

Town of Montville  
**Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 17, 2015**  
6:30 p.m. – Montville Town Hall — Room 203

1. Call to Order

Chairman Pike called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Bill Bucko, Jeff Buebendorf, Joe dePasquale (6:40 p.m.), Robert Giffen, Victor Lenda, Tim May (6:49 p.m.), and Wills Pike. Also present were Lt. Leonard Bunnell and Resident State Trooper Sgt. James Smith (6:39 p.m.).

4. Presentations

5. Alterations to the Agenda

6. Approval of the

a. Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Motion made by Mr. Buebendorf, seconded by Mr. Giffen. Discussion: The approval of the Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 17, 2015 were tabled pending a review of the recording.

b. Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Motion made by Mr. Buebendorf, seconded by Mr. Giffen. Discussion: Mr. Lenda proposed the following changes:

Page 2, Independent PD, Proposal #1:

Detective Unit: 1 Detective Sergeant

1 Detective ~~& Evidence Officer~~ (also serves as Evidence Officer)

1 Detective ~~& Youth Officer~~ (also serves as Youth Officer)

34 ~~Officers~~ Sworn Members of the Department

Page 3, Independent PD, Proposal #2:

29 ~~Officers~~ Sworn Members of the Department

Mr. Buebendorf proposed the following change:

Page 1, Header: Regular Meeting ~~Agenda Minutes~~ for Tuesday, March 3, 2015

It was explained that a Community Service Officer (CSO) is a civilian (non-sworn) member of the Department. A CSO does not have the powers of arrest, but would be available to assist the Department under the direction of the Chief, Captain, Sergeant, or Lieutenant. As such, a CSO would earn a lesser salary than a sworn member.

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Motion made by Mr. Buebendorf, seconded by Mr. Giffen, to accept the minutes as amended.  
Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit  
Officer Salvatore thanked Chairman Pike for attending the recent Finance Committee Meeting and stating the Department’s need for additional staffing.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Review of previous independent Police Department studies and reports

1) Presentation of Findings

Mr. Giffen distributed the proposed preliminary budgets to the Committee based on the proposals provided by Mr. Lenda during the last meeting, stating that it concentrates on the personnel of the department, which, along with the capital expenditures, will have the main impact in the overall budget. The salaries for the positions included in the budget are as was provided by Lt. Bunnell and Sgt. Smith and is broken up into Grades A, B, C, and D. Taking into consideration the impending requirement for the Department to purchase the new State Radios within a two-year timeframe should the Town opt to remain with the RST Program, the proposed preliminary budget includes the years 2016 and 2017, respectively.

**RST Program:** Staffing: 23 Sworn Members of the Department  
(as currently budgeted) plus RST  
Budget Total: \$1.57 million

**Independent PD, Proposal #1:** Staffing: 34 Sworn Members of the Department  
2 FT, 2 PT administrative support  
Budget Total: \$2.312 million.

**Independent PD, Proposal #2:** Staffing: 29 Sworn Members of the Department  
3 Civilian Community Service Officers  
1 FT, 1 PT administrative support  
Budget Total: \$1.923 million.

The RST Program is based on the Town’s portion of the RST’s existing salary of 70%. The salaries do not include the fringe benefits as it was previously stated that that is not included in the Police Budget, but in the Administrative budget. A request will be made to the Finance Director for an estimate of the fringe benefit costs, along with other expenditures as well as revenue(s), once the main portion of the budget is completed. In addition, once the staffing is determined, overtime costs can be determined, accordingly. The Independent PD Proposals take into account the three-month phasing in period for the Chief. Mr. Lenda stated that he does not disagree with the State’s proposed payment of 100% of the RST’s *base* salary, adding that the RST’s overtime should be paid by

whoever is requesting the RST's services, i.e., if the Town is requesting his/her services and it is approved by the Mayor/First Selectman, the Town would be responsible for the overtime costs; similarly, if the RST is working overtime for the State, payment for his/her overtime would be the State's responsibility. Due to the existence of mutual aid, it is not possible for the RST's time to be entirely devoted to the Town for which he/she serves. In addition, depending upon the changes that are adopted at the State level regarding the budget, the overall costs may also change. Mr. Buebendorf stated the importance of noting in their presentation that, should the Town opt to remain with the RST Program, additional staffing will be necessary and, as such, staffing costs would increase, either way. The report will also include that their submission is the Committee's recommendation and that the Chief may opt to staff his/her Department differently than as proposed by the Committee. The construction of the Public Safety Building with its amenities supports the creation of an Independent PD.

Councilor May estimates a cost of \$350,000.00 for the non-recurring costs should the Town opt for an Independent PD. It was clarified that, should the Town decide to remain with the RST Program, the total cost for the upgrading of the Police radio system is \$320,000.00 (\$170,000.00 to upgrade the portable/mobile units to communicate with the State Police system + \$150,000.00 to migrate to a simulcast system for coverage on the east side of the Town). Should the Town opt for an Independent PD, the Town would only need to invest \$150,000.00. The transition must take place within two years, the timeframe given by the State Police. A yearly fee to KX Communications for regionalized dispatching services will need to be included and the number of calls for service determined, presuming the Town will be charged on a per call basis. The costs of an impound lot will include the purchasing and installation of security cameras at the old DOT (Department of Transportation) electrical garage located by the Route 2-A overpass near Route 32. The facility is equipped with a garage, which would be shared with the Public Works Department and divided and secured by a wire wall/chain link fence to provide additional security for vehicles involved in serious incidents. Lt. Bunnell will request and obtain the costs of the cameras and a wired/chain link fence. The addition of a Police Patrol Dog will not be included as a non-recurring cost. Councilor May will meet with Lt. Bunnell to discuss the costs of these and other items.

Chairman Pike reported on the recent news regarding other Towns, including Stonington's request for two additional officers, Ledyard and Preston, who are also seeking to break apart from the RST Program and, possibly, creating a Regionalized Police Department. In addition, Bozrah, which is neither under the RST Program nor do they have a Police Department, is currently conducting a police study to investigate its options, and East Lyme is also investigating the possibility of breaking from the RST Program and forming an Independent PD.

Discussion ensued regarding whether to present both or one of the Independent PD Proposals. While it was felt that Proposal #2 is more realistic and, most likely, palatable, Lt. Bunnell felt that the inclusion of the Community Service Officers (CSO) is a luxury item and should, perhaps, not be included as part of the Proposal, adding that the remaining staffing (29 total Sworn members, 18 of which are Patrol Officers) is accurate in what is necessary to make the transition, including the monitoring of both males and females in the detention center. Juveniles may be held for up to six (6) hours. For remanded custodies, juveniles will need to be taken to Hartford and New Haven.

Councilor May commended the Committee for their work thus far.

The Committee unanimously agreed to present Independent PD, Proposal #2 along with the RST Program. Mr. Giffen will produce and present a draft of the budget based upon Proposal #2 for the Committee to review. The exact amount the Town pays to the State Police for the RST was questioned for inclusion in their RST budget. Chairman Pike noted that the most current budget report states that \$154,000.00 is budgeted for the RST.

Mr. Bucko reported that he has been researching various reports and has a rough idea as to the format of the report, which will include an executive summary, strategic assessment, budgetary issues, final recommendations, and the like.

9. New Business – *none*

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

Officer Salvatore stated that she will present Proposal #2 to the Union and report back to the Committee with any comments they might have. While Proposal #2 is favorable, she felt that an additional detective should be added into the proposal based on the fact that the current two detectives are overworked and the Detective Sergeant will be tasked with administrative duties and the supervising of the two Detectives. In addition, the Proposal indicates that the Detectives will be tasked with additional duties as an Evidence Officer and Youth Officer.

11. Remarks from the Committee Members

Mr. Lenda thanked both Mr. Giffen and Mr. Buebendorf for their work on the budget.

Sgt. Smith announced his retirement at the end of the month.

Councilor May often receives unsolicited opinions from the public. Many of those who are opposed to the creation of an Independent PD have stated that they are afraid that Montville will turn into the Waterford or Groton Police Departments, where the Police issue tickets for the purpose of supporting their municipal budget. He encouraged the Committee to solicit as many opinions from the public as possible.

Mr. Buebendorf thanked those who invested their time and energy thus far and to Lt. Bunnell for spending time with Mr. Giffen and himself and helping them formulate the budgets.

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Chairman Pike also thanked everyone and stated that he has been encouraging everyone to attend Town meetings, to listen, ask questions, and investigate where their money is going, adding that funds can be reviewed and adjusted accordingly so as to have no increase in their taxes.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Mr. Lenda, to accept the following meeting dates:

Tuesday, March 31, 2015	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 14, 2015	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 28, 2015	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 12, 2015	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 26, 2015	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 9, 2015	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 23, 2015	6:30 p.m.

Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion passed.

12. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville