

Town of Montville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 5, 2012
Montville High School Auditorium - 6:00 p.m.

The Montville Town Council will conduct a Special Meeting on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, to adopt the fiscal year 2012-2013 Budget.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Buebendorf called the special meeting of the Town of Montville Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence to honor our military.

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Also present was Mayor Ron McDaniel and Finance Director Terry Hart.

4. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the agenda, with a three minute limit

Mr. Manfredi, discussed the proposed school budget, the number of students that attend the schools, stating there are less students enrolled in the school system today and he suggested closing one of the elementary schools and reducing the budget to eliminate the impact it is having on the average family with tax increases.

Mr. Dick Wilson, 6 Richard Lane, Uncasville, questioned the justification for the calculation of the mill rate.

Mr. Bill Dwyer, Connecticut Blvd, stated he does not have any children in the school system and stated he doesn't mind helping out with the education as a whole but suggested the schools implement a pay to play program for sports to help with costs. He stated he is tired of paying for the mediocre student to play sports. He discussed the need for road repairs stating his road is in need of major repair and he would like to see the town fix the roads instead increasing the Board of Education budget.

Ms. Michelle Dushan, Carolina Drive, disagrees with Mr. Dwyer, stating the children are the future and she would rather see the education budget funded and the police weapons decreased as this is not an inner city and the police do not fire their guns as often as a city officer does. She is in favor of the younger children who need extra help getting the help they need.

Mr. James Andriote, 23 TreMart Drive, discussed a document from the Office of Policy and Management regarding grants available to the Town and he compared it to the document the Mayor has regarding the same. He discussed the discrepancies he found in the documents and stated the budget is over inflated and is a very poor budget in his opinion. He stated the budget should be cut more and if not a petition will be taken out to petition the budget and the mill rate.

Mr. Russ Beetham, 60 Riverview Road, Uncasville, stated he predicted this year would be tough on the taxpayers of the Town of Montville. He stated the town should look ahead if it wants to get ahead, he finds it appalling the Town Council asked the Board of Education for a zero increase this year. He stated the teachers got a zero increase last year and it is unfair to ask for them to sacrifice again this year. He stated the town needs to support its children.

A discussion was held regarding whether or not it is appropriate to allow residents to speak beyond the three minute limit and Chairperson Buebendorf stated the three minute rule will stand.

Mr. Kevin Fritch, Morgan Street, stated he is experienced in financial management and he looked at the budget and attended has attended the Finance meetings and he did an analysis of last year's budget and it showed the Board of Education budget was inflated by 1.2 million dollars and he stated there is no

control over this budget and this indicates there is a problem in the way the budget has been prepared. He recommended not acting on this resolution until everyone knows exactly what they are approving.

Chairperson Buebendorf asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Town Council.

5. New Business

a. **Resolution # 2012-034. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to adopt the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan in the amount of \$11,807,159.00.**

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Caron, discussion, none, roll call vote, 6-1-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition was Councilor McFee. Resolution adopted.

b. To consider and act on a Resolution to adopt the fiscal year 2012-2013 Budget.

1. Motion by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor McFee to amend the budget line item by line item, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.
2. Motion by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Caron to increase the revenue line item for Building Department (#10100-42020) in the Mayor's proposed budget by ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.
3. Motion by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Tanner to establish the revenue line item for Fire Marshall (10100-42026) in the Mayor's proposed budget and fund it at eighty thousand (\$80,000) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.
4. Motion by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Murphy to increase the revenue line item for Parks and Recreation (#10100-44005) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two thousand (\$2,000) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.
5. Motion by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Murphy to increase the revenue line item for Commercial Tipping Fees (#10100-48023) in the Mayor's proposed budget by twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.
6. Motion by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Tanner to increase the revenue line item for Police Reimbursement Private Duty (#10100-49005) in the Mayor's proposed budget by ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.
7. Motion by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Caron to decrease the line item in the Mayor's budget for Floating Secretary (10310-51051) in the Mayor's proposed budget by twenty five thousand (\$25,000) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.
8. Motion by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Jones to increase the line item in the Non-Profit Organization budget for Women Center SE CT (10360-52081) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred (\$500) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.
9. Motion by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Tanner to create the line item in the Town Hall/Central Service budget for Safety Equipment (10370-53041) in the Mayor's proposed budget and fund it at five hundred (\$500) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were

Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.

10. Motion by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Tanner to increase the line item in the Information Technology budget for Training & Conferences (#10440-53004) in the Mayor's proposed budget by five hundred (\$500) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 6-1-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition was Councilor McFee, motion carried.

11. Motion by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Jones to decrease the line item in the Town Clerk's budget for Computer Indexing (#10560-53022) in the Mayor's proposed budget by three thousand (\$3,000) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.

12. Motion by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Tanner to decrease the line item in the Land Use budget for Assistant's Salary (#10610-51017) in the Mayor's proposed budget by twenty nine thousand seventy nine (\$29,079) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 6-1-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition was Councilor Jones, motion carried.

13. Motion by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Murphy to decrease the line item in the Parks and Recreation budget for Advertising (#10730-53008) in the Mayor's proposed budget by two hundred fifty (\$250) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.

14. Motion by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Longton to decrease the line item in the Parks and Recreation budget for Printing (#10730-53014) in the Mayor's proposed budget by four hundred seventy five (\$475) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.

15. Motion by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Jones to decrease the line item in the Parks and Recreation budget for Secretary (#10730-51016) in the Mayor's proposed budget by twenty thousand nine hundred nine six (\$20,996) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.

16. Motion by , Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor McFee to decrease the line item in the Police budget for Equipment (#10820-54000) in the Mayor's proposed budget by twenty five thousand (\$25,000) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 7-0-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition none, motion carried.

17. Motion by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Jones to increase the line item in the Police budget for Weapons and Ammunition (#10820-53032) in the Mayor's proposed budget by twenty five thousand (\$25,000) dollars, discussion, none, roll call vote, 6-1-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition was Councilor McFee, motion carried.

18. Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Longton to decrease line item 10440-53002 (Information Technologies) by twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). Discussion, Councilor Caron stated he is not in favor of any new hires at this time with the financial restraints the Town is facing, roll call vote, 5-2-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, McFee, and Tanner, voting in opposition were Councilors Murphy and Buebendorf, motion carried.

19. Motion made by Councilor McFee, seconded by Councilor Murphy to increase funding to the Board of Education by three hundred thousand dollars. Discussion, Councilor McFee discussed the Board of Education budget and stated the Council should listen to the comments of the residents that have come out to support the Board of Education budget. He stated the children are the future and the three hundred thousand dollars would go a long way if it is approved. He discussed areas where he would recommend cutting the current budget to make up for the increase to the Board of Education

budget, including cuts to Capital Improvements, Public Works, overtime snowplowing, contingency, information technology, labor employment and Legal/General. Councilor Jones stated the town has been very generous with the Board of Education over the years and she stated she is an advocate for education in general but parents must recognize there is a financial obligation on their part when they have children to help with support of the children and share the burden of education with the town. She discussed the Board of Education “stacking the deck” and giving the Board of Education an unfair advantage by sending out flyers to students to attend budget meetings and stated if flyers are going to go out they should go to everyone in town, not just homes with children in the school system. Roll call vote, 1-5-1, voting in favor was Councilor McFee, voting in opposition were Councilors Buebendorf, Jones, Longton, Murphy and Buebendorf, abstaining from the vote was Councilor Tanner. (the conflict of interest form is attached).

Motion by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Longton to approve all amendments to the main motion, discussion, none, roll call vote, 6-1-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf, voting in opposition was Councilor McFee. Motion carried.

Resolution #2012-035. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to adopt the fiscal year 2012-2013 Budget.

Whereas, the Mayor has presented the budget to the Town Council; and
Whereas, the Board of Education has presented a budget to the Town Council; and
Whereas, the Town Council has caused to be published in a newspaper having circulation in the Town, a Notice of Public Hearings and a summary of the proposed budget estimates; and
Whereas, the Town Council held Public Hearings of the Board of Education proposed budget on April 24, 2012, and the General Government proposed budget on April 17, 2012, in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Charter of the Town of Montville.

Now Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the following budget on the estimated cost of current expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and ending on June 30, 2013, to be adopted as follows:

General Government	\$18,350,205.00
Board of Education	\$36,632,735.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 638,200.00
	\$55,621,140.00

Motion made by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Longton, discussion, none, roll call vote, 6-1-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition was Councilor McFee, motion carried.

The Town of Montville hereby resolves to set the mill rate for the 2012-2013 fiscal year at 29.36 mills. Motion made by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Longton, discussion, Councilor Longton made a motion to amend the motion to set the mill rate at 29.33 mills in lieu of the amendments made to the budget earlier in the meeting, Roll call vote on the amendment to the motion, 6-1-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf, voting in opposition was Councilor McFee, motion carried and the mill rate was amended.

Amended motion reads: “The Town of Montville hereby resolves to set the mill rate for the 2012-2013 fiscal year at 29.33 mills.”

c. Resolution #2012-036. TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to set the mill rate for the 2012-2013 fiscal year at 29.33.

Motion made by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Longton, discussion, none, roll call vote, 6-1-0, voting in favor were Councilors Caron, Jones, Longton, Murphy, Tanner and Buebendorf. Voting in opposition was Councilor McFee, resolution adopted.

6. Remarks from the Public with a three minute limit.

Mr. Robert Manfredi urged the Council to discuss the closure of at least one of the elementary schools on the regular Town Council agenda for June as he feels that is a viable way to save the town money.

Fire Marshal, Ray Occhialini commended all of the Town employees for accepting zero percent pay raises over the past years, stating they are doing their part to help with reducing the budget in a tough financial year. He questioned the validity of reducing the funding for the Town Planner as he is a salaried employee.

Mr. James Andriote, 23 TreMart Drive discussed the OPM document and the discrepancies he discovered while comparing the document he has with the Mayor's copy. He discussed the proposed mill rate, stating it is too high and will drive residents out of town, he discussed the three minute limit the Council has implemented for residents who speak at meeting, stating this is not enough time for those who have done their research and want to explain facts to the Town Council. He stated he will start a petition for the budget in the morning.

Mr. Terry Loftis, Kitemaug Road commended Councilor McFee stating he presented many good ideas to the Council but was not given the courtesy of support from the Council for his ideas. He stated he will be happy to sign the petition once it is presented.

Mr. Kevin Fritch, Morgan Street commended the Finance Committee, Mayor McDaniel and the Council for their leadership and added the Board of Education should have been given a zero percent increase last year.

Mr. Russ Beetham discussed the Board of Education budget request, the uniforms the Police Department is requesting for officers, and he requested to see the total costs to run the Police Department for a year.

Chairperson Buebendorf asked three times if there was anyone who would like to come forward to address the Council.

7. Remarks from Councilors and Mayor

Councilor Jones discussed the decisions made at the meeting and stated there were many Finance Committee meetings held during the course of the budget discussions and there was very few residents who came to participate and speak regarding their concerns even though the meetings are open to the public and they can speak directly to the Commission if they have legitimate concerns. She discussed the possible repercussions with the Union in regards to cutting the funding for a portion of the Town Planner's salary.

Councilor McFee stated he is disappointed he couldn't do more for the Board of Education and he recommended the residents take out a petition and hold a Town Meeting. He stated he feels his opinions expressed at the Town Council meetings are disregarded and he chooses to take his statements to the public and the media for recognition.

Councilor Longton stated the decisions made by the Council were not easy ones to make and are not always popular because you cannot give everything to everyone and make everyone happy at the same time but they tried to do what is best for the town at this time. He thanked the Councilors for all their hard work during the budget process.

Councilor Caron thanked the Mayor, Town Councilors, Finance Director and Finance Committee for all their hard work during the budget process. He indicated he is in favor of the Board of Education but also feels for the residents and seniors in the town. He thanked the public for taking the time to come out to speak to the Council.

Councilor Murphy discussed the three minute rule and stated it is implemented because there are rules that need to be followed. He stated he wished he had Mr. Fritch's documentation prior to the meeting so that he could have discussed the issues with the departments. He stated Mayor McDaniel did a great job negotiating the employment contracts in an effort to keep the town running lean. He discussed the police uniforms, stating the current dress uniforms are uncomfortable and hard to work in, especially if apprehending suspects and the proposed uniforms are much more user friendly.

Councilor Tanner thanked the Finance Director and the Mayor for a great job with the budget this year and thanked the public for coming out to discuss the budget with the Council.

Mayor McDaniel thanked the Finance Commission and the Town Council for all their hard work throughout the process, he thanked the Town employees who made sacrifices when negotiating their contracts and stated the Town does not spend extravagantly and this is a tough year for everyone. He stated this budget doesn't make anyone happy and there is shared sacrifice across the board.

Councilor Buebendorf expressed her gratitude to the Board of Education, the Finance Director, the Finance Committee and the Mayor for all they did to get through the budget process. She thanked the residents who wrote letters and emails and those who came out to speak to the Council regarding the budget.

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Jones to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville.