusals seven (7), and 44 AIN inspections. The Fire Marshal also closed out the 2017 Emergency Performance Management Grant (EMPG) with \$19,717 and received an award of \$19,231 for this year’s EPMG. Also, he submitted the Nuclear Emergency Safety Fund (NESF) for FY2020-2021 for \$49,000. The Fire Marshal also received 30 applicants for the three (3) Town paid fire positions. He also wants to meet with Commissioner Perkins to review procedures in anticipation of the next step which is for interviews.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported the Fire Department Subcommittee Meeting will be held at the Public Safety Building (PSB) on March 3 at 5:30 p.m. She also met with a couple of paid staff and has met some volunteers at the fire stations to get a better understanding of their procedures. She said she wants to meet with the officers at Mohegan and Montville and other firehouses to familiarize herself with each firehouse and staff at each. Commissioner Perkins also reported Chief Gaetano wants to introduce her to his officers as the liaison for the fire department. She reported on a Town EMS training held on February 18 and then spoke about the positive aspect of social media particularly the updates posted by Chesterfield fire station and she promoted the sharing of information by all the fire stations. Commissioner Perkins also spoke well about Chesterfield’s attendance at the meetings and said she felt the issue brought up by Chief Truex was a personnel issue and said she would meet with him and the Fire Marshal regarding it. Commissioner Moran then asked if Commissioner Perkins had the Fire Department statistics or summary of all calls from the 2018-2019. She said she is

working on obtaining that data for each firehouse, specifically each fire truck and ambulance, from July 1 – December 31.

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

Commissioner Gillette reported on the statistics of the Town and Salem Animal Control December monthly reports as follows:

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (January 2020)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	7	78
# of Animals Sold as Pets	2	41
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	1
# of Animals Euthanized	1	6
Total Complaints Investigated	95	655
Total Animal Bites Investigated	3	10
Total Infractions/Summons	0	1

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (December 2019)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	1	5
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	3	45
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	1
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

Commissioner Gillette commented on an article on Facebook that he received regarding a 13-week old puppy that ran away from its mother and fell down a well and spoke of the rescue efforts by local police and fire staff and the Tribal police.

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

Commissioner Lenda reported he had no formal PD report and said there was nothing to report at this time. But he said he continues to work together with Lt. Radford and said if anyone had anything that would help, he would bring it forward at this time.

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

Commissioner Stewart reported on the January Department statistics. He said he went today to speak with Building Inspector Vessey about any action on his budget requests but said he was out sick.

Building Department Report

2019-2020 Building Department Report

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	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	142	177	119	161	104	87	108					
Open Permits	2920	2973	3017	3040	2859	2968	3091					
Inspections	128	144	98	134	111	109	136					
Plan Reviews	22	34	21	32	23	10	15					
CO's	5	7	9	7	12	0	3					
Violation Notices	2	7	1	2	0	2	1					
Unsafe Notices	0	1	0	0	0	0	1					
Blight Identified 329 333 To Date	533	533	533	535	535	537						
Blight Abated To Date	315	321	324	327	329	333						

e. Report from School Security Subcommittee (*Lenda, Leonard, Moran*)
 Commissioner Lenda said Lt. Radford and he spoke recently with Board of Ed Superintendent Palin concerning the school resource officer that is pending a meeting with the Subcommittee. While that is ongoing, he said Commissioner Leonard had some safety issues that he wanted to bring up and Fire Marshal had concerns as well. Commissioner Lenda said Superintendent Palin who is working with the Board's counsel with no objection by the Subcommittee and a follow-up meeting will be set up.

f. Report from Fire Department Subcommittee (*Leonard, Moran, Perkins, Stewart*)
 Commissioner Moran reported no meeting was held in this time period, but said one would be held on March 3rd. He also said there was nothing to report.

10. Unfinished Business. -- *None*

11. New Business. -- *None*

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three (3) times for remarks from the public. Resident and fire staff person Max Worth of 18 Cranberry Drive stated he has the data by month and year for the Mohegan fire station sought by Commissioner Perkins.

_____ of 25 Cranberry Drive stated he could provide the data needed for the Oakdale fire station. He also commented that the March 3rd subcommittee meeting was not posted on the website but was told Commissioner Leonard would post the agenda for it.

Robert Forrester of 831 Chesterfield Road thanked G. Murphy for his remarks and spoke in support of Chief Truex's earlier comments stating he was a resident in his fire district. He said he supported the new hires and said funds and/or investment would be better spent covering Chesterfield 24-hours instead of making sure it has Saturday coverage.

13. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel reported he congratulated Chesterfield fire station for the arrival of the awesome tanker that he said would be a valuable tool. He spoke again about the Building Department data that would be available on the updated Town website. He said deficiency notices and other data saved over the years would be accessible via I-Pad, but private data would be protected. Mayor McDaniel said all data over 10 years including Planning & Zoning would be available. He also spoke about the 30 applications received for the three (3) firefighter positions and said he spoke with Fire Marshal Bundy as to how to handle the volume by having the fire chiefs review to separate the wheat from the chaff and bring them on board before July 1. He also reported upcoming union bargaining with six (6) other contracts before July.

14 Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell said he was happy to hear about movement regarding the SRO stating the efforts meant a lot to him. He also congratulated Chief Truex regarding the new tanker truck and praised his efforts to acquire 24/7 coverage at his fire station. Town Councilor Bunnell also offered congratulations on the puppy life-saving event stating, “ability and knowledge to act goes a long way.”

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Gillette offered congrats again for the puppy rescue and a great a job to all involved in containing the three (3) structure fires over the past 3-5 days. Commissioner Moran spoke regarding lifesaving awards and working with the Fire Marshal on it. Commissioner Perkins thanked the volunteers who attend the Commission meetings. Commissioner Lenda thanked Chief Truex for bringing the new tanker this evening and said the truck looked “solid and rugged, a great piece of equipment.” He also thanked Lt. Radford for keeping him informed for his efforts with the Board of Education regarding the SRO. Commissioner Stewart said he echoed the sentiments regarding the tanker and the puppy rescue stating a lot of times people say “it’s just a dog” but said if rescue efforts are not done, owners will. Chairman Yuchniuk encouraged Lt. Radford to keep working on getting the SRO and thanked Chief Truex for the tanker and telling him to keep fighting for his district stating nothing moves quickly.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Chairman Moran, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 6-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORDING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE.