

Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, September 9, 2013
7:00 p.m. – Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Buebendorf called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Buebendorf, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Longton, McFee, and Tanner. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

4. Special Recognitions/Presentations

- a. Presentation by Acting Superintendent Brian Levesque and BOE Chairman David Rowley for the purpose of improving communications between the BOE and the Town Council.

BOE Chairman David Rowley thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and discussed their strategy to improve the communications between the BOE and the Town Council. Strategies include: providing the Town Council liaison with preferential seating at the BOE meetings, continuing the community meeting, breathing new life into the capital improvement program by incorporating new items and considering requests from other departments. With the help of the new leadership of Interim Superintendent Brian Levesque and Interim Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, he hopes and looks forward to improving the relationship between the BOE and the Town Council.

Interim Superintendent Brian Levesque thanked the Council and the Mayor for the opportunity to attend this evening's meeting. Mr. Levesque introduced Interim Assistant Superintendent Pallin, with whom he has a great working relationship and is confident that they will be able to work together on behalf of the students to create a school system of which the town can continue to be proud. He also thanked the BOE for having the confidence them to take over the positions during this critical period. He expressed his openness and willingness to converse in an ongoing dialogue with the Mayor, Town Council, and Finance Committee so that we can all work together in an effort to achieve the same goal of creating great schools while maintaining their fiscal responsibility to the community.

Chairperson Buebendorf thanked them for coming in and stressed the importance of working together. She felt that the return of unspent funds back to the town was a positive step. The Finance Committee discussed the capital improvement committee and research is being conducted and the idea is being explored.

Councilors Tanner, Jones, and Caron, and Mayor McDaniel congratulated both Chairman Rowley and Interim Superintendent Levesque. The Mayor expressed his appreciation of Chairman Rowley coming in for a discussion and looks forward to working with the both of them. Councilor Jones is also looking forward to working with them and questioned the Board's plan with appointing them permanently. Interim Superintendent Levesque responded that the Board has committed them until the end of the school year on June 30 and plans to evaluate whether to conduct a new search or appoint them permanently in early Spring. Councilor Jones wished them the best.

5. Alterations to the Agenda

Councilor Longton proposed three (3) alterations to the Agenda:

- a. Deletion of item 15(a). The item is not yet ready for action due to impending issues.
b. Deletion of item 16(c). Two (2) plans are currently being considered by the Committee.

c. Deletion of items 16(e) and 16(f) due to a last minute issue regarding the land title.

Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilor Longton added that he will be on vacation for two (2) weeks and Councilor Caron and/or Mayor McDaniel will be available for any discussion regarding the above items during this time.

6. To consider and act on a motion to approve:

a. The Special Meeting Minutes on Monday, August 12, 2013, and;

Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: None.

Voice vote, 7-0. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Longton, McFee, Tanner, and Buebendorf. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

b. The Regular Meeting Minutes on Monday, August 12, 2013.

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: None.

Voice vote, 7-0. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Longton, McFee, Tanner, and Buebendorf. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

7. Executive Session — none.

8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit.

Tom McNally, 1017 East Lake Road, apologized on behalf of Mr. David Jetmore's inability to attend tonight's meeting due to illness to discuss his letter regarding the Public Safety Commission's suggestions for the make-up of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Ellen Desjardins, 513 Raymond Hill Road, spoke regarding the enforcement of the blight ordinance expressing her dismay of the town's handling of their own blight at the Senior Center. She felt that the seniors should either volunteer or funds be raised for the hiring of individuals to take care of the situation.

Lynda Jean, 1583 Route 163, Lot Number 8, requested an explanation of the items that were deleted from the agenda. Chairperson Buebendorf stated that the Maynard Road items were removed due to legal matters of which they were made aware today.

Tony Siragusa, 39 Hillcrest Drive, expressed his dismay at the removal of the Senior Tax Relief Plan from the agenda and is concerned that the plan, which has been held up for review by the Finance Committee and the EDC for several months, is being buried or killed and felt that the issue should, at the very least, be discussed by the Council.

Robert Manfredi, 9 Heatherbrook Road, commented on the establishment of an independent police force in Montville and felt that the issue should be tabled indefinitely.

Jim Andriote, 23 Tra-Mart Drive, felt that the Vendors Ordinance is a special interest ordinance that should be eliminated from discussion and more support be provided for the brick and mortar establishments. He also felt that the creation of an independent police force is not necessary at this time considering the fact that the costs of new Public Safety Building and the Dispatch Center are still pending. Lastly, he questioned the qualifications of the current Water-Sewer Administrator and the Chief Plant Operator-Superintendent with respect to their revised job descriptions and questioned whether this was a political favor/game rather than an issue which benefitted the town.

9. Communications

a. A copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of July 2013.

b. Letter from Mr. Chuck Leonard regarding the Camp Oakdale Ball Fields.

Councilor McFee recited the letter received by Mr. Leonard.

- c. Letter from the Town Attorney regarding Maynard Road was added to the Agenda by Councilor Longton.
 - d. Letter from Mr. David P. Jetmore, Public Safety Commission regarding an Ad Hoc Committee for an independent police force was added to the Agenda by Councilor Buebendorf.
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 announced that the Volunteer Firefighters Relief Fund Committee held a meeting on August 13. The Inland Wetlands Commission has been discussing the construction of the Derry Hill Road bridge that unexpectedly collapsed and should be completed in approximately two (2) weeks. The Senior Center held their Computer Room Dedication on August 19. Zoning Enforcement Officer Tom Saunders, two Public Works employees, and himself attended a bamboo training seminar, sponsored by DEEP and the CT Nursery Association, in Milford on August 20. A four-hour Suicide Prevention Training session, sponsored by CREC and paid for by a grant, was held and well-attended by many leaders of the community. The SCRRA Plant in Preston is currently dealing with new EPA rules regarding the handling of pollutants. Unfortunately, the new standards are cost prohibitive and will result in the closing of many trash energy plants and have a negative impact on the State's solid waste stream. Representatives throughout the state presented their case to the EPA and a letter will be drafted regarding the issue. A part-time IT Technician and Custodian have been hired and Mr. Bob Clark has been promoted to Maintainer 5.

Councilor McFee requested an update on the Montville Road Bridge. Mayor McDaniel stated that the process is on schedule and a hydraulic report has been submitted to the State and research is continuing to adjust the 1/10" in the hydrology modeling, which will make a big difference in the permitting process.

Finance Director Terry Hart discussed that the Finance Committee will be discussing the possibility of selling two (2) foreclosed properties on Lake Drive East and Benway Court with the Planning and Zoning Committee. There was an additional foreclosed property on Route 163, but that property has since been purchased. She also discussed the allocation of funds for the repair of Derry Hill Road Bridge. As of June 30, 2013, there is \$380,000 available in LOCIP for State-approved bridge replacement projects.

Building Official Vern Vesey provided an update regarding the enforcement of the Blight Ordinance. While most blight instances have been minor, to date, two properties have been demolished and/or removed and an additional two properties are currently in the process of being abated. He explained that the goal is not to punish the owners, but to clean up some of the properties. He discussed some of the issues in dealing with blight including locating the responsible party for abandoned properties; anonymous complaints of blighted property which cannot be viewed from the street and, as such, cannot be inspected; issues concerning neighbor disputes rather than blight, and; unmaintained property, which is not currently included in the ordinance. The Department Heads compiled a list of almost 400 blighted properties and the most serious offences are being addressed first. Currently, there are approximately 150 abated properties. Working with the previous attorneys, a process was created in determining whether a property is considered a blight violation. Unfortunately, time is limited and blight inspections are a peripheral duty as building inspections take priority. In addition to building and blight inspections, he also addresses issues regarding other code violations including unsafe structures and overcrowding inspections. Mr. Vesey believes that good progress is being made considering the amount of time and energy they are able to devote to the issue.

Mayor McDaniel, in response to Councilor McFee's question as to whether the Public Works Department has the authority to take care of the foreclosed and/or abandoned properties and the town's ability to place a lien on the property, responded that they are looking into the new statutes passed by the legislature of the powers of the municipality, adding that the Public Works Department would probably not have the time to devote to the issue. Mr. Vesey further added that some of the issues overlap with the Health Department in cases of garbage and potential/existing insect and/or rodent infestations and conflicts which arise with the Planning & Zoning Department as well as fire safety & building code violations and, as such. Oftentimes, these cases end up at the State's attorney office and continue for an indefinite period of time.

Councilor Jones expressed her appreciation of and commended his efforts. She expressed her concern with the current blight ordinance's compliance with the general statute, to which Mr. Vesey responded that the attorney is currently reviewing the new statutes and determining the necessary adjustments/changes that will be needed to bring the ordinance into compliance with the State's requirements. She also asked if a published report accessible by the public regarding the status of the blighted properties. Mr. Vesey stated there is no such report, but that individuals may contact him to find out the status of a property.

12. Reports from Standing Committees.

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Tanner

The job descriptions, which are included in tonight's agenda, were discussed with WPCA Chairman Tim May and the Mayor, by telephone.

b. Finance – Councilor Jaskiewicz

The Faria Corporation provided a short presentation to the Finance Committee regarding their possible expansion. Also discussed was the funding of the replacement of the Derry Hill Road Bridge and the possible selling of properties, as presented by Ms. Hart.

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Longton

The Committee discussed the various conditions of Maynard Road and the necessary role of the Public Works Director to take care of the issue.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging; Social Services; Montville Youth Services; Senior Center

Social Services, Montville Youth Services, and the Senior Center have all been extremely busy and the expressed his appreciation to the directors for their hard work.

The Director of the **Youth Center** has been working on grant applications. He thanked and commended the volunteers who recently worked on/placed the benches. The after-school program is in full swing.

Social Services is busy dealing with new clients. They have received donations from the tribe. A fundraiser is being planned for November 15 to benefit the Montville Food Bank and Youth Center at the Casino.

On August 19, the **Senior Center** held the unveiling of their new computers/laptops, which was made possible through their hard work with Pfizer. The event was attended by some of the Councilors and the Mayor. New programs and grant applications are in progress. The seniors have been actively volunteering their time to the Senior Club Garden, whose vegetables are given to Social Services, and in the kitchen, serving meals to seniors. In addition to assembling hundreds of Charity Baskets during the holiday season, the seniors also put together 200 backpacks for the children in the community. He thanked seniors and directors for their efforts. Addressing Ms. Desjardin's concern regarding the overgrowth at the Senior Center, Councilor Caron noted that he has spoken with the Mayor and Mr. Bourdeau, who will be taking care of the matter.

b. Councilor Jones: Library; Planning & Zoning Commission

The **Library** is continuing their research to determine the cost of expanding their hours to include Fridays.

The **Planning & Zoning Commission** has approved the site and zoning plans for the rebuilding of the Chapel Hill Road Plaza, which was burnt down, and have re-issued a special permit for an additional five years for the rock-crushing process operation located at the Lombardi Business Park.

c. Councilor Longton: Economic Development Commission

While he was unable to stay for the meeting, the EDC discussed the Tax Relief Plan; a favorable report should be forthcoming to the Council. Also discussed was the Vendors Ordinance. Because Mr. Albert Skulczyck has recused himself from the issue due to a conflict of interest, the Commission was unable to secure enough votes regarding the issue and a different tract is being sought in dealing with the issue. Councilor Jones, referring to the EDC's Meeting Minutes, determined that the meeting was informal due to lack of a quorum and questioned whether there was a provision for taking votes by phone. It was determined that that was unknown. Councilor Longton, in response to Councilor McFee's request for the status of the second Tax Relief Plan, responded that that plan, which was discussed several months ago, is scheduled to go before the Finance Committee.

d. Councilor McFee: Volunteer Firefighters Relief Fund; Public Safety Building Committee, Inland Wetlands Commission — no report.

e. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education; WPCA

As introduced earlier, the BOE appointed two well-deserved individuals as the Interim Superintendent and Interim Assistant Superintendents. He added that he is happy to see that the Interim Asst. Superintendent is a member of the Montville community.

The WPCA discussed the ongoing process of a potential MOU with the Town Attorney. A tentative meeting between the WPCA and the Town Council has been cancelled.

f. Councilor Tanner: Parks & Recreation Commission; Non-Profit Organizations

No meeting was held in August. Brochures should be arriving in residents' mailboxes this week. The Trick or Trunk event will be held on October 26. Those who wish to participate should submit their applications as soon as possible. Councilor Tanner will present Mr. Leonard's letter regarding the Camp Oakdale Ball Fields to the Commission. Councilor Jaskiewicz noted that this has been an ongoing problem and that it may be necessary for the Police Department to enforce the Ordinance as they patrol through the area. Councilor McFee stated that the problem lies in the fact that only those ordinances whose enforcement can be guaranteed should be passed and suggested that a separate set of bleachers designated at a smoking area be installed. Councilor Jones added that proper resources should be allocated in order to enforce this and other Ordinances.

g. Councilor Buebendorf: Public Safety Commission; Regional Dispatch Committee

The Regular Meeting for the **Public Safety Commission** was rescheduled and she was unable to attend. The make up of the ad hoc committee and the creation of the submitted letter from Mr. Jetmore was discussed.

The **Regional Dispatch Committee** is still waiting to hear back from the town of Ledyard, who continues to be undecided, and a proposal to KX has been submitted.

14. Appointments and Resignations

a. To Consider and Act on a motion to appoint Mr. Scott Deranleau to the Inland Wetlands Commission with a term to expire September 10, 2017.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Longton, McFee, Tanner, and Buebendorf. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. John F. Geary from the Commission on Aging effective November 8, 2013.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: The Councilors expressed their appreciation to Mr. Geary for his hard work and their regret. Roll Call vote, 6-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Longton, Tanner, and Buebendorf. Voting in Opposition: Councilor McFee. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Thomas McNally from the Conservation Commission effective September 10, 2013.

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Jones. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Longton, McFee, Tanner, and Buebendorf. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to discuss the ordinance titled “Ordinance Amending Chapter 289, Ordinance No. OG-4, “Ordinance Regulating Peddlers, Vendors and Solicitors”. (Councilor Longton) — *Removed from the Agenda*

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to discuss the formation of an ad hoc committee to research the viability of creating an independent police force. (Councilor McFee)

Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Councilor McFee provided a short background of the issue and the need for an update of the costs determined. In reference to the recommendations of Mr. Jetmore and the Public Safety Commission, Councilor McFee felt that two Town Council members was unnecessary and that more people from the public should be included, comprised of those who are not only in favor of, but also opposed to the issue. It is his hope that the Town Council hold a special meeting to discuss possible candidates and vote on these candidates at next month’s meeting. He strongly felt that it was important that the members of this Town Council form the committee. Councilor Jones questioned the purpose of resurrecting the issue considering its previous failure after it had gone to referendum. Councilor Jaskiewicz felt that the issue is a stronger driving issue than in the past, can cost more than the public estimates, and should be taken on by the newly elected Town Council. Councilor Jones agreed with Councilor Jaskiewicz, adding that more time is needed to form the committee. Chariperson Buebendorf felt that, while it is a great idea for the Council to draft a list of contenders, that the public should be provided with the opportunity to apply and, furthermore, the composition of the committee would need to be determined this evening. Mayor McDaniel further added that the Council not only needs to elect the members, but also determine their charge and a timeline be created. Because this is a complicated proposition, Councilor Buebendorf felt that it was important to discuss the issue in a more thoughtful and deliberate matter. Councilor Buebendorf and Mayor McDaniel, in response to Councilor Jones’ question regarding implementation of some of the recommendations with no cost attached in the \$46 million study, noted that some of those recommendations have been implemented. Councilor Jaskiewicz added that the study has proved positive for the town through their recommendations, many of which have been implemented, and the possibility of obtaining grants in the near future. Councilor McFee felt that, because it was this Council who approved to spend the \$46 million for the study, it should be this Council who follows through with it and expressed his concern that the following Council(s) will bury the issue indefinitely. Mayor McDaniel reminded the Council that the study was conducted due to a Charter provision.

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2013-57. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$2,012.25 (two-thousand twelve dollars and twenty-five cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor Buebendorf)

Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Longton, McFee, Tanner, and Buebendorf. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution adopted.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to discuss the Blight Ordinance Progress Review. (Councilor Jones)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Jones to remove the item from the agenda. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to discuss a proposed senior tax relief plan. (Councilor Longton) — *Removed from the Agenda.*

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to discuss a new law on the Growing of Bamboo Plants. (Councilor Jones)

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Councilor Jones will be interviewing Chief Scientist of Department of Forestry and Horticulture this week regarding the new law and how it's going to impact the citizens of the town. Mayor McDaniel discussed the bamboo plant and the new law, effective October 1. The two types of bamboo plants that have been specifically outlined in the statute are the yellow and green running bamboo. Popular due to its hardiness, height, and rapid growth, the plant provides a natural screen of privacy between neighboring properties. It is a grass that can be eradicated with herbicide or by simply pulling them out. In accordance to the new law, for plants planted after October 1, a barrier preventing the spreading of the bamboo plant must be placed. Failure to do so can result in a daily citation by the Tree Warden, Constable, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Inlands and Wetlands Enforcement Officer, or the DEEP until the plant is removed. While the plant is not classified as invasive, it does have the potential of becoming invasive. The issue is primarily a neighbor dispute/civil issue. In addition, after October 1, all sellers of the bamboo will be required to provide the consumer with information regarding the new law.

- e. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to declare the Town Meeting results dated March 11, 1996 vacated as not being in accordance with C.G.S. §13a-49. (Councilor Longton) — *Removed from the Agenda.*

- f. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** pursuant to Charter Section C304 (A) (4) and C.G.S. §13a-49, to abandon the southern 238 feet of Maynard Road based on the results of the Planning and Zoning Commission vote taken at the Commission meeting dated November 14, 1995; and to hereby schedule a town meeting to be conducted at 6:30 p.m. on September 30, 2013, at Montville Town Hall Council Chambers to obtain voter approval of this action. (Councilor Longton) — *Removed from the Agenda.*

- g. **Resolution #2013-58. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the updated position descriptions for the Water-Sewer Administrator and the Chief Plant Operator-Superintendent. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel briefly provided some background information regarding the updating of the job descriptions for these positions, which have since petitioned and determined to be part of the main bargaining unit by the State. Mayor McDaniel, in response to Councilor Jaskiewicz, stated that a supervisory chain of command has been determined and the

Council Chair would be the “designee” in case the Mayor is unavailable. Councilor McFee questioned the reasoning behind the elimination of some of the duties and whether there would be a pay cut as the result. The Mayor responded that the duties were eliminated because they were not being performed and because the WPCA felt that those duties were not appropriate at that particular job level. Their salaries are still being discussed and have not yet been ratified. In response to Councilor Jones’ question regarding the necessity of their transition from an unclassified to a classified employee, the Mayor responded that the employees had petitioned to be part of the union and, while the Town argued against it, it was determined by the State that they belong in the main bargaining unit. Discussion regarding the Mayor’s supervisory role in relation to the overturned ordinance in February 2012 regarding the absolute authority of the WPCA and their administrative responsibilities and a 1995 resolution that the mayor could be designated as the day-to-day supervisor of operations of the WPCA ensued between the Mayor and Councilor Jones. The employees are currently in the union for some purposes but are not with respect to their position descriptions, wages, and salary, which are currently going to arbitration. Their salaries and benefits are contingent upon the approval of the job descriptions. Councilor Jones also sought more information regarding the human resources role of the administrator and questioned his/her qualifications to take on such a role and whether it might not be the role of the Finance Department. Mayor McDaniel stated that the Finance Department is not involved in personnel matters and that the human resources function is administered by the Mayor’s office. In addition, both of the employees have received human resources training. In response to Councilor Jones, the Mayor stated that there is no specific time frame within which an issue that is presented to a Committee must be responded, but, he sent the job descriptions to Town Administrations as a personal courtesy so that the Council may have more time to vet the issue and to avoid its taking up unnecessary time at a Town Council meeting. Councilor Jones recited Rule 11 of the Town Rules that states under Duties that “to review as required and recommend legislative action concerning the wages, salaries and benefits of all town employees as required by the charter.” The Mayor clarified that he is seeking approval of the job description and not their wages, salaries, and benefits and, while he expected to present a complete package to the Council, it did not work out that way. He reiterated that the job descriptions were approved by the WPCA in May and the wages, salaries, and benefits of these positions will be presented to the Council when they have been ratified. Councilor Jones questioned whether he was suggesting that a time limitation be imposed on the Committees. Councilor Buebendorf added that the next Council may approve or opt to change the rules under which the Council will operate. Roll Call vote, 5-1-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Longton, Tanner, and Buebendorf. Voting in Opposition: Councilor McFee. Voting in Abstention: Councilor Jones. Resolution adopted.

- h. **Resolution #2013-59. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to allocate \$250,000 to line # 21199-54075 in the LoCIP fund for the replacement of the Derry Hill Road Bridge. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that, as discussed by himself and Ms. Hart, the bridge is in need of replacement. Roll Call vote, 7-0. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Longton, McFee, Tanner, and Buebendorf. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution adopted.

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

Ellen Desjardins, 513 Raymond Hill Road, expressed her concerns of the possibility of a flood occurring at Route 163 by Oxoboxo due to the collection of debris as the result of a tree that has fallen into a dam. She noted additional sightings of bamboo plants and invasive species

throughout the town and suggested that volunteers be recruited to help pull the weeds rather than placing wood chips in these areas.

Tony Siragusa, 39 Hillcrest Drive, reiterated the need for the Tax Relief Plan to be reviewed and addressed by the Council and not be held up. The plan will help the seniors as well as economic development of the town. He also agreed with the Mayor regarding the WPCA.

Florence Turner, 204 Route 163, suggested using the prisoners to help with clean up of the various blighted areas. She also suggested that, should the town utilize the Police Department to enforce the smoking ban at Camp Oakdale, they might also be used at the Transfer Station to enforce the recycling rules, adding to the Town's funds by issuing fines.

Lt. Leonard Bunnell, 5 Little John Drive, noted that the Town is always eager to place more responsibilities and requirements without proper funding as the blight ordinance exemplifies. He also felt that the ad hoc committee should not be comprised of individuals who oppose an independent police force, but of individuals who can objectively recognize its advantages and disadvantages and consider the true needs of the town. He stressed the importance of this Town Council to create the ad hoc committee establish a timeframe.

Mr. Eric Rousseau, echoed Lt. Bunnell's comments and, in response to those who suggested that the Police Department be used to enforce various issues in the Town, he stated that they are 99.9% always busy while the State continues to cut back their services for law enforcement. The Town of Montville should set an example as *the* premiere law enforcement community that is a safe place to live and cares about their community. This will attract people and businesses to the community helping our Town grow.

18. Executive Session — none.

19. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor McFee agrees with Lt. Bunnell and Mr. Rousseau regarding the use of the Police Department to patrol Camp Oakdale to enforce the smoking ordinance and suggested that the solution may be as simple as installing separate set of bleachers as a smoking area. He felt that this and other ordinances should not have been passed without first considering the resources necessary to enforce them. He also commented on the overuse of Mr. Vesey in dealing with the blight, but felt that this particular ordinance was an important one.

Councilor Tanner thanked and commended Mr. Bourdeau and the Public Works Crew for their amazing tree work around Town.

20. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Longton, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice Vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING IS ON FILE IN THE MONTVILLE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE