

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – February 22, 2021 -- 6:00 PM**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

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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.

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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 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Mickey Gillette, Jon Leonard, Gary Murphy, Karen Perkins, Stephen Stewart, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present were Lt. Dave Radford, Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell, and Mayor Ronald McDaniel. Absent was Commissioner James Moran. A quorum was present.

4. Amendments to the Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Murphy to add Item 12.b, *To consider and act on a motion to approve the Animal Control FY 2021-2022 Budget*; Item 12.c, *To consider and act on a motion to approve the Building Department FY 2021-2022 Budget*; and Item 12.c, *To consider and act on a motion to approve the Police Department FY 2021-2022 Budget*. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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 January 25, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the January 25, 2021. Discussion: Commissioner Gillette noted a correction to the minutes under Item 12.a stating Chairman Yuchniuk, not Lt. Radford, contacted area police departments concerning policy for a wall of honor. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette, seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the January 25, 2021, meeting minutes, as amended. 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 the PD monthly statistics ending January 31, 2021, are as follows: There were 1453 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (75), arrests (22), and juvenile

arrests (0). The source for these calls were Troop E (153), PD (227), Walk-in (112), and By Officer (783). Lt Radford also reported Officer Lindsey Michaels continues to do well in the Academy and she is nearing the end that keeps being extended due to cancellations. Her class graduation has also been cancelled. Officer Caleb Osunniyi continues to zoom his Academy classes and will until told differently. His classes were going to move to in-person after Officer Michaels'. He also reported there has been an increase in DUI's for a period of two (2) weeks. Lt. Radford responded to Chairman Yuchniuk that recruits can get the Covid vaccine if they wish. He responded to Commissioner Murphy the Department still had DUI funds for the second quarter. Lt. Radford also responded to Commissioner Stewart that the uptick of DUIs in the area occurred in Stonington.

Fire Department Report

The FD statistics for the month ending January 31, 2021, are as follows: There were 243 calls for service of which 171 were medical EMS calls or 70.4% of all calls for service. There was also one (1) motor vehicle fire loss of \$300.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins read into the record the Chesterfield Fire Company statistical activity for January 2021 received from Chief Truex as follows: FAA's (6); HazMat (2); Brush Fire (2); Structure Fire (8); Ambulance 12); R-1 (18) and Still R-1 (assist) (1). She also reported on Firefighter Mark Battista who while conducting Covid testing in a rural area of Pennsylvania found a rollover van with 11 family members, of which two (2) were babies. FF Battista was said to have used his EMS skills to assess and remediate the situation and has been recognized in *The Day*, February 8, 2021, and nationally as well.

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

Commissioner Murphy read into the record the monthly statistics of the Town and Salem Animal Control for January 2021 as follows:

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (January 2021)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>0</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>95</b>	<b>599</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (January 2021)

	Month	YTD
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</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>5</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

c. Report from Police Department Liaison (*Gillette*)  
 Commissioner Gillette said he touched base with Lt. Radford and said the new information he had was the PD FY 2021-2022 budget.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison (*Stewart*)  
 Commissioner Stewart read the Building Department monthly statistics for January 2021 into the record as follows:

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	110	83					
Open/Pending Permits (New System)	115	85	101	100	88	85	102					
Open Permits (Old System)	3201	3176	3166	3150	3133	3066	3063					
Inspections	103	78	113	119	107	96	131					
Plan Reviews	37	17	96	9	20	25	17					
CO's	0	3	2	3	7	3	2					
Violation Notices		2	2	3	0	2	0					
Unsafe Notices		0	0	0	0	0	1					
Blight Identified To Date	530*	534*	534	538	538	538	539					
Blight Abated To Date	342	345	347*	349	349	351	354					

\*Corrected numbers.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- *None*

11. Unfinished Business.

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

Town Councilor Bunnell reported there had been no movement yet and asked that the item remain on the agenda.

- b. Fire Department Solutions

Town Councilor Bunnell reported he had asked for a meeting with the Fire Chiefs, Fire Marshal Union President, and the Mayor when time permits to discuss how things are being done and improvement measures. Commissioner Perkins felt the agenda item, Fire Department Solutions, was misleading. Commissioner Leonard summarized the purpose of the FD staffing subcommittee—more firefighters, grants, at least one (1) more career staff. Chairman Yuchniuk said solutions was a broad term and asked whether Union President Condon had gone to the Town Council with his proposal that was to be compiled and reworded. Commissioner Leonard said the proposal would have more teeth if supported by the Commission and said a list of volunteers and their qualifications for each fire company had not been received. Town Councilor Bunnell said staffing was the original issue but follow-up was to discuss current status and room for improvement, but things came up that prevented the meeting from taking place. Mayor McDaniel said before having a meeting a fire marshal may need to be in place stating some people were excluded in the past which caused a disconnect and said it would be a disservice to the new fire marshal. He explained the advertising process for the position within the Department and through public venues which had closed on February 12 and spoke of extra time given storm closings stating he hoped to get a broader range of people. Mayor McDaniel responded to Chairman Yuchniuk about extension of the position posting and stated one of the applicants, Asst. Fire Marshal Barnes had been injured but was doing well. Commissioner Murphy agreed to provide a resource for a fire marshal; Mayor McDaniel he would extend the posting for the position to March 5<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Stewart proposed setting up an interview committee.

- c. To consider and act on the Animal Control Facility

Town Councilor Bunnell spoke of discussion with Commissioner Murphy and Mayor McDaniel to resurrect pursuit of available options for a AC facility--replacement costs was \$800,000 -- \$1,000,000 or regionalization with New London. Commissioner Gillette said the prior proposal was forwarded to the Town Council, but the aim was to keep the facility in town. Commissioner Murphy is working on information with the ACO; Town Councilor Bunnell said figures will be brought to the Commission.

12. New Business.

- a. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Fire Departments FY 2021-2022 budgets to include Fire Marshal, Fire Departments, Dispatch, Fire Protection, and Emergency Management.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the Fire Marshal and Fire Departments FY 2021-2022 budgets to include Fire Marshal, Fire

Departments, Dispatch, Fire Protection, and Emergency Management. Discussion: Commissioner Perkins began discussion with the Fire Marshal budget, Emergency Management., a budget of \$129,388. Mayor McDaniel explained Everbridge, an emergency communication system throughout the Town approved by the Town Council three (3) years ago and funded 25% by the WPCA. He said he would try to cover this cost, \$10,288, through non-community funds. Commissioner Perkins then said there was no control over the Fire Marshal salary and then noted the increase of \$3,000 to \$94,000 under Fire Protection for Chesterfield firehouse. Commissioner Murphy said Oakdale, Mohegan, and Montville firehouses had been at \$91,000 for a while but said he had not spoken with Chief Truex. Mayor McDaniel stated there was no policy cap, but the rule of thumb was they all be equal. Commissioner Perkins made the change for Chesterfield to \$91,000. Firefighter salaries was increased by \$187,032 for three (3) new firefighters. The total Fire Protection proposed budget increased to \$1,672,507. Commissioner Murphy spoke of the increase and the decision the Town had to make. Commissioner Perkins then said the only change to Dispatch was salaries. This motion was rescinded by Commissioner Murphy.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the FY 2021-2022 Emergency Management budget of \$129,388, as written. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0-1, Commissioner Leonard abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the FY 2021-2022 Fire Marshal budget of \$105,820, as written. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the FY 2021-2022 budget of \$414,632, as written. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0-1, Commissioner Leonard abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the FY 2021-2022 Fire Protection budget, adding the hire of three (3) firefighters for \$187,032 and decreasing the Chesterfield budget from \$94,000 to \$91,000 as amended by Commissioner Perkins for a total budget of \$1,672,507. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-1-0, Commissioner Murphy opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the FY 2021-2022 Fire Marshal Private Duty budget of \$5,000, as written. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor McDaniel responded to a question about the submission of the fire department budgets to the Finance Department and the right of the Commission to scrutinize all fire department budgets.

- b. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Animal Control budget for FY 2021-2022 of \$86,835, as written.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the Animal Control budget for FY 2021-2022 of \$86,835, as written. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- c. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Building Department budget for FY 2021-2022 of \$213,048, as written.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the Building Department FY 2021-2022 budget of \$213,048, as written. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Commissioner Stewart asked if the part-time blight officer who has not yet been hired is taking the place of the part-time building inspector. Mayor McDaniel responded there is a part-time building inspector and said there was a part-time person from Kelley Services for scanning and reporting update.

- d. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Police Department budget for FY 2021-2022 of \$2,888,930, as written.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the Police Department FY 2021-2022 budget of \$2,888,930, as written. Discussion: Commissioner Gillette spoke of an increase for part-time clerical to the cost for the past year; increase cost of physicals specifically for psychological evaluations; preliminary overtime, and boat maintenance that was actually less than anticipated, the increase to the RST cost and salary, physicals, and overtime. Commissioner Leonard asked about bodycams due to police accountability. Lt. Radford said not as of yet. He also said he was not sure yet of the cost for the RST and the figure for it came from the Finance Director. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Leonard to approve the FY 2021-2022 Police Department Private Duty budget of \$100,000, as written. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three (3) times for remarks. Firefighter Tim Condon remarked he was trying to wait to explain the merits of his proposal to get all of the stakeholders in a room upon speaking with the Mayor and the Union. He said that was the reason for the delay.

Chief Truex remarked about having \$3,000 removed from his proposed budget to save the Town money but adding \$187,032 for additional firefighters when the Town cannot afford it. He said the volunteer fire departments have not had a budget increase in years and spoke of

rising costs. He said the Town needs to renegotiate the union contract and explained a process to provide adequate coverage for all the departments.

14. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel remarked on the Town Council entering into a MOU with CT Land Mobile Radio Network for more access to public police frequencies with the State and said progress was being made with City Square for permitting online for better public interface with the software. He also said the Town Council extended the ACO contract with Salem for five (5) years. Mayor McDaniel spoke of the Animal Control facility stating a needs assessment was required to make the best decision with feedback by the Commission and will try to get figures for the same. As to the fire department contracts, he said Saturday coverage occurred because it was needed and said the Town Council will make decisions based on recommendations.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell remarked he would look further into the Animal Control Facility issue although it was his understanding the previous Town Council rejected the proposal. He also said it would take time for the fire department to get what it needs including more career firefighters. He stated while working for the Town PD he was denied 15 years for one (1) additional staffing. Town Councilor Bunnell said three (3) new firefighters would be a tough pill to swallow.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Gillette remarked on the Animal Control facility and spoke of the estimated cost to upgrade the current facility versus the cost to the Town to New London for the regional facility. He said ideally, he wants to see the facility stay in town. Commissioner Gillette also commented on firefighters providing safety for the public but said many Towns are struggling, businesses are closing, and next year might be a better year for more staffing. Commissioner Leonard said he echoed Commissioner Gillette's remarks regarding the Animal Control facility and spoke of time he, Commissioners Perkins and Gillette, and Town Planner Vlaun worked on the original study as a subcommittee and said with the condition of the 50-plus year-old facility it needs to be replaced. He thanked the volunteers who crossed district lines. Commissioner Stewart remarked he hoped all commissioners were getting the vaccine. He also said firefighters and career police officers are trying to serve the public and said making calls keep taxes down. He advised everyone to stay safe. Commissioner Murphy remarked there was not a huge problem between career and volunteer firefighters but said the Town could not afford new firefighters and a schedule change would not go well but there was an obligation to do the best. He said the Town Council and the Mayor did what they thought was right. Commissioner Murphy then asked what was the intention of the Town and Lt. Radford for patrol boat. He said there were a lot of complaints last year about it and said the PD should step up or get out. He also thanked the PD and firefighters for their involvement with a fatal wreck a few weeks ago when a canteen truck group member lost her husband. Commissioner Perkins thanked Mark Battista for his response regarding the accident and suggested the Commission recognize him. Town Councilor Bunnell said recognitions are initiated from



departments. Mayor McDaniel said recognitions stem from recommendations and said it can be done from the Commission or the Town Council through the Town Council Liaison. Chairman Yuchniuk asked Secretary Gathers to add a New Business item to the March Commission meeting agenda to discuss a process for recognition of individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty. He also thanked Mark Battista for his actions and said he hoped Commissioner Moran feels better.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 6-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers  
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

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MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**