

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – December 28, 2020 -- 6:00 PM**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

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

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone at:  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/124605589>

You can also dial in using your phone.  
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 124-605-589

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](mailto: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 6:01 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\*, James Moran, Karen Perkins\*, Stephen Stewart, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present were Lt. Dave Radford and Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell. Absent was Mayor Ronald McDaniel due to a death in the family as reported by Town Councilor Bunnell. A quorum was present. \*Present remotely by phone.

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 receipt of the monthly statistical reports by all the Commissioners.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Lenda; seconded by Commissioner Moran to make a correction to the November 23, 2020, minutes. Discussion: Commissioner Lenda said Item 9.c of the minutes regarding retaliation should read “**for an investigation**” instead of “**against the ACO.**” Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the November 23, 2020 minutes, as amended. 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 (3) times for remarks. There were none.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford reported the PD monthly statistics ending November 30, 2020, are as follows: There were 1331 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (56), arrests (19), and juvenile arrests (1). The source for these calls were Troop E (169), PD (211), Walk-in (87), and By Officer (713). Lt Radford also reported things were getting busier and said write-ups of favorable officer activity had increased, particularly this week.

Fire Department Report

The FD statistics for the month ending November 30, 2020, are as follows: There were 248 calls for service of which 163 were medical EMS calls or 65.7% of all calls for service. There were also two (2) incidents of losses, \$1,300 and \$2,500.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported on Mohegan Fire Company statistical activity for November 2020 as follows: 164 total calls responded to, 101 Mohegan calls for service; 33 fire calls; 125 EMS calls; 6 mutual aid out of town calls. Regular monthly training: SCBA familiarization, interior search, and hose line advancement—14 members, 1 ½ hours = 21 hours. Driver training: Apparatus and equipment operation and training—3 members, 7 hours = 21 hours. Online trainings: Continuing education—7 courses completed = 7 hours. Total training hours = 49.

Commissioner Perkins also reported Chesterfield Fire Company statistical activity for November 2020 as follows: MVAs (1); FAA's (8); Brush Fire (3); Ambulance (4); R-1 (4); Trainings (3); Still Ambulance (1); Still R-1 (5).

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

The statistics of the Town and Salem Animal Control for November 2020 monthly reports were read into the record by Commissioner Gillette as follows:

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (November 2020)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>41</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>419</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (November 2020)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

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

Commissioner Lenda said he had no other information other than what was already reported by Lt. Radford.

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

Commissioner Stewart reported he attended an in-house meeting related to permits and noted other departments involved such as Planning & Zoning and the Assessor. He also said there are still issues with the new permitting software and the company will for it will be contacted.

Building Department Report

2020-2021 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	115	76	197	111	151							
Open/Pending Permits (New System)	115	85	101	100	88							
Open Permits (Old System)	3201	3176	3166	3150	3133							
Inspections	103	78	113	119	107							
Plan Reviews	37	17	96	9	20							
CO's	0	3	2	3	7							
Violation Notices		2	2	3	0							
Unsafe Notices		0	0	0	0							
Blight Identified To Date	530*	534*	534	538	538							
Blight Abated To Date	342	345	347*	349	349							

\*Corrected numbers.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Mohegan Fire Chief Gaetano said in no additional information to report.

11. Unfinished Business.

a. To consider and act on a motion regarding a noise ordinance.

Town Councilor Bunnell reported the policy was still being reviewed by the Town Attorney and asked that the item remain on the agenda.

b. Fire Department Solutions.

Town Councilor Bunnell said he had hoped to have a decision from the Town Attorney and interpret it with the four (4) fire companies but said the directive of compliance was delayed. As well, he was unable to have discussion with Mayor McDaniel due to a death in his family as to the decision of the Town Attorney being in line with the contract but said he hoped to

have feedback this week. Commissioner Perkins responded to Chairman Yuchniuk that the packet from Firefighter Condon was sent to the Commission. T. Condon spoke to the premise of his letter which is for the Town to recognize the fire companies as the Town of Montville Fire Department. He said career staff as a whole working together with volunteers would make town-wide grants accessible as well as FEMA grants and would recognize the staff as whole as cited per the Town Charter, bargaining agreement, contracts and staff. Commissioner Leonard said there was no recognition until there was a department that is not a municipal service. Town Councilor Bunnell asked, “Recognized by who?” He said there is a contract for the four (4) fire companies that was researched by the Town Attorney and designates the fire chiefs as having control. T. Condon stated the fire chiefs have operational control that “gives an analogy for something else” and said firefighters that are employed do not belong to a Town agency—they fall under the Fire Marshal. He also said the fire chiefs are unilateral and when they work together, they are recognized by all parties. Specifically, T. Condon said it is not about operational control, instead it is service recognition for all involved. Town Councilor Bunnell spoke to his request this past summer for the costs and what it would take for the same. T. Condon spoke to having open debate and said there were no costs as staff and the Fire Marshal are already being paid. Town Councilor Bunnell said if the request is for a resolution it should be prepared and given to the Town Attorney for review and thereafter to the Town Council.

