

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

1. Call to Order.

Commissioner Jetmore called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

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

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

4. Amendments to the Agenda. -- None

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

Commissioner Jetmore commented on a letter from the Gerrahty & Bonanno law firm and received by Lt. Bunnell that compliments the Montville police force concerning an issue by one of their clients.

6. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2015.

Motion made by Commissioner Jetmore; seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2015, as written. Discussion: none; voice vote, 6-0; 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.

Lt. Bunnell's monthly statistics for the police department reports 1290 calls for service during November 2015. As for staffing, he reported that two (2) candidates would enter the Academy December 31; two (2) candidates received conditional offers for lateral transfers; an initial transfer interview with one(1) lateral is scheduled for January 8, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m.; and 24 entrants will be interviewed on January 12, 13, and 14. Commissioners Jetmore and Perkins agreed to sit at the interview on January 8 for the lateral transfer. Per discussion, Commissioner asked if the entrant interviews could be changed to January 11, 12, and 13 when he would be able to attend. He and Commissioner Jetmore will be present for those interviews.

Lt. Bunnell also reported that the last of three SUVs that were ordered has arrived and is due to be lettered this week. In addition, a public hearing will be held at Montville High School on January 14 regarding an independent police department. He reported that he is trying to set up a meeting with the Senior Center regarding the same.

9. Reports from Committee and Public Safety Liaisons.

Commissioner Perkins reported that she and Commissioner Adams will wait until after the holidays to present its report to the Commission concerning their interviews with the fire chiefs regarding the Public Safety Plan (PSP).

10. Unfinished Business.

- a. Set up date and time for 2016-2017 budget discussion.

Mayor McDaniel reported that to date he has received budgets from two (2) of the firehouses in addition to the budget sent electronically by Fire Marshal Occhialini. He stated that once he receives all of them he will forward them simultaneously to the Commission for their review. Commissioner Moran asked about the status of the contracts with the firehouses. Commissioner Perkins commented as to the whether the information from the PSP would be applied to the firehouse contract. Mayor McDaniel stated that he has not heard back from the Town's attorney, who has the contract for review, but would follow up on the same.

Commissioner DePasquale asked about the status of the Town with the firehouses. He relayed a discussion that he had with three (3) residents who approached him regarding bills they received from some of the firehouses for ambulance service that was not covered by their insurance to which he objects. Commissioner Perkins stated that any change would need to come from a source other than the fire department. Commissioner Allyn explained that the ambulances belong to the fire department but Town staffs them but added that the fire departments contracts with a billing company for billing purposes. Commissioner DePasquale then asked about the schedule of fees for ambulance runs and the cost per call for them. Commissioner Jetmore asked Commissioner

Allyn to explain how scheduling is done. He responded that the PSAs owned by towns are flawed as has been determined by the State of CT Department of Public Health (DPH). He said the four (4) PSAs are owned by the fire department not by municipalities. Commissioner Allyn explained the fire department process in the town where he works that he said was similar with other fire departments throughout the State. He added that the towns are responsible per state statute to provide fire service. Mayor McDaniel commented that he did not know how a change would be made and that although the currently Town pays for one (1) driver the firehouses own the ambulances and pay for their own supplies.

At Commissioner Jetmore's request based on his experience, Commissioner Allyn talked about the prior history of the firehouses as to paid staff, volunteers, work schedules, and the potential for Town reimbursement. He said that the relationship between the entities can improve with fair negotiations on both sides, a contract among the parties, and training that meets national standards. He added that a unified recordkeeping system would also be beneficial. Commissioner Perkins spoke about the openness with which the fire chiefs shared information with her and Commissioner Adams in their meetings with them in preparation for the report that they will prepare regarding the PSP. Town Liaison L. Tanner commented that the Fire Marshal submits records on behalf of the Town fire department. The Commission ultimately concluded that the discussion would be deferred until the completion of the report that was forthcoming from Commissioners Adams and Perkins.

11. New Business. -- None

- a. Consideration and action to approve the 2016 Meeting Schedule and time of meeting; file with Town Clerk by December 31, 2015.

Motion made by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the 2016 Meeting Schedule and file with Town Clerk by December 31, 2015. Discussion: Commissioner Jetmore noted the time change from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Voice Vote, 6-0, all in favor; motion carried.

12. Remarks from the Public (non-agenda items—three-minute limit). -- None

13. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel reported that he attended the graduation ceremony for Officer Wills and commented on the staffing as reported earlier by Lt. Bunnell.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Council Liaison L. Tanner commented on the Holiday Parade that was well done and wished everyone a safe and Happy New Year. She also reported that a letter will be sent to E. Rousseau by Town Councilor J. Jaskiewicz regarding his absence from the Commission.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioners wished each other a safe and Happy New Year.

16. Adjournment.

Motion made by Commissioner Jetmore; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Discussion, none -- voice vote, 6-0; all in favor, -- motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville