

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 24, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order.

Commissioner Jetmore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

At Commissioner Jetmore's request, there was a moment of silence for the public safety personnel who "are still fighting and facing incredible situations."

3. Roll Call.

Commissioners present were Elizabeth Adams, Gary Allyn, Joseph DePasquale, James Moran, Karen Perkins, and David Jetmore. Also present were Lt. Leonard Bunnell, Mayor Ronald McDaniel (7:12 p.m.), Town Council Liaison Laura Tanner, and Fire Chief Keith Truex. Fire Marshal Ray Occhialini was absent. A quorum was present.

Note: There is one vacancy (1) on the commission.

4. Amendments to the Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Adams to amend the Agenda to add Item 10c, *Staffing a Chesterfield Firehouse*. 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.

Commissioner Jetmore stated that Fire Marshal Occhialini is ill so there is not a monthly report for his department. He also said that there has not been a report from the Building Official for a while nor was one received from Animal Control this month. He noted that the last report from Animal Control needed updating to reflect the current calendar year. Commissioner Perkins and the Recording Secretary noted that they do not receive the reports electronically from the Building Official nor Animal Control--Mayor McDaniel said he would look into.

6. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2015.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams; seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2015. Discussion: Commissioner Jetmore requested a change in the semantics, from “his” to “the” regarding the report to the Mayor regarding recommendations from the police interviews -- Voice vote, 6-0; all in favor -- motion carried as amended.

7. Remarks from the Public (agenda items only – three-minute limit).

Commissioner Jetmore asked three times for remarks. There were none.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Lt. Bunnell reported that the staffing process is continuing with interviews scheduled for tomorrow, August 25, 2015 thru August 27, 2015, beginning each day at 9:00 a.m. He said that 3-4 applicants would be interviewed per day. He also asked that the same Commission members attend each day so no one can object to inconsistencies in the process. Commissioners Jetmore and Moran will be present at each interview.

In response to Commissioner Jetmore’s question regarding the new Resident State Trooper, Lt. Bunnell reported that Sgt. Mark Juhola, formerly the resident trooper in Marlborough, began his duties today and would be present at the next Commission meeting. He also reported that Sgt. Harbeck has been promoted to narcotics and the promotion should take effect in September. Lt. Bunnell stated that the applicant, who is now in the Academy, is in his fifth week. He noted that this is the first time that Montville has had a sergeant in class. Further, two applicants are in training with one more month to go; one officer has been lost to New London; and interviews will continue.

Commissioner Perkins asked about the issue regarding dispatch that was discussed at a prior meeting and was told that the Committee met tonight regarding the policy. Mayor McDaniel explained that the policy was sent to Town Administration Committee but a grievance was filed by the police union that has pushed the policy aside. Additionally, there cannot be a policy change until the Town Council can approve it particularly since union negotiations will take place next year. Lt. Bunnell commented that call to the police department has always been an issue. He said that he hopes the Committee will deal with the policy and send it back to the Town Council for consideration and action.

9. Reports from Committee and Public Safety Liaisons.

Commissioner DePasquale stated that the report from the Feasibility Committee is still being edited.

Commissioner Adams reported that she and Commissioner Perkins met on August 13 with the Chesterfield, Mohegan, and Montville fire chiefs and reviewed items 1-10 of the Public Safety Study associated with the fire department. (The Oakdale fire chief was out of town.) She commented on the outcome of the meeting and asked the Commission for direction on how to address its findings. Commissioner Jetmore suggested that they prepare a written report upon completion of their meetings. Commissioner Adams commented that she felt progress was made with the meeting.

10. Unfinished Business.

a. Status update on interview for lateral transfer police applicants.

This agenda item was discussed earlier by Lt. Bunnell and is still pending.

b. Update on meetings with fire stations regarding the Public Safety Plan/Almont Study (Adams/Perkins).

Commissioners Adams and Perkins discussed this item under Item 9 of the agenda.

c. Staffing at Chesterfield Firehouse.

Fire Chief K. Truex commented that for years he has brought his request before the Commission for a full-time paid firefighter to mirror that of the other fire departments within district. He stated that he has been told that the call volume at the Chesterfield firehouse does not warrant increased staffing. He spoke again about topics he discussed at last month's meeting, the new building at Nature's Art that is not sprinkled and the sports complex opening in September that will house two bars. The Chief again stated that these locations do not have traffic lights in front of them and that Route 85 currently has a lot of traffic accidents on it. He said, "We need to start talking about why we have not hired a career 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. person." Chief Truex discussed the current schedule at the firehouse again mentioning that his staff lives out of town and are not able to provide overtime and have jobs during daytime hours. He said the present staffing schedule is Sunday-Friday (career coverage) and Saturday (volunteer coverage), a 12-hour shift.

Mayor McDaniel commented that he did receive a proposal from Fire Marshal Occhialini after the budget numbers came out but steps would be taken to revisit the Chesterfield staffing during the next budget period. Commissioner Adams talked about her recent visit to Nature's Art with her daughter and her concern about the traffic while trying to enter and exit it. Mayor McDaniel commented that Route 85 is a state road and he has been working with the State that is more focused on Route 11 rather than a turning lane on Route 161. Commissioner DePasquale stated that staffing would have to do with contract agreements. Commissioner Jetmore suggested that Chief Truex provide the Commission with a cost figure for the staff that he is requesting. Also, in response to Commissioner Moran's question regarding EMS calls at Chesterfield, Chief Truex replied that those figures are outlined in the Fire Marshal's report.

11. **New Business.** -- None

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

Commissioner Jetmore asked three times for remarks from the public. There were none.

13. **Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor McDaniel remarked that he met with the new resident state trooper, Mark Juhola, who would attend the next Commission meeting. He added that there have been five resident state troopers during his tenure. He also commented on the great job of outgoing resident state trooper Todd Harbeck. The Mayor also discussed the recent bill for resident state trooper coverage, \$176,000 and change.

14. **Remarks from Town Council Liaison.** -- None

15. **Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioners Adams and Perkins thanked the fire chiefs for their cooperation. Commissioner Adams also mentioned Safety Day to be held on October 3rd. Commissioner Jetmore thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

16. **Adjournment.**

Motion made by Commissioner Jetmore; seconded by Commissioner Moran to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Discussion, none -- voice vote, 6-0; all in favor, -- motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville