

Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Town of Montville has lifted the mask mandate effective Monday, February 28, 2022 throughout Town facilities in coordination with our schools. Although the mask mandate has been lifted, Uncas Health strongly recommends that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, continue to wear masks indoors.

1. Call to Order
Chairman McNally 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 Leonard Bunnell, Sr., Billy Caron, Alfred Mandler, Tim May, Thomas McNally, Colleen Rix, and Robert Yuchniuk. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations
 - a. Presentation by Town Planner Liz Burdick regarding Potential Adult Use Cannabis
Town Planner Burdick discussed Public Act 21-29 regarding Adult-Use Recreational Cannabis. While cannabis establishments would be licensed by the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, they must also receive zoning approval from the municipalities. The new legislation authorizes municipalities to regulate certain aspects of cannabis, including the location of its production, sales, and usage. The Act specifically prohibits the cultