

Town of Montville Town Council and Public Safety Building Committee  
Meeting Minutes of Thursday, March 25, 2010  
7:00 p.m. – Town Hall – Room 203

1. Call to Order

Town Council Chairperson, Donna Jacobson called the special joint meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Public Safety Building Committee Members Platt, Bucko, Bunnell, Coggeshall, Ida, Jetmore, Leonard, Lewis and MacNeil. Absent from the Public Safety Building Committee was Member Collins.

Present from the Town Council were Councilors Beetham, Buebendorf, Jacobson and McFee. Absent were Councilors Caron, Hillman and Murphy.

Also present were Town Attorney, Bruce Chudwick, Finance Director, Terry Fafard, Mayor Jaskiewicz, Town Planner, Marcia Vlaun and Michael Fortuna.

4. Executive Session

There was nothing to discuss in Executive Session.

5. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda

Chairperson Jacobson asked three times if there was anyone present from the public who would like to come forward to address the Committee and/or Town Council and there were none.

6. Communications

Chairperson Jacobson indicated she did not receive correspondence to review or discuss.

7. New Business

a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Discuss the Status of the Public Safety Building Project.

Motion made by Councilor Buebendorf, seconded by Councilor McFee. Discussion: none. Voice vote: all in favor, motion carried.

Chairperson Jacobson began by thanking the Building Committee members for all their hard work and service throughout the past twenty two months they have been meeting to come to a conclusion regarding the proposal for the proposed Public Safety building.

Committee Member Platt gave an overview of the past twenty two months explaining where the Committee have been, where they are going and how they got there. He stated at this point the Committee has selected an architect for the building design. He thanked Marcia Vlaun for all her help during the process and she was instrumental in the process to date. He stated fourteen applicants were screened for the position and four were chosen for the final interviews. He discussed the process used to select the most qualified candidate and distributed copies of the questions asked of all of the potential architects and gave an overview of how the architect was chosen.

A discussion was held regarding the word “schematic” and its meaning can be perceived in different ways by different people.

Councilor Beetham discussed grants and inquired if anyone has applied for grants for this project.

Town Planner Marcia Vlaun discussed the site selection and indicated the site for the proposed Public Safety building is proposed for a piece of Town owned property on the Route 32 corridor.

b. The Town Council Charge/Remarks from the Town Attorney

Town Attorney Bruce Chudwick discussed his experience regarding the approval process for a Public Safety building from his experience serving on the Town Council in Farmington, Ct. and stated the process is a long one and there are many steps along the way. He suggested the Town get an architect and cost proposals and then move forward to the taxpayers for a referendum to determine if they want to move forward with the construction of the building. A discussion was held regarding insurance issues. Attorney Chudwick indicated this is a work in progress and things could change if public input requests a change of direction, it is all up to what the people decide after the referendum. He welcomed questions and comments from the Committee.

c. Financial Aspects of the Project and Remarks from the Finance Director

Terry Fafard, Finance Director, distributed information relating to bonds in the upcoming years. She indicated the Town has refinanced some of its bonds in recent months and this has shifted some of the money around in the Town’s favor. By making final payments to some of the grants and lowering payments on others, bonding the Public Safety building would have very little impact to the taxpayers of Montville. She discussed taking

advantage of the lower interest rates available at this time and the total debt relating to bonding the entire project.

Mayor Jaskiewicz stated he is in favor of moving forward and supporting this project and discussed looking into obtaining grants for the community room. He stated he will continue to look for potential grants and stay on top of the process.

Marcia Vlaun discussed grants for “shovel ready” projects and the costs and the requirements needed to get them. She stated sometimes you have to spend a little to get a lot but the goal is to keep the costs of this project down by obtaining as many grants as possible. She stated once the project is through Phase I it will be shovel ready. She discussed matching grants and grants from agencies that may want to utilize the space at the community center for training or holding facilities.

A discussion was held regarding leasing the space at the community center in the proposed Public Safety building for hosting conferences.

Mayor Jaskiewicz indicated if the Town had a new Public Safety building it would then be an option to look into a regional dispatch program. He stated the bad economy may also work in the Town’s favor with final costs down fifteen to twenty percent from what they were originally quoted.

Marcia Vlaun discussed costs for Phase I services with a total of approximately forty seven thousand dollars. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated he has added this money to the Capital Plan for approval because he supports the project and would like to see it continue to the next step.

Committee Member Jetmore thanked Marcia Vlaun for all the work she and her staff have done for the Building Committee over the past months.

Mayor Jaskiewicz stated the Town is not moving forward with approving the Public Safety building project at this time, that decision will be made by the tax payers when they vote on the referendum, the money he is requesting in the Capital Plan is to complete Phase I and allow the Town to move forward to determine the final costs of the project.

d. Relevance of Building to Town/Remarks from the Town Planner

Marcia Vlaun discussed the ongoing Route 32 corridor projects and her hopes for the future of Route 32 and the Town of Montville. She discussed the unique situation the town is in due to being so close to the Mohegan Sun and how hard it is to draw business into the town. She stated new investments will add to the economic development value of the space. She discussed the current Public Safety building, stating it is in poor condition and in dire need of replacement. She indicated the current building does not

reflect the image the Town of Montville wants to project. She discussed her philosophy of “it you build it they will come” and stated she hopes to keep improving on the Route 32 corridor over the years by encouraging business to relocate to Montville.

A discussion was held regarding regionalization of the Dispatch Center. Lt. Bunnell thanked the Committee and the Council for all the dedication and work over the past two years and for being open minded and bringing everyone on the same page.

8. Remarks from the Public – none.

9. Remarks from the Councilors

Councilor Beetham discussed utilizing the proposed building site to the best advantage and most efficient use of the property. A discussion was held regarding alternatives for the use of the fifteen acre site.

Councilor Buebendorf thanked the Building Committee for all the work they did to date and stated it is greatly appreciated. She discussed regionalization of the dispatch center, stating it is inevitable and the town should maintain control over its own destiny. She discussed the bonding issues, stating there will be minimal impact to the tax payers should this project move forward.

Councilor McFee thanked the Building Committee for their dedication and stated he supports them one hundred percent. He stated the proposed building will bring pride to the Town and is well needed. He is impressed with the numbers and happy to see there will be virtually no impact to the taxpayers if this proposal is passed by the voters.

Councilor Beetham stated the more grants the Town can get the better the chance the voters will approve the project.

Councilor Jacobson thanked the Building Committee for a magnificent job working on this project. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated he will be adding this to the April Town Council agenda for further discussion.

Marcia Vlaun stated the Committee has made a recommendation to the Town Council for approval of the selection of the architect chosen to complete Phase I, they have not hired the architect at this point.

10. Adjournment.

Motion made by Councilor Beetham, seconded by Councilor McFee to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville