

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – August 24, 2020 -- 6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Town of Montville will be utilizing a virtual GoToMeeting service for this meeting.

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On March 14, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order 7B suspending in-person open meeting requirements, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology.

Link: **<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>**

For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town charter may be submitted in writing in advance or by live audio via GoToMeeting.

Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk's Office at **townclerk@montville-ct.org** at least **1 working day in advance** (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Public Safety Commission.

Live audio comments may be made via GoToMeeting by calling from your telephone.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Public Safety Commission Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced in the same manner as if the meeting were held in person.

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 Jon Leonard, James Moran, Karen Perkins, Stephen Stewart, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel, Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell (6:03 p.m.), and Chesterfield Fire Chief Keith Truex. Absent were Commissioners Mickey Gillette and Victor Lenda, Jr., Lt. Dave Radford, and Fire Marshal Bill Bundy. 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 Commissioners received copies of all of the monthly statistics reports.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2020. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, 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

The PD monthly statistics ending July 31, 2020, are as follows: There were 1429 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (53), arrests (9), and juvenile arrests (2). The source for these calls were Troop E (134), PD (228), Walk-in (98), and By Officer (810).

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department statistics for the month ending July 31, 2020, are as follows: There were 244 calls for service and one (1) fire investigation with a loss of \$8,000. Of the calls for service, 75 (30.7%) were EMS.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins reported the Montville Firefighters Relief Fund met on August 6. She gave statistics on recipients of stipends by fire stations as follows: Chesterfield (5); Mohegan (8), Montville (9), and Oakdale (3). She also said she reached out to all the fire chiefs for questions or concerns they may have for her to present to the Commission. Commissioner Perkins also urged the Commission to reach out to the fire chiefs directly with their questions. She also reported statistics on runs by the Montville company for July and said she hoped to get reports next month from the other companies.

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

The statistics of the Town and Salem Animal Control for July 2020 monthly reports are as follows:

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (July 2020)

| | Month | YTD |
|--|--------------|------------|
| # of Animals Impounded | 9 | 9 |
| # of Animals Sold as Pets | 2 | 2 |
| # of Animals D.O.A. | 0 | 0 |
| # of Animals Euthanized | 0 | 0 |
| Total Complaints Investigated | 96 | 96 |
| Total Animal Bites Investigated | 3 | 3 |
| Total Infractions/Summons | 0 | 0 |

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (July 2020)

| | Month | YTD |
|--|--------------|------------|
| # of Animals Impounded | 1 | 1 |
| # of Animals Sold as Pets | 0 | 0 |
| # of Animals D.O.A. | 0 | 0 |
| # of Animals Euthanized | 0 | 0 |
| Total Complaints Investigated | 4 | 4 |
| Total Animal Bites Investigated | 0 | 0 |
| Total Infractions/Summons | 0 | 0 |

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

Commissioner Moran reported on behalf of Commissioner Lenda stating there was a full-page advertisement for job vacancies that included school security. He said he reached out to Commissioner Lenda and Lt. Radford about the State mandate regarding security for schools when kids are outside. Commissioner Moran said a part-time retired policer officer is being sought and Town Councilor Bunnell said one (1) has applied thus far. Chairman Yuchniuk asked whether outside activity was a means to lessen Covid. Mayor McDaniel said his concern was about the work that has been done to keep kids safe but said he would get the information on the same from the Superintendent of Schools.

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

Commissioner Stewart referenced the August 18 email sent by Building Inspector Vesey when he conveyed his having been on vacation during the month of July. The Building Inspector reported that the new permitting software went live on July 3 and said he was learning the ins and outs of it to produce a report. Commissioner Stewart reported he would meet with him before the next Commission meeting and added the software is doing the job but is not for specific use by Montville.

Building Department Report

| 2020-2021 Building Department Report | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June |
| Permits Issued | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Open Permits | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inspections | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plan Reviews | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CO's | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Violation Notices | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unsafe Notices | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blight Identified 329 333 To Date | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blight Abated To Date | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

Commissioner Moran reported the subcommittee was a work in progress and referred to his earlier reporting.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex reported the move-up policy is failing and said the fire chiefs will be submitting a response to the Town. He also reported on multiple town-wide training which seemed to be enjoyed.

11. Unfinished Business.

a. Discussion between Town of Montville and Fire Departments.

Chairman Yuchniuk referenced emails received from Chief Messer, Gaetano, and Turner regarding run times and responses and dispatch for MVA's and said Town Councilor Bunnell is working on it. Commissioner Leonard clarified run times were submitted by Chiefs Gaetano and Turner. Town Councilor Bunnell stated paid staff were concerned by the number of volunteers responding to MVAs. Chairman Yuchniuk read from a letter(s) about fire trucks being left on the side of the road on I-395, Route 2A, areas on Route 32. Town Councilor

Bunnell said the fire chiefs responded to the complaint about MVAs discussed at the last meeting and Commissioner Stewart said adding another department to help with the MVA's helps but it remains there are not enough people, an issue that is unanswered. He said paid staff cannot do it alone and said they are supporting volunteers. Commissioner Perkins spoke about accountability and asked whether volunteers could commit to a specific time frame and if an ad could be placed for more volunteers. Town Councilor Bunnell said counts on total numbers are still being sought. Commissioner Leonard reported on an August 19 incident he described as one example that reflects upon the lack of volunteers and the move-up policy with specifics added by Commissioner Stewart. Commissioner Leonard followed to explain an incident that occurred today, and Commissioner Perkins asked if statistics could be run on the move-up policy per Chief Truex's comment.

12. New Business. -- *None*

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

Mark Battista remarked on why the start time for tonight's meeting changed without prior communication stating he called on at the designated time, but the meeting was well and done. He also invited the Commissioners to come out and be volunteers stating Public Safety members would be welcome. M. Battista also said he tried to respond to dispatch regarding the call mentioned earlier and that he was yelled at. Chief Truex remarked on two (2) back-to-back ambulance calls at Chesterfield and said there have been calls where paid staff moved up and then moved down. He said the chiefs discussed the same and said if paid staff are working, they can request help from the incident commander. Tim Condon spoke about finding another avenue for the respective stakeholders to discuss the issues.

14. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel remarked on the swearing in of Officer Lindsey Michaels last week and serving at the Academy. He also reported on the 1033 Program and the debate between he, Finance, and Lt. Radford concerning surplus equipment from the government.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell said he would look into the State mandate regarding security for students while outside at schools. He also reported he met with Mayor McDaniel, Town Council Chairman May and Fire Chiefs Gaetano, Messer, Truex, and Turner and discussed the contract between the parties. Issues of operational control, training, move-up policy were discussed, and talks are headed in the right direction with 10-14 resolutions and contract suggestions.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins thanked the volunteers who respond to calls; asked about a pinning ceremony for the four (4) new firefighters [Mayor McDaniel said he would discuss it with Fire Marshal Bundy]; expressed thanks to the career staff and volunteers and asked that they contact her with their concerns or if she misspoke; commented on the meeting with the chiefs and the Town Council, thanked the Fire Marshal; and asked all to be safe and healthy. Chairman

Yuchniuk remarked on the start time for tonight's meeting which began at exactly 6:00 p.m. and said any concerns or suggestions otherwise were disingenuous.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Moran to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 5-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF
MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**