12. New Business. -- *None*

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

Fire Chief Truex remarked that standing up as a Town department was not needed to get FEMA grants. He said the grants were based on State of CT ranking and the fire companies and the Fire Marshal had applied for and been granted and denied them as funds had depleted. He also suggested looking at everything and being cautious.

Gary Murphy remarked on staffing level for grant funding that is usually government sourced for a few years and thereafter becomes a cost to taxpayers. He also said Oakdale Fire Company as have the other fire companies had received grants. Oakdale received 1 million in grants and more recently one for \$50,000 used for a diesel vacuum system. G. Murphy commented on the opinion letter from the Attorney that he said was the fourth / same opinion reviewed by prior attorneys and it being sent to the Fire Marshal for implementation more than seven (7) days ago. He questioned the delay; spoke of the request by the Oakdale Fire Chief for the cessation of the move-up policy for Covid purposes an intercession by Mayor McDaniel for the same; implementation of procedure without knowledge to the fire chiefs and spoke of a list of requests by the fire chiefs that had not been acted upon.

14. Remarks from the Mayor

Town Councilor Bunnell reported on behalf of Mayor McDaniel of the hiring of the 26<sup>th</sup> officer and thus, having a fully staffed department. He also reported on the promotion of Travis Sumpf to sergeant. Town Councilor Bunnell spoke of Officer Sumpf’s intelligence, progressiveness, and wished him well.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell remarked on the fire department contract that was vetted by the Town Attorney, a meeting was held, and it was discussed; and said the contract should be followed as there is a process contained within it for resolution. He said he shared Chief G. Murphy's concerns and said he would continue to push forward speaking about the resolution proposed by Firefighter Condon for recognition of a fire department through the vetting process if needed. Town Councilor Bunnell then wished everyone a healthy, safe, and happy new year.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Lenda remarked that his two (2) years on the Commission have gone by quickly with ground breaking actions by the Commission. He spoke of the mission statement to have the school board safety review panel stating public safety for the Town is important for all departments. He said someone needs to continue with the school safety board meetings and said the SRO program cannot fall by the wayside. Commissioner Lenda also commented that Fire Chief Truex needed to get the additional staff person he has been requesting. He gave thanks for the education he had gotten during his tenure and thanked G. Murphy for taking his place on the Commission and the future of it.

Town Councilor Bunnell said he failed to thank Commissioner Lenda for his contribution to the Commission stating his values and beliefs fall in line with what is best for the Town. He also thanked G. Murphy for taking a seat on the Commission.

Commissioner Stewart concurred with moving the issues along with the fire companies. He expressed his sorrow for Commissioner Lenda leaving the Commission and said it was an honor to serve with him. He then wished everyone a happy new year.

Commissioner Moran said he would miss Commissioner Lenda and wished him and everyone a happy new year.

Commissioner Gillette thanked Commissioner Lenda for his service and for everything he had done for the Commission. He also asked Town Councilor Bunnell if he could look into the Animal Control building proposal brought forward with that subcommittee and was submitted 18 months ago before he retired and asked for status on it. Chairman Yuchniuk asked that status of the AC building proposal be included under old business on the agenda. Chairman Commissioner Gillette also welcomed G. Murphy to the Commission.

Commissioner Leonard said he attended a school safety security subcommittee meeting earlier this month that was awarded grants, made safety improvements, and purchased radios for communications. He spoke of Commissioner Lenda as a friend to him and with the law enforcement assets that he brought to the Commission. He also welcomed G. Murphy to the Commission. Commissioner Leonard gave kudos to the Oakdale ambulance crews and said they were great at what we need to see of utilizing staff across the Town as well as the service of the other fire companies.

Commissioner Perkins spoke of her trust and respect for Commissioner Lenda who she said she would miss and asked that he stay in touch. She also wished everyone a safe, healthy new year.

Chairman Yuchniuk remarked that Commissioner Lenda had done a great job and said if he needed anything to please reach out. He also thanked G. Murphy for his appointment to the Commission.

G. Murphy spoke about the Town Volunteer Firefighter website that is comprehensive of all four (4) fire companies for recruitment purposes. He reported that since its inception five (5) new people have shown interest and said he just got another call about it. G. Murphy said control of the website is done by the chief and another staff member of each company.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Moran to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 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 OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF  
MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**