

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 28, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order.

Commissioner Jetmore called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

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

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

4. Amendments to the Agenda.

Item 11b, Interviews for entry-level police department applicants was added to the agenda under New Business.

5. Communications: Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police, Animal Control, and Building Official.

Commissioner Jetmore asked and confirmed that the monthly reports were received by all of the Commissioners. These reports were dispersed electronically.

6. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2015.

Motion made by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2015, as written. Discussion: none; voice vote, 4-0; all in favor -- motion carried.

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.

Fire Chief Truex reported that the sports complex on Route 85 has officially opened and the fact that there are no traffic lights in front of the facility is a concern. He also mentioned that the new bays are going along well and should officially open in early November. The Chief commented as well on a recent MVA (no injuries nor fluids) on Route 85 near Nature's Art when the police was dispatched to the scene that was in walking distance to the Chesterfield Firehouse. He stated that this issue should be discussed. Further, Chief Truex commented about not getting information beforehand from the Commission specific to his department referring to the agenda item concerning the Chesterfield Firehouse brush truck. He was particularly concerned given the improved communication with the Commission and the ongoing meetings with Commissioners Adams and Perkins regarding the Public Safety Study. Chief Truex also reported on the chief's car being designated as "best in the state" at the State convention last week. He concluded by asking for police department involvement in medical calls when available. Discussion followed regarding police presence at medical calls and turns lanes on Route 85. Mayor McDaniel reiterated as he has done at previous meetings that spot safety improvements to the traffic on Route 85 is a State road issue. He said that Route 85 is a state road and advocating for safety measures such as turn lanes have thus far been unsuccessful. Commissioner Jetmore inquired of the Recording Secretary G. Gathers whether she had the email addresses for all of the fire chiefs. She replied that she did not. He then thanked Chief Truex for his comments. Commissioner Jetmore then explained the process for adding items to the meeting agenda. He also stated that generally town charters prohibit discussions not formally within the bounds of a public meeting—discussions otherwise can be considered illegal.

Commissioner Perkins asked for clarification regarding policy regarding police department presence at MVA's. Discussion regarding the same included the cost of fuel whenever a fire truck is dispatched, the need for police officers, and the job of rescue, protection, and cleanup at the scene of a MVA. Fire Marshal Occhialini clarified that not all 911 calls where persons are still in vehicles are dispatched to fire personnel. Commissioner Jetmore asked Chief Truex to report to the Commission at its next regular meeting the statistics of the percentage of 911 calls his firehouse receives. Lt. Bunnell added that police dispatch to medical calls was a topic he had also brought up previously. He asked who would contact the fire department as the police on the scene assess and make a determination of each individual situation. Commissioner Moran commented that the police department is "well stretched." Mayor McDaniel concurred that it is incumbent upon the fire or police personnel on scene to make the right call—a blanket policy to send both will not work.

Lt. Bunnell reported that there are 17 applicants for consideration to the police department. He requested that the Commission notify him of available times, day or evening, in which to conduct

the interviews adding that the same commissioners must be present at each of the interviews. Lt. Bunnell also reported that the trainees are in their last phases. Also, one candidate is still in the Academy and one officer was lost to New London. He also stated that there are no lateral transfers at this time. (That item will be deleted from the agenda.) Commissioner Moran asked if the cost for polygraphs—\$400—is paid for by the department. Lt. Bunnell responded that a conditional offer precludes the polygraphs.

9. Reports from Committee and Public Safety Liaisons.

Commissioner Adams reported that she and Commissioner Perkins have met four times with the fire chiefs and have reviewed one-third of the fire department section of the Public Safety Report. Commissioner Perkins reported that they are getting questions answered as well as getting an education.

10. Unfinished Business.

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

This item will be deleted from the agenda as proposed by Lt. Bunnell.

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.

11. New Business.

a. Consideration and action of Chesterfield Fire Company use of brush truck.

Mayor McDaniel clarified that this agenda item regarding the brush truck came about as the result of a concern sent via email by Town Councilor McNally on September 18th and forwarded to Commission members. Further, he stated that he personally spoke with Chief Truex about the matter. Commissioner Perkins voiced complaint of not having received the email and asked that it be noted for the record that communication regarding agenda items should be sent to all of the Commissioners.

Chief Truex then spoke about the process involved with servicing and insuring the truck that is covered under the Town's fleet policy. He commented that the truck was fully reviewed by his Assistant Chief Rob Forrester, who is an ASE certified, master technician for medium and heavy duty trucks as well as a licensed fire inspector. Chief Truex discussed the brush truck GPM rating

that exceeds the minimum standard and better rated and has fire capability for its age (1975). He added that all repairs of the truck are being done out of the firehouse budget. Commissioner Perkins asked Chief Truex asked whether the brush truck works and would he willingly put it into service if it was not operable. The Chief's answers to her questions were "Yes" and "No," accordingly. Commissioner Adams asked if another vehicle was being taken out of service. The Chief replied, "No." In answer to Commissioner Jetmore regarding the use of the brush truck as a rescue vehicle, Chief Truex said the truck would be used as needed, although the truck is not back in service yet.

Assistant Chief Forrester gave an overview of his due diligence in servicing the truck and his credentials. He explained that the truck although 40 years old has only 19,000 original miles on it. He added that a truck purchased today would not have all the same capabilities as that of the brush truck. Asst. Chief Forrester was praised by Town Council Liaison L. Tanner who commented that she was glad to have him on board. The discussion was concluded by Commissioner Jetmore who asked whether all were satisfied. He also asked that any other for future issues be brought forth to the Commission by L. Tanner.

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. -- None

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Council Liaison L. Tanner thanked Fire Marshal Occhialini, Planning and Zoning, and others for helping to bring to fruition the Wide World of Indoor Sports to Montville. She spoke about the grand opening. L. Tanner also commented on the upcoming Fire Safety Day at Home Depot on Saturday, October 3rd. She also applauded Commissioners Adams and Perkins for their efforts with the fire chiefs.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Jetmore thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening and said he would meet with Lt. Bunnell to set up dates for the upcoming police department interviews. Mayor McDaniel asked that notes are documented as he does read them.

Mayor McDaniel introduced Resident Trooper Mark Juhola who he said was very involved in the interview process. Trooper Juhola stated that he was excited to be in Montville and said his aim is to be a help and resource for the Town. He also commented that he was excited to work with

Lt. Bunnell recognizing that the police department is short-staffed. Trooper Juhola also praised the Juvenile Review Board (JRB) in the Town that he described as a “great” and a model for other towns.

16. Adjournment.

Motion made by Commissioner Jetmore; seconded by Commissioner Moran to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Discussion, none -- voice vote, 4-0; all in favor, -- motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville