

Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, January 12, 2015
7:00 p.m. – Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order
Chairman Jaskiewicz 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 Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Absent was Councilor McNally, due to medical reasons. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations
 - a. Recognition of Montville Master Patrol Officer Ryan Spring by Mayor Ronald McDaniel and the Town Council
Mayor McDaniel, who commended the officers throughout the State of CT and felt that many are often not recognized for their efforts, praised and recognized Officer Spring for taking it upon himself to purchase and distribute gift cards to those whom he felt were in need. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Officer Spring on behalf of the Town, Mayor's office, Town Council, and Public Safety Commission.

In an effort to continue to recognize those members of the community who go above and beyond, Chairman Jaskiewicz requested that the Councilors bring those individuals whom they witness and/or feel deserving of recognition to his attention.
5. Alterations to the Agenda
6. To Consider and Act on a motion to approve:
 - a. The Public Hearing Meeting Minutes on Monday, December 8, 2014 regarding the "Ordinance Concerning the Registrar of Voters"
Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion passed.
 - b. The Regular Meeting Minutes on Monday, December 8, 2014
Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion passed.
7. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit
8. Communications
 - a. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of October 2014
 - b. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of November 2014
 - c. Copy of the December budget report from Ms. Terry Hart, Finance Director
Finance Director Hart was unable to attend this evening's meeting, but she is available to answer any questions they might have at anytime or he is happy to relay any questions or concerns to her on their behalf.

9. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred

Mayor McDaniel reported that the Mutual Aid Agreements, which have been in existence since 2004 or earlier, has been referred to the Town Attorney. The revised contract, regarding its mutual assistance with neighboring towns, will encompass situations beyond the current DUI grants and will include the two new tribal police forces.

10. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred

Mayor McDaniel reported that a Montville Road Bridge Pre-Construction Meeting was held. The team is continuing to work throughout the winter. The culverts have been/should be delivered soon and the bridge is currently on schedule and should be completed and ready for paving when the asphalt plants re-open for business in April.

The Energy Committee, comprised of Public Works Director Don Bourdeau, Finance Director Hart, Montville Public Schools Director of Facilities Steve Carroll, and himself, have been meeting with three firms to discuss LED streetlight retrofitting. With many of the power plants going offline and no new ones going online, it is estimated that the Town will be faced with a 25 – 30% increase in electricity costs in the near future. The Town currently pays approximately \$80,000.00 in electricity costs, excluding the Board of Education (BOE) and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA). They are currently forecasting a 40% rebate from CT Light & Power (CL&P) for the LED lighting project and, if partnered with a non-lighting related energy program, a 50% rebate may be possible. The Committee plans to request and invite the firms to present their proposals to the Town Council. The project should pay for itself within four to five years in electricity costs.

He has been attending legislative meetings, some with Chairman Jaskiewicz, with both the new and existing legislatures to discuss the Town's priorities.

Two new officers were sworn in on December 27, 2014. Both of the officers are currently attending the Academy and will be great additions to the Town.

A waterline meeting was held with the State and will be further discussed by Councilor May.

An RFP (Request for Proposal) was submitted for a Small Cities Development Grant. Each town that is awarded the Grant may receive up to \$400,000.00 for a housing rehabilitation program for qualified residents. The program offers a 0% interest loan and will involve a lien on their home. A turnkey consultant, who will be responsible for evaluating the properties and determining their needs, will be hired to run the program. His/her fees will be paid for by the grant. The program will be open to those who are not able to afford much-needed housing repairs, e.g., well, plumbing, boiler, roof, etc.

Work on the building envelope is slated to begin on the Congregational Church paving the way for further work on the interior of the building. While the purpose for the building is still being reviewed, they plan to, first, work on saving and preserving the building.

11. Reports from Standing Committees.

- a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Longton – *no meeting*
- b. Finance – Councilor Tanner – *no meeting*
- c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Longton – *no meeting*

12. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

- a. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging; Social Services; Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund

Councilor Caron reported on two very busy months for the Social and Senior Services Department. Director Kathie Doherty-Peck has been applying for grants and is working on adding programs. They have been aiding seniors applying for NEG (National Emergency Grant) assistance, Medicare Part D, and Medicare Supplement Changes and Benefits. To

date, they have processed nearly 250 applications for fuel assistance and have been awarded over \$153,000.00 in energy assistance.

He expressed his appreciation to Director Doherty-Peck and her hardworking and dedicated staff and volunteers who provided 740 food baskets between Thanksgiving and Christmas and 564 toys to children throughout the community and continued to encourage everyone to take a moment to visit the Center.

A Skybox fundraiser will be held on February 21, 2015 to benefit the Department of Social Services and the Youth Center. The fundraiser is made possible by a generous donation by the Mohegan Tribe. Tickets are on sale for \$125.00.

b. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education

The BOE recognized their monthly Montville Marvels, i.e., those who have exhibited their commitment and dedication to the schools and their profession. They are also working on their budget and have provided the Town Council with their proposed Capital Improvement Plan for review.

c. Councilor Longton: Library; Planning & Zoning Commission – no meeting

d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority; Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee

The WPCA has issued an RFQ (Request for Quote) for engineering services. They also met with the State's Department of Public Health regarding the waterline and the high level of manganese at the high school in an effort to search for alternative options, as requested by the public. While the Department continues to be in favor of the waterline, they enlightened the WPCA of other programs for which they may be eligible. Mayor McDaniel added that, while they were aware of the availability of the other programs, they were concerned with the strings that may be attached to them. The Town will complete their applications for grant funding and move forward. Chairman Jaskiewicz commended the WPCA on a good meeting, their willingness to investigate other options, and for listening to the public and their concerns regarding the proposed waterline.

The Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee engaged in an informal and informative conversation with Major Darcy and Lt. Thomas of the CT State Police regarding the RST Program and the ongoing support the Town would receive from the State Police whether the Town opts to stay with the RST Program or transition to an independent police department. He encouraged everyone to review the Committee's meeting minutes. The Committee is requesting a one (1) month extension for the reporting of their findings on this evening's agenda.

e. Councilor McNally: Economic Development Commission – *not present*

f. Councilor Pollard: Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board

Councilor Pollard reported on a very successful Stocking Drive. In addition, the Youth Action Council's Fall Car Wash event raised over \$300.00 and \$70.00 was raised through the selling of popcorn at the Holiday Parade. A total of 200 gift cards were collected and placed into the stockings along with candy and gifts for Montville teens.

The Youth Action Council will be hosting their Annual Penny Drive from January 5 to April 30. Pennies (and other loose change) will be used to fund the Montville Animal Control. Sessions for the Lego Play-Well TEKnologies Grant will be conducted from February to mid-March. The program will teach engineering skills through innovative LEGO-building practices to approximately 100 elementary and middle school students.

To date, the Montville Juvenile Review Board has diverted over 90 youths from the Juvenile Court system and was recently awarded with a grant for extended case management services and direct services for youth and families involved with the Board.

The Youth Service Bureaus of New London County hosted a Legislative Breakfast on January 5. The theme of the Breakfast, which was attended by over 40 (forty) attendees, including nine (9) legislatures, several municipal leaders, and Youth Service Bureau staff and community agency members, was to share the work and accomplishments of the Youth Service Bureaus.

- g. Councilor Tanner: Parks & Recreation Commission; Public Safety Commission; Non-Profit Organizations

The Parks & Recreation Commission will be holding a Special Meeting this Wednesday at the Fair Oaks Community Center to discuss any necessary improvements to the building in preparation for the upcoming budget. Both basketball and volleyball programs are underway. Councilor Tanner invited everyone to play volleyball every Wednesday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (free program). She also reported that the Youth Basketball Recreation League is having a very successful year. The Town Councilors should be receiving their monthly newsletters.

The Public Safety Commission is encountering issues establishing a quorum for their meetings and would like to have the possibility of allowing members who are unable to physically attend a meeting call in be explored. The item is on this evening's agenda for discussion.

13. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a motion to re-appoint Mr. Louis Zeigler to the Commission on Aging with a term to expire December 14, 2017.

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

- b. To Consider and Act on a motion to re-appoint Mr. Robert Thorn to the Water & Sewer Commission with a term to expire January 10, 2019.

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

- c. To Consider and Act on a motion to re-appoint Mr. Gary S. Allyn to the Public Safety Commission with a term to expire January 9, 2018.

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

- d. To Consider and Act on a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Dustin White from the Economic Development Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission effective December 9, 2014.

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Councilor Pollard expressed her regrets. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion passed.

- e. To Consider and Act on a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Steven Loiler from the Public Safety Commission effective December 15, 2014.

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: Chairman Jaskiewicz reported that Mr. Loiler is now a State Trooper and, as such, will be unable to serve on the Commission. Mayor McDaniel added that he has been a valuable member of the Commission for many years. Councilor Caron expressed his regrets. Roll Call vote, 6-

0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion passed.

- f. To Consider and Act on a motion to nominate and appoint either Mr. Anthony Siragusa (R) or Ms. Karen Perkins (U) to fulfill a vacancy on the Public Safety Commission with a term to expire on January 9, 2016.

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote. Voting in Favor of Mr. Anthony Siragusa: Councilor Pollard. Voting in Favor of Ms. Karen Perkins: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Ms. Karen Perkins was appointed to the Public Safety Commission.

- g. To Consider and Act on a motion to remove Mr. Victoriano Alarcon from the Economic Development Commission effective January 1, 2015 due to lack of attendance.

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

- h. To Consider and Act on a motion to waive the waiting period for appointments, Rule 14C of the Town Council Rules of Procedure, for the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Item was deleted from the agenda.

- i. To Consider and Act on a motion to appoint Ms. Eveliz Valentin to fulfill a vacancy on the Inland Wetlands Commission with a term to expire April 14, 2016.

Item was deleted from the agenda.

Mayor McDaniel stated that there has been an issue with obtaining quorums on a number of Boards/Commissions. The Inland Wetlands Commission is, like the Planning & Zoning Commission, a statutory commission and is required for the Town to be able to take action on any economic development. As such, it is critical to find people to fill the existing vacancies. Anyone who is willing to serve on a Board(s)/ Commission(s) is strongly encouraged to contact the Town. Training and resources are offered to new members. Meetings, for the most part, are held once, sometimes twice, a month. Should these vacancies not be filled and a quorum not be obtained, the Town will be unable to transact any business for those projects requiring the approval of the Commission(s).

Chairman Jaskiewicz concurred and stated that they will review the membership status of the Boards/Commissions, identify their membership needs, and, possibly, place an ad in the paper along with an announcement on the Town's website. Councilor May suggested including a short description regarding the purpose and task of those Boards/Commissions. Mayor McDaniel added that many also no longer read the paper, visit websites, or watch the news and requested that if anyone would be willing to spread the word via Facebook, Twitter, or the like, it would be much appreciated. Interested parties may contact the Town for more information.

14. Unfinished Business

15. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2015-01. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$1,016.85 (one-thousand sixteen dollars and eighty-five cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

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

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to send to the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Committee to investigate the possibility of having member(s) call in when they are physically unable to attend the meeting. (Councilor Tanner)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Councilor Tanner stated that the issue arose via the Public Safety Commission which has at least one member who is unable to physically attend the meeting(s), but are available to take part in the meeting(s) by telephone, Facetime, Skype, or the like. Chairman Jaskiewicz stated that, from his recollection, the issue was visited at one time and it was determined that a member may take part in a meeting remotely, but would be unable to vote. Councilor Longton concurred and added that a physical quorum would still be required.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to amend the motion to include the removal of a member from a Board/Commission who misses three consecutive meetings. Discussion: Councilor Longton stated that he believed the issue would fall under the purview of the Town Council as it is a Town Council procedure rather than a Town procedure. Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron, to withdraw the amendment to the original motion.

Roll Call vote on the original motion, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion passed.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to send the issue regarding the early closure for Town employees to the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Committee to ensure that the policy is uniform. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: Chairman Jaskiewicz stated that the issue was introduced by Councilor McNally at the December Town Council Meeting as the early closures do not pertain to all of the employees within the Town, e.g., Public Works, Fire, Police, etc. He requested that the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Committee review the policy in an attempt to ensure a more uniform policy. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion passed.

- d. **Resolution #2015-02. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to sign the Settlement Agreement between RBS Citizens and the Town of Montville for a Tax Appeal regarding Personal Property. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that this particular Tax Appeal concerns the value of the ATM machines and its classification under personal property or as part of the physical structure. An agreement was reached by both parties. The ATM machines will be considered as personal property. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution adopted.

- e. **Resolution #2015-03. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to extend the reporting of the findings of the Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee to the Town Council by ~~one (1) month (March 2015)~~ two (2) months (April 2015). (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Councilor May stated that the Committee aims to complete their findings by the end of March. In response to Councilor Tanner, Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee

Chairman Wills Pike agreed that an extension of two (2) months would be nice, though he aims to have the issue resolved in March, prior to the budget season.

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton, to amend the motion to extend the reporting of their findings by two (2) months (April 2015). Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion amended.

Roll Call vote on the motion as amended, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- f. **Resolution #2015-04. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to accept the Comprehensive DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Enforcement Grant Program and resolves that Mayor Ronald McDaniel is hereby authorized to accept the FY 2015 comprehensive DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Enforcement Grant Program as described above from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Division of Highway Safety Office, and it be further resolves that Mayor Ronald McDaniel is hereby authorized to execute any and all manner of other documents and to take such other actions as he and the Town Council may deem appropriate and in the best interests of the Town of Montville in order to receive, contract, and expend the above referenced grant funds. Any prior acts of the Mayor in applying for such grant funds are hereby ratified. WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Division of Highway Safety awards grants to municipalities for enhanced DUI enforcement and WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Division of Highway Safety has notified the Town of Montville of their intention to provide grant funds to the Town through the 2015 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Grant Program and WHEREAS, These grant funds will allow the Montville Police Department to conduct high visibility enforcement that should reduce the volume of fatalities/injuries due to impaired driving, and WHEREAS, The total program cost will be \$118,000.00 for the 2015 Comprehensive DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Enforcement Grant Program and State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Division of Highway Safety will provide \$88,575.00 in grant funds to reach the total cost of the program; and WHEREAS, The Town of Montville is required to provide a 25% local cash match in the amount of \$29,525.00, which requirement will be met through the payment of fringe benefits for the officers involved in the program. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that, as in the past, the program is a 75/25 Grant Program and their match funding will continue to be provided through their fringe benefits. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution adopted.

- g. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to schedule a joint meeting between the Town Council and the Public Safety Commission for _____, 2015 at _____ p.m. to discuss the Public Safety Plan by Almont Associates. (Councilor McNally)
No action was taken. Chairman Jaskiewicz requested that Councilor Tanner discuss a proposed date/time for the joint meeting with Councilor McNally.

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

Tony Siragusa, 39 Hillcrest Drive, questioned what would constitute three missed meetings as, should a member of the Town Council be absent this evening, he/she would have missed two meetings. He also suggested that the attendance of the members be reviewed during the re-interview process.

Lt. Bunnell, 5 Little John Drive, thanked the Town Council for recognizing Officer Spring for his efforts and commended the Officer's good deeds, stating that he is what is "right with the Department". He also thanked the Council for approving the Grant, which will provide them with the opportunity to deal with DUIs and other violations. The Department is striving for the approval of additional grants, thanks to Officer Pierce's ongoing efforts.

17. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Caron stated that the Montville Education Foundation, Inc. (MEF) is hosting a fundraising on February 21, 2015 featuring a performance entitled "Magic: Music of the Mind" by Brian Miller. Please contact Ms. Donna Geary for more information and tickets.

Councilor May wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilor Jaskiewicz thanked Councilor May and the WPCA for revisiting the issue regarding the proposed waterline and listening to the people. He also wished everyone a Happy New Year and Good Health.

18. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, 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