

**Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

All persons in attendance must wear a face mask if not fully vaccinated and remain six feet from others.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness and suitability shall be followed and enforced.

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, and Colleen Rix. Absent was Councilor Rogulski. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
 4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
 5. Alterations to the Agenda – *none*
 6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
 - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021. Discussion:
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix, to amend the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021 as follows, per the Town Attorney:
Page 7, Item 16(b):
Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to amend the resolution as follows:
Resolution #2021-48. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES that the land now commonly known as the Mostow Property be dedicated ~~permanently~~ to public use for open space, passive recreation and conservation purposes. (Councilor May)
Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 3-2. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Pollard, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Jaskiewicz and May.
Motion carried.
Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to approve the resolution, as amended. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor.* ***Resolution passed.***
- Page 8, Bottom:
~~* Per Section C310(c) Procedure, Voting of the Town Charter, which states that,
“no action of the Town Council, ... shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the affirmative vote of four or more members of the Town Council.”
the amended motion did not pass, making the final vote on the amended motion invalid.~~
Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Minutes amended.
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Minutes approved, as amended.

7. Executive Session

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing a candidate for the Montville Housing Authority. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of strategy and/or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, without prejudice to the Council's right to discuss the same in private pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(2). Discussion to include members of the Town Council, Mayor Ronald McDaniel and Attorney Eileen Duggan.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Chambers for Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. Chairman May resumed the meeting at 7:56 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit
Wills Pike, 71 Pheasant Run, noted that Item 16(f) on the Agenda has not yet been endorsed by the Planning & Zoning Commission; the item is on the agenda for their next regularly scheduled meeting tomorrow evening.

Matt Suarez, 18 Cranberry Drive, stated his support for Item 16(f) and the preservation of open space, but expressed his concerns regarding how the land abutting the property will be utilized by the Town of Bozrah.

9. Communications

- a. Copy of the June 2021 Financial Reports from Terry Hart, Finance Director
- b. Copy of the August 2021 Financial Reports from Terry Hart, Finance Director
- c. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of July 2021
- d. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of July 2021

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 Officer Frausino was selected as the Police Department's new K-9 Handler. The Mohegan Fire Company closed their 75th Anniversary celebrations, which included a parade and memorial ceremonies, on August 21 with a banquet. An emergency seCTer (Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region) meeting was held for the purpose of hiring a new Executive Director. A Convocation Ceremony was held at the School on August 26. Several CCOG (Connecticut Council of Governments) meetings have been held to discuss mask mandates and a joint letter has been sent to the Governor urging him to issue a statewide mask mandate. The town's mask mandate will expire on September 23. Fire Marshal Paul Barnes met with Eversource's new Area Manager and a Region 4 meeting was held to discuss the allocation of the region's emergency management equipment. Much of the month has been spent preparing for and cleaning up from Hurricane/Tropical Storm Henri and Hurricane Ida. Hurricane Ida exposed the town's water issues and resulted in the closure of 13 roads. It is estimated that approximately 9" of rain accumulated within a span of four hours ; the town's drainage system is engineered to handle approximately one to two inches per hour.

In response to the public comments regarding Item 16(f) on the agenda, Mayor McDaniel confirmed that neither the Planning & Zoning nor Inland Wetlands Commissions have approved the acquisition of the property. Due to the pending deadline for the written

agreement, the item is included in this evening's agenda in anticipation of the Commissions' positive reports. The agreement must be approved by the Town Council to receive the grant funding and accept a donation for the property. The adjacent property, owned by the Town of Bozrah, will also be incorporated and included in the agreement.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz

Councilor Jaskiewicz reported that the Committee rejected the need for a Wall of Honor Policy.

b. Finance – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *no meeting; no report*

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron

Councilor Caron reported that no meeting was held, but he has spoken with the Public Works Director and Mayor regarding the damage incurred from Hurricane Ida, including the flooding of the Public Works Garage, numerous buildings, washouts, and clogging of drainage. He commended the town's First Responders, Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments and expressed his appreciation to the Fire Companies for providing pump-outs of the basements of numerous residents. The Public Works Department was able to utilize the new equipment that was recently acquired to aid in the cleanup of the roads.

As a result of the recent hurricane, the water damage in the Social Services building has been exacerbated and an additional investment will be necessary. The possibility of utilizing part of the town's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds is being investigated and an estimate of the work and cost to remediate the building is being calculated by the Town Engineer.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

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

The following statistics were reported for the month of July:

Police Department:

1,168 Calls for Service 82 of which were Type I Calls
28 Arrests; no Juvenile Arrests

Fire Department:

274 Calls for Service 194 of which were Medical EMS calls

He commended the Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments for their efforts during the recent hurricane.

Firefighter Alex Blais, who grew up in Montville, has been hired as the new Firefighter. He also announced the pending retirement of Dispatcher Ed Bragdon. He stated the difficulty in hiring replacements for both Dispatchers Jon Leonard and Mr. Bragdon, given their numerous years of experience.

Animal Control:

7 animals impounded
89 complaints investigated
3 animals euthanized

Town of Salem: 0 animals impounded
10 complaints investigated

Councilor Bunnell reported that an extensive discussion was held regarding the animal control facility. The current facility fails the State inspections. The Commission will be revisiting a report that was issued approximately two years prior regarding the establishment of a dedicated town facility or the regionalization of the facility.

Building Department:

110 Permits Issued

124 Permits Pending

388 Blight Abatements

He commended the new part-time Blight Officer for the successful blight abatements.

The Youth Services Bureau held a successful Mud Run with over 80 participants on August 21. A Basket Raffle will be held at each of the town's polling sites for the price of \$1.00 per basket.

Positive feedback has been received for the Bureau's Summer program, during which field trips and other events were enjoyed by the participants. Registrations for the Afterschool Program have significantly increased from the previous year; all health and safety protocols as recommended by the CDC (Center for Disease Control), Uncas Health District, and the Mayor's office will be followed.

Bi-weekly *Community Conversations with Grace Carlos* Podcasts are continuing to attract a wider and broader audience with many new and interesting guests lined up. Past interviews include Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Montville High School's Assistant Principal Rob Alves. He commended Ms. Carlos, who is a credit to the community.

Youth Services is continuing its conversations with State Officials regarding mitigating the impact of legalized recreational marijuana. Mandated by the State to provide prevention and intervention services and programming, Youth Service Bureaus receive substantial funding through the revenue obtained from the sales to provide prevention, education, and treatment.

The Youth Action Council is moving forward with a campaign entitled, "What's in Your Head Should Be Said" for Suicide Prevention Month (September).

Councilor Bunnell commended the Public Works Department on the installation of the new touchless water dispensers at the Montville Community Center. Chairman May concurred. With the completion of the installation of the water dispensers, attention will now be directed to the remodeling of the restrooms, which were originally constructed in 1963. Chairman May added that a meeting was held with the Town Engineer and Architect to discuss the project.

The Bureau also held a successful Annual Road Race over the past weekend; he expressed his appreciation to the Fire, Police, Public Works, Parks & Recreation Departments, and all of the town's departments for their hard work and efforts.

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services

Councilor Caron reported that the Senior and Social Services Departments have been busy processing energy applications and helping those in need of assistance. He commended Outreach/Social Services Assistant DeeAnn Morton and the staff for all of their hard work. The Department of Social Services continues to be open by appointment only. Senior & Social Services Director Kathie Doherty-Peck received two large grants. Plans are being made to improve the utilization of the open area of the Senior Center.

c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education (BOE)

Councilor Jaskiewicz reported that the BOE's discussions revolved around the schools' reopening protocols and the allocation of the Board's non-lapsing 2% account.

- d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission
The WPCA reported that though no damage was sustained at the Plant from Hurricane Ida, the system did experience hydraulic overloading for approximately two (2) hours; the incident was reported to the CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection), as required. He commended the WPCA on the closing of their budget for Fiscal Year 2020/21, which reflects an increase of \$1.2 million in the Sewer Budget and \$500,000.00 in the Water Budget.

The Conservation Commission is in the process of generating a letter of support for the open space watershed land acquisition, which is on this evening's agenda.

- e. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations – *none*
- f. Councilor Rix: Parks & Recreation Commission, Farmer's Market Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission
Councilor Rix reported that a PowerPoint presentation was provided to the Parks & Recreation Commission by an Eagle Scout for the construction of two kiosks for the Camp Oakdale Walking Trails.
The Farmers Market Committee will be hosting a Classic Car Show tomorrow evening. Councilor Caron added that he has been receiving a lot of positive feedback about the Farmers Market.
- g. Councilor Rogulski: Library Committee, Fire Fighters Relief Fund – *not present*

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Heather D. Harris from the Economic Development Commission, effective immediately.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Jason Bronson as an alternate member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, with a term to expire on September 13, 2025.
Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: Councilor Rix stated that, until recently, Mr. Bronson has had ongoing zoning infractions and recommended that he not be appointed at this time. Roll Call vote, 0-6, all opposed. Voting in Favor: None. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, and May. Motion failed.
- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Kathie Doherty-Peck as a member of the Commission on Aging with a term to expire on October 11, 2024.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2021-49. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$7,471.04 (seven thousand four hundred and seventy-one dollars and four cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #50. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize the year-end transfers as requested by the Finance Director and as depicted on Schedule A. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Finance Director Hart stated that the transfer requests are needed to balance the town's budget as they close out the 2020/21 Fiscal Year. In response to Councilor Caron, she stated that the funds do not qualify for COVID-19 Funding. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #51. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to transfer \$500 to the Social Services Overtime line (10720-51100) from Contingency (10480-52164). (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Finance Director Hart stated that the transfer is a result of the increase of the Social Services position from a part-time to full-time position during the budget process. Overtime is approved by the Department Director. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #52. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the funds necessary to implement the written agreement, and the terms of the written agreement, between the Town of Montville and Town Hall Employees Teamsters Local 493 for the period of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel reminded the Councilors that a one-year bridge on the contract was provided during the last year due to the pandemic. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #53. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the funds necessary to implement the written agreement, and the terms of the written agreement, between the Town of Montville and Transfer Station Employees Teamsters Local 493 for the period of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- f. **Resolution #54. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to support the open space watershed land acquisition grant application for the Glemboski property. (Mayor McDaniel)

WHEREAS, the Glemboski property is a large land parcel, approximately 55+ acres, that abuts a parcel in the town of Bozrah containing approximately 105+/- acres. The mosaic of habitats across the site include forested uplands, forested wetlands, meadows, and shrubland which provide a wide range of habitat and edge conditions supporting a diversity of wildlife. The CTDEEP has identified a protected species or supporting habitat within the northern portion of the site. The acquisition will expand the open space area within the Trading Cove Brook Watershed area allowing for the permanent protection of drinking water resources. The access point to the property will be from South Road, however since the property also abuts the Nature Conservancy property (Milo Light Preserve), future trail expansion is possible with access off of Route 82. The access points will allow for parking and excellent public access supporting a wide range of passive recreational users including mountain bikers, equestrian users, hikers, cross country skiers, or snowshoes on trails; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Glemboski property will provide significant benefits to the community including habitat protection and water resource protection; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the Glemboski property is consistent with the Montville Plan of Conservation and Development and has been endorsed by the Montville Planning and Zoning Commission, the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Conservation Commission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montville Town Council supports and encourages the preservation of open space watershed land; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Ronald McDaniel, as Mayor of the Town of Montville, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver a letter of endorsement for the Open Space Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Application for the Glemboski Property.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that grant application requires a resolution(s) and letter(s) of support from the town(s) where the properties are located. The property will provide watershed protection. Councilor Rix expressed her appreciation to the Mayor for explaining the reasoning behind the Town Council's voting on the item prior to receiving a favorable review from the Planning & Zoning or Inland Wetlands Commissions. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

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

Wills Pike, 71 Pheasant Run, reminded the Town Council that the allocation of approximately \$105,000.00 to renovate the men's restroom at the Community Center was previously approved.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Pollard expressed her appreciation to all of the town employees, especially the Public Works Department for their quick response on Maple Avenue after the recent hurricane. She wished all of the grandparents a Belated Happy Grandparents Day. She is looking forward to the first day of Autumn.

Councilor Bunnell, in response to Mr. Pike's comment, stated that it is his understanding that the reasoning behind the lack of expending the funds is that an opportunity arose in which the funding for the project could derive from an alternative source. He applauded the Mayor for his efforts in this respect. He also reported that, as a result of the installation of the Center's new water fountain, approximately 200 plastic water bottles have been saved to date. He reminded everyone to attend the Youth Service Bureau's Blood Drive on Tuesday, October 5 from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m. He also extended his appreciation to Building Official Vern Vesey, who will be retiring, for his many years of service to the town; he will be missed and it will be difficult to replace him.

Councilor Jaskiewicz concurred, adding that Building Official Vesey has served the town for numerous years and has always been very approachable. He expressed his amazement when he woke up the following morning after the storm to news that Uncasville had received approximately 8-1/2 to 9 inches of rain. He commended all of the departments for doing a great job handling the aftermath of the storm.

Councilor Caron reiterated his appreciation to the First Responders and Public Works Department as well as all of the town employees who will be retiring for their service. In response to Mr. Pike, he recalled the allocation of funds for the bathroom and added that

additional funding will be necessary to renovate the bathrooms. He also stated that many improvements and upgrades are needed for the town's buildings. He thanked the public for attending this evening's meeting.

Mayor McDaniel thanked the public for their forbearance and patience as they continue to deal with the pandemic.

Chairman May reported that the Ad-Hoc COVID-19 Impact Study Committee is working hard to determine the possible funding of projects. He is confident that the Community Center bathrooms will be modified and modernized, making it a better Community Center for the residents to enjoy. Based upon the amount of rain that the town endured, he felt that the recent hurricane could be considered a 500-year storm; he is thankful that the town did not sustain additional damage.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, 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 – MEETING RECORDINGS

Schedule A**2020-21
Year End Transfers**

To Line Item	From Line Item	Amount
10310-53019 Mayor Misc Supplies	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 25,000.00
10410-51053 Assessor Dept Salaries	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 5,000.00
10425-52143 Insurance Reimbursement	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 400.00
10440-51023 IT Director	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 1,820.00
10440-51078 Asst IT	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 1,050.00
10560-51055 Town Clerk Salaries	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 1,225.00
10560-53019 Town Clerk Misc Supplies	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 5,000.00
10570-51014 Registrar Salary	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 240.00
10580-52037 Poll Workers	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 4,000.00
10640-51016 Inland Wetlands Secretary	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 60.00
10720-51057 Social Service Secretary	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 1,400.00
10760-51016 P&R Comm Secretary	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 550.00
10850-51017 Assistant Dog Warden Salary	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 1,000.00
10870-51044 Dispatcher Salary	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 10,000.00
10870-51070 PT Dispatcher Salary	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 2,100.00

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10870-51100 Dispatcher Overtime	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 37,000.00
10880-51100 Firemen Overtime	10480-52164 Contingency	\$ 15,500.00
10880-53021 Fire Equipment Maint & Repair	10480-52165 Contingency	\$ 32,500.00
10890-53019 PSB Supplies	10480-52166 Contingency	\$ 600.00
10820-51040 Police Salaries	10420-52020 Medical Insurance	\$ 50,000.00
10840-51041 Police Private Duty	10340-52044 Legal-Tax Matters	\$ 40,000.00
10840-51041 Police Private Duty	10420-52021 Worker's Compensation	\$ 47,000.00
10840-51041 Police Private Duty	10620-52148 Engineering-PW	\$ 60,000.00
10480-52176 Fire Fighters Relief	10340-52045 Legal-Land Use Matters	\$ 3,400.00