

**Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes of Monday, June 27, 2011
Town Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jetmore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Allyn, Butterworth, Jetmore, Moran and Wehner. Absent were Commissioners Loiler and McNally. Also present was Mayor Jaskiewicz and Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf.

4. Amendments to the Agenda – none.

5. Communications – none.

6. Approval of the May 23, 2011 regular meeting minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Wehner, seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to approve the meeting minutes of the May 23, 2011 regular meeting. Discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Executive Session

a. To consider and act on a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussions regarding personnel matters. Discussions held during the executive session to include members of the Public Safety Commission and Mayor Jaskiewicz.

Motion made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to enter into executive session at 7:03 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried. Parties returned from executive session at 7:21 p.m. and Chairman Jetmore resumed the meeting and stated no formal votes were taken during the executive session.

8. Remarks from the Public

Chairman Jetmore asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Commission.

9. Remarks from Department Heads

Mr. Ray Occhialini, Fire Marshal, distributed copies of the statistics report for the month of May to the Commission for review. He stated during the month of May there were two hundred and twenty nine first due calls in the Town for the fire departments. Chesterfield Fire Department had twenty five, Montville Fire Department had ninety one, Mohegan had sixty seven and Oakdale had thirty nine. There were seven out of town calls. One hundred and sixty seven of the calls were for EMS and there was one major structure fire with a total loss. There was a total of \$510,700 in loss for the month. He discussed an Emergency Operations Center grant, stating he submitted an application for one hundred twenty eight thousand dollars for use toward communications, upgrades to the towns microwave system, mapping for the EOC, hurricane proofing of the EOC and a satellite telephone. He stated there is a total of fourteen million dollars of grant money available and if he receives the grant it is a 75/25 grant with the town being responsible to match twenty five percent of the money. He discussed ongoing projects including Fair Oaks School upgrades, Mohegan Sun's employee gas station, a five thousand square foot repair shop, an addition to Nature's Art Dinosaur Park, and inspections of apartment buildings for smoke detectors. He discussed the radio system on Cook Drive and indicated the Town Council approved the twenty eight thousand dollars to upgrade the system, stating it should be repaired in two weeks. He discussed the firefighter interviews, stating he has been without a firefighter for some time now and would like to move forward with the hire. He discussed the Regional Dispatch, stating he invited Ledyard and New London to the meeting and New London attended the meeting resulting in positive comments. He sent packets to the Town Council members of the power point presentation discussed at the meeting. He discussed the cost savings to the town could be up to one hundred thousand dollars a year if the Regional Dispatch comes to be.

Sgt. Collins, Resident State Trooper for the Town of Montville was present to give the statistics report to the Commission in the absence of Lt. Bunnell. He distributed the statistics report to the Commission to review. He started by thanking Officer Bruce Rockwell, the SRO in the High School for the past four years for his service over the years, stating it is not an easy job but he made a lot of progress in the school system, he thanked Officer Karen Moorehead, the DARE instructor who finished the DARE program in the Mohegan, Oakdale and Murphy Schools. He stated Sgt. Greenwood was hurt during a pursuit of a suspect who allegedly robbed several pharmacies in the area. Sgt. Greenwood was hurt when he was on a foot pursuit chasing the individual. The suspect was captured after the police dog arrived on the scene and found him hiding in a tree. He stated the town is seeing more and more problems with drug addiction and discussed various search and seizure warrants ongoing in the town. He stated the town must stay on top of the drug activity; he wants to ask the public for assistance, stating if they see drug activity to contact the police department and it will be addressed. There are continued efforts to control the drug activity in the town. He thanked Officer Greg Jacobson for helping out with the Neighborhood Watch Program, stating he has put the program onto Facebook and this has resulted in tips from residents. The Facebook page has turned out to be a great resource for the program. On Wednesday night there is a Neighborhood Watch meeting at the Oakdale Fire House as a result of the Facebook

page. His goal is to get as many neighborhoods involved in the program as possible. He thanked Sgt. Matt Northrop, stating he was hurt in a motorcycle accident on Rt. 32; he had surgery on his foot and will be out until 2012 due to his significant injuries. Officer Ore has completed all of his training and Officer Joe Condash is in the Academy and will graduate in July. He asked the Commission to consider the K9 program for the Town of Montville, stating the town can use a dog with all the activity he is seeing. At this time if there is a need for a dog the town requests the use of a dog from surrounding towns. He has officers on staff that has expressed interest in the program and he hopes to come to the Commission with a presentation regarding the program in the near future. A discussion was held regarding grants for the canine program. A discussion was held regarding the costs associated with getting a dog and utilizing the program. Commissioner Wehner stated the Town of Montville is one of the few towns in the area that does not have a dog; the canine program provides safety for officers and the public. A discussion was held regarding offsetting costs through forfeitures of property from seizures from drug arrests and fund raising for the cost of the dog. Councilor Buebendorf inquired regarding efforts to replace the SRO for the school system next year. Sgt. Collins stated he has met with the Mayor and the Superintendent of Schools and they are in discussions regarding the best way to fill the position and it is being addressed, he stated someone will be in the schools either on a full or part time basis. He stated the program has been such a success and an officer in the building is a huge deterrent to criminals targeting schools.

Commissioner Wehner stated he feels strongly about implementing the canine program in the Town of Montville. He stated the canine is one of the most effective patrol tools out there and is a great tool for the safety of the community. Every town around Montville has a dog and he feels that the community should press hard to get the program up and running. He discussed the successful canine program in East Lyme and inquired how quickly a handler and dog can be trained. Sgt. Collins stated it is possible to have a canine program up and running in twenty weeks.

10. Reports from Committees and Public Safety Liaisons - none.

11. Unfinished Business

a. Update/Discussion regarding progress of the Public Safety Building complex.

Chairman Jetmore stated there was a meeting held on Thursday evening and the low bidder was submitted to the Town Council for review. If the Town Council agrees to awarding the job to the low bidder ground breaking for the project could be as early as the middle of July.

b. Update/Discussion regarding progress for the hire of a firefighter for the Town of Montville.

Commissioner Allyn stated there have been changes to the Human Resources since the last meeting, but he has the scores of the candidates for the position. There were seven individuals who went before the oral panel and of the seven two failed leaving five candidates. The five candidates will be interviewed on Monday, July 18, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. The secretary will send out the notifications of the meeting and if all goes well on this day, the Mayor will have the three recommendations with a hire of the firefighter on August 1, 2011.

c. Discussion regarding status of funding for the Public Safety Plan.

Chairman Jetmore stated the money was approved by the Town Council at its budget meeting. He stated the sub-committee appointed by the Public Safety Commission will have its first meeting in July to discuss the RFQ and proposal to generate the quote.

d. Discussion regarding the bonding for the M-41 fire truck for the Town of Montville.

Mayor Jaskiewicz stated the Finance Director will take care of this; he discussed the issue of the funding from the State and would like to take another look at funding this item. He discussed the Plan B proposal from the Governor's office that estimates a five million dollar reduction of funding to the Town of Montville and he does not know how the town will handle this reduction should it come to be. If everything goes well the Finance Director will move forward with the bonding in July. A discussion was held regarding how the town came to the number of five hundred and twenty five thousand dollars for the M-41 fire truck. Commissioner Butterworth stated the price of the fire truck may be under the projected costs. This is a tentative bid for the cost of the fire truck based on the estimates from the vendors of the fire truck.

12. New Business – none.

13. Remarks from the Public

Mr. Charles Nicholson, Uncasville, stated he is a thirty one year resident of Uncasville and a teacher in the school system. He discussed his experiences growing up in Brooklyn, New York and congratulated the Montville Police Department for the excellent insight that Montville is a changing community. He stated a lot of bad has come to the town after the construction of the casinos and he congratulated the Public Safety Commission and the Montville police for all the work they do to keep the community safe. He discussed drug dealing and the impact it has on the community, stating the town needs a canine program to help out with drug enforcement and everything that occurs as a result of drug activity with guns and money. He believes the safety and personal services provided by the Montville police are pertinent to the town.

Mayor Jaskiewicz stated he supports public safety and he stated the last thing he would ever do in the town is layoff police officers and thanked Mr. Nicholson for his comments.

14. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor Jaskiewicz discussed the Public Safety building meeting and stated the Regional Dispatch is a good thing for the town, and he wants to sell the program to the surrounding towns. He commended Fire Marshal Occhialini and the Public Safety Building Committee for a job well done. He stated the town is progressing and moving forward and he believes the town may be lacking in some areas but is way ahead in other areas. He stated he is pleased the town has a hiring process for firefighters and discussed the need for an ordinance for sidewalks and asked the Commission to look into making certain streets one way streets.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf

Councilor Buebendorf thanked Mr. Nicholson for attending the meeting and speaking to the Commission, she wishes more of the public would attend the meetings to listen and speak and she stated he is a great example for his son. She discussed the sidewalk ordinance, stating the Public Works/Solid Waste Sub-Committee has started working on the ordinance, and the Public Works Director has started gathering information. She stated if the Public Safety Commission would like to start pursuing the ordinance from a public safety perspective they would appreciate as much input as possible prior to getting the ordinance out to public hearing. She discussed the Neighborhood Watch program on Facebook, stating it is good to know what is going on and what to watch out for and she discussed the blog written by Fire Marshal Occhialini regarding safety issues and 911 for the public that is very useful for the public when learning about the community.

16. Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Moran supports the canine program in the Town of Montville, stating a canine is a lot cheaper than an additional police officer and is an effective tool in law enforcement. He suggested getting a dog on every shift for safety purposes.

Commissioner Allyn asked if the Public Safety Policies and Procedures have been approved and Councilor Buebendorf stated they were. He stated there is a signatory page that needs signatures from the Commission members for the record. He thanked Mr. Occhialini for a job well done, he covers the Dispatch Center, Emergency Management, Fire Marshal, Public Safety Building and various committees and he has taken on more than anyone would expect an individual to take on and what he does is incredible. He stated in the future it is the Commission's plan to help and support him in all of his endeavors.

Commissioner Wehner discussed the canine program and stated there is going to be some fall out from the State government level and as the economy sinks the crime level goes up and he hopes the town keeps ahead of the curve as much as they can. He stated the town needs to look into becoming self sufficient to continue services needed by the town. He

stated Facebook is a great step toward community relations; he would like to work closely with Sgt. Collins to develop the canine program and to look into fund raising in town to cover the costs.

Commissioner Jetmore thanked Mr. Occhialini, stating he does a great job, he has worked with him over the years on the Public Safety building project and he thanked the public for speaking to the Commission.

17. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Moran to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville.