

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 5, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Jetmore called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Allyn, Loiler, Wehner and Jetmore. Absent were Commissioners Butterworth, McNally and Moran. Also present were Mayor Ron McDaniel and Town Council Liaison Candy Buebendorf.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Loiler, seconded by Commission Jetmore to add agenda 'Item F, Update on Police Officer position' under Unfinished Business. Discussion none; voice vote 4-0, in favor; motion carried.

5. Communications

- a. Copies of monthly statistics reports from the Fire Marshal, Fire Departments, Police Department, Animal Control and Building Official.

6. Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of October 22, 2012; Special Meeting minutes of November 26, 2012, and Special Meeting minutes of December 3, 2012.

Motion made by Commissioner Jetmore, seconded by Commissioner Loiler to approve the minutes as submitted. Discussion, none; voice vote 4-0, in favor; motion carried.

7. Executive Session

- a. To consider and act on a motion for the purpose of discussions of a personnel issue. Discussion during Executive Session is to include all members of the Public Safety Commission, Mayor McDaniel, and Lt. Bunnell.

Motion made Commissioner Loiler, seconded by Commissioner Wehner to into Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. Discussion, none; voice vote 4-0, in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner Jetmore reported at 7:16 p.m. the return from Executive Session stating that no votes were taken nor motions made.

8. Remarks from the Public

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

9. Remarks from Department Heads

Lt. Bunnell reported that he did not have the monthly reports for the past two months due to completion of the construction and the pending move to the new public safety complex. He also stated that the computer setup and other tasks are in transition. Lt. Bunnell thanked everyone who helped with the transition including Bill O'Neil, but said that there is a lot yet to do.

Fire Marshal Occhialini reported there were 2703 dispatched calls in 2012 to the various fire departments. Of those calls, 2052 or 70.9% were ambulance calls. In 2012, there were 25,947 without police presence of which 7149 were 911 calls and 18,348 phone calls. Total calls reported for January 2013 were 238. In addition, Fire Marshal Occhialini reported the receipt of the second portion of a grant of \$10,577 and drill participation with the Millstone. He also commented on the move and the need for a second person in dispatch center to accommodate the foot traffic at the new public safety building.

Lt. Bunnell continued, reporting on one vacancy and a possible second one in the police department. He spoke about the latest applicants' test results received from LEC and stated he would schedule the agility test and the results from it would be reported back to the Commission. He also commented on residential foot traffic and activity for pistol permits and discussion followed regarding the turnaround time for the same.

10. Reports from Committees and Public Safety Liaisons - None

11. Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion regarding Public Safety building.

This item was previously discussed under agenda Item 9.

- b. Update regarding the Public Safety Plan.

Commissioner Allyn commented that the plan that is broken out by section will be updated to include the recommendations/clarifications which he will highlight and distribute for review by the Commission and all stakeholders involved prior to presenting it to the Town Council.

- c. Status of firefighter position.

Mayor McDaniel reported that the firefighter position has been posted within the Town departments and to the public. He referenced a question that arose as to whether part-timers (volunteers) should be allowed to apply; the procedure that was followed in the past; and the cost for the CPAT that is not offered often. He also commented on part-timers' ability to work Monday through Friday as well as the weekend. Commissioner Wehner questioned the comment and said there should be a pathway for volunteers to become fulltime. Commissioner Allyn agreed that a pathway was needed and added that the CPAT is run consecutively during April through October and should become a part of applicants'

eligibility process. He added that the issue should simply be ‘yes’ or ‘no’—did the individual pass the exam. Mayor McDaniel commented that the test should be taken within the probationary period which Fire Marshal Occhialini confirmed was one year. Commissioner Loiler said that any applicant who applies should take the exam as an investment in their career and that the expiration date, probationary period, is in place for a reason.

- d. Update on sergeant promotion.

Mayor McDaniel commented that interviews regarding the sergeant promotion were postponed due to yesterday’s weather and a new date has not been set as of yet.

- e. Update on collection of all departments’ policies and procedures.

Mayor McDaniel commented that it is necessary to make sure that the all departments’ policies and procedures are comprehensive as well as transparent.

- f. Update on Police Officer position.

Lt. Bunnell reported that there were seventy-five (75) applicants for the police officer position and the next step in the process is the agility test. Certified officers will give the test at the Coast Guard Academy and at Montville High School.

12. New Business

- a. Set date and location for Public Safety Plan sub-committee.

There was no action taken on this item.

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

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

14. Remarks from Mayor McDaniel

Mayor McDaniel reported on a regional emergency planning team meeting in Colchester that was well intended and an issue regarding leftover monies for jet skis for East Lyme. He also commented on the voting method done by the Windham group at the SE Council of Governments. He explained that entities usually vote individually unlike the Windham Group that sends one representative with eleven (11) votes—their vote will be changed to one vote. Mayor McDaniel also reported that he was unable to attend a meeting for regional animal control with the towns of Waterford, East Lyme and Old Lyme and the city of New London due to a scheduling conflict. He said that Waterford has an available building but consideration will be given as to whether it will be a lower cost option. Feedback once obtained will be reported back to the Commission.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf

C. Buebendorf commented that the Town Council is looking forward to the Commission's presentation of the Public Safety Plan that has been a long, arduous process.

16. Remarks from Commission members

Commissioner Wehner commented on the great attendance at the open house for the Public Safety building that he said was a "plan for the future instead of the Town playing catch up." He also spoke about the foot traffic at the building stating that staffing needs to be reviewed. Commissioner Loiler congratulated everyone involved with the new public safety complex. He also asked the commissioners to keep Commissioner McNally in their prayers given the recent passing of his mother. Commissioner Allyn commented as well on the "excellent job" of the Public Safety complex and "positive energy" of those who attended the open house. He has heard from some who want to simulate the same. Commissioner Jetmore apologized for delayed start of the meeting and thanked all who attended the open house.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Submitted by: Gloria J. Gathers/Recording Secretary