

Town of Montville Town Council  
**Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, January 11, 2016**  
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.
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, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda  
The Councilors agreed to remove item 7 Executive Session from the Agenda.
6. To Consider and Act on a motion to approve:
  - a. The Public Hearing Meeting Minutes on Monday, December 14, 2015  
Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None.  
Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
  - b. The Regular Meeting Minutes on Monday, December 14, 2015  
Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None.  
Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
7. Executive Session
  - a. To Consider and Act on a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Public Safety Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.  
  
*Item eliminated from the agenda.*
8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit  
Brian Levesque, Superintendent, Montville Public Schools, spoke in support of item 16(c), stating that the Board of Education, which works very hard to create and maintain a fiscally responsible budget, worked very closely with the Town Council two years ago to create the account and hopes that they will continue to support the account. He explained that this year's surplus of funds derives from a significant number of retirements and invited the Councilors to meet with him to discuss and review their budget. The funds from the 1% non-lapsing account will be utilized towards their capital expenses. Last year, the funds were used to purchase buses and they are hoping to utilize this year's funds for the waterline at the High School. The Board is also expecting a budget shortfall due to the volatility of the special education program. He thanked the Town Council for their time and consideration and hopes that they will continue to support the BOE and the future of the school system.
9. Communications
  - a. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of November 2015
  - b. Copy of the December budget report from Ms. Terry Hart, Finance Director  
Finance Director Hart reported that line 10570 Registrar of Voters will be over budget due to the necessary training for the newly elected Registrars, which was not considered/ included in the budget. She recommended they hold any transfers until a more exact figure and a better status of their budget can be determined. The item will be presented to the Finance Committee prior to being presented to the Town Council.

10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred – *none*
11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred  
Mayor McDaniel wished everyone a Happy New Year and reported that he recently attended the graduation of Officer Dan Witts from the Police Academy with Lt. Leonard Bunnell and Sgt. Mark Juhola. In addition, Officers Stacie Savage and Kathleen Schmelzer have been sworn in and are currently attending the Academy. He also attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for *New Jersey Mikes* at the Mohegan Sun Casino. Last Friday, the First Grade Mohegan Elementary School students visited the Town Hall and they are looking forward to a similar visit by the Oakdale Elementary School students at the end of the month. The Ad Hoc Energy Savings Committee will begin conducting interviews with the two finalists for the LED Street Retrofit Program. Once finalized, a presentation will be provided to the Town Council regarding the Project and its benefits.
12. Reports from Standing Committees.
  - a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz  
The 2016 meeting dates were approved and the Chair was elected.
  - b. Finance – Councilor Longton  
The 2016 meeting dates were approved and the Chair was elected.
  - c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron  
Councilor thanked the Committee for electing him as Chair.
13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors
  - a. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging; Social Services; Volunteer Fire Fighters’ Relief Fund – *no report*
  - b. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education – *no report*
  - c. Councilor Longton: Library – *no report*
  - d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority; Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board; Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee  
Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board: Councilor May reported that the Statewide Youth Service Bureau Report Card will become available at the end of the month. The Bureau was awarded a Community Foundation Grant for \$3,000.00 for their evidenced-based Girls Circle Curriculum. Their 2015-16 projected revenue is \$15,000.00 and, with a grants revenue of \$27,806.00, their total revenue is \$42,806.00. In addition, they will be receiving an additional grant of \$17,000.00 for three years, giving them a grand total of \$51,000.00. He offered his hats off to the Youth Action Council who collected over 200 gift cards for the Social Services Holiday Baskets and Stockings and encouraged everyone to drop off their pennies for their Annual Penny Drive.  
Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee: He encouraged everyone to join the Town Council at the Public Hearing this Thursday to discuss an Ordinance regarding the adoption of an independent police force.
  - e. Councilor Rogulski: Economic Development Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission  
Councilor Rogulski reported that the Economic Development Commission is in the process of drafting letters to new businesses and is in the process of reviewing the Town’s Blight Ordinance.
  - f. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations  
Councilor Pollard reported that she has been working with Councilor Tanner and some progress has been made.
  - g. Councilor Tanner: Parks & Recreation Commission; Public Safety Commission  
Parks & Recreation Commission: A new and exciting basketball program for first and second graders has begun. Previously, the students had been taking part in Norwich PAL

Program. The Commission is planning to host two bands this summer for their Summer Concert(s) and recently hosted a Holiday Parade.

Public Safety Commission: The Police Department recently received a letter by a law firm commending them for their handling of a very sensitive eviction situation, which ultimately resulted in a positive outcome. The Commission is currently in the process of scheduling their budget meetings.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Derek Wainwright from the Parks & Recreation Commission effective December 15, 2015.

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Councilor Tanner stated Mr. Wainwright, though recently appointed, is unable to continue to serve on the Commission due to rising commitments. The Councilors expressed their regret. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Sandy Berardy to fill the vacancy created by Valerie Smith on the Board of Education with a term to expire November 13, 2017.

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that a vacancy was created by the resignation of Democrat Smith last month. As is the process, the Democratic Town Committee has recommended Ms. Berardy, who is an ideal candidate for the position, having previously served on the Board of Education for a number of years as both a member and a Chair, to fulfill the vacancy. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution # 2016-01. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$342.32 (three hundred forty-two dollars and thirty-two cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution adopted.

- b. **Resolution # 2016-02. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to apply annually for the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security EMPG Grant and execute any and all documents pertaining thereto. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that the Resolution would authorize him to execute the documents pertaining to the Region 4 Homeland Security Funds for the length of his term in office. The Grant will be utilized to fund part of the Emergency Management Services Director's salary and the funds that flow into the program. The Resolution would also authorize him to sign off on the Emergency Action Plans, which are submitted annually, as required. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution adopted.

- c. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to commit \$236,956.00 (two hundred thirty-six thousand nine hundred and fifty-six dollars) to the Education Reserve Fund for fiscal year 2014-2015. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that, due to recent funding losses from the State and the Tribe and the

budget shortfall from last winter's weather conditions, he felt that those funds should be allocated to the Town's General Fund. Councilor May concurred, referring to the unpredictability of the State budget, which is currently in flux. Roll Call vote, 1-6. Voting in Favor: Councilor Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Resolution failed.

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

Lt. Bunnell responded to a recent Letter to the Editor from Councilor Pollard regarding the unneeded expense of a Montville Police Force. The full use of the building, he stated, is the reason for its approval by the public and its construction. Such negative postings, he felt, are provoking dissension amongst the Town and dislike for the Police, in general. Furthermore, he felt that stating that the "Taxes are high enough in Montville" without stating the actual costs is 'plain sensationalism'. The State Police will continue to remain in Town, as in every Town, regardless, and, should the Town opt for an independent police department, the costs would only rise as high as the Town Council allows it to rise. He added that the goal of the change is not to "improve the performance", but to cut the runaway costs of the State and eliminate the Town's liabilities.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Longton encouraged everyone to attend Thursday's Public Hearing, adding that the Councilors value the public's opinion and would like to hear their *informed* thoughts. To this end, he encouraged everyone to take the time to read the Report, which is available online.

Councilor May stated that he is dismayed by some of the erroneous information published in the paper regarding the formation of an independent police department. He stated that the Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee met 32 times over 14 months and the numbers stated in their final report are the actual numbers — they are not made up, inflated, or meant to deceive. The current cost for the Resident State Trooper Program is approximately \$200,000.00/year, without overtime, and is expected to continue to rise. He felt that the Town will need to establish an independent police department at some point and the longer the Town waits, the more it will cost. He encouraged everyone to read the Report, inform himself/herself, and voice his/her opinion(s) at the upcoming Public Hearing.

Councilor Tanner wished everyone a Happy New Year and cheered her support for the Clemson Tigers.

Councilor Jaskiewicz corrected that the Town Council will not be voting on the Ordinance on Thursday night and a Special Meeting will be scheduled to do so. He stated that the situation will be handled, as it was in 2002, in that, should the Ordinance pass and a petition be filed, the Town Council will vote to send the item to a referendum. He encouraged everyone to come, listen, and speak at this Thursday's Public Hearing.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Longton, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, 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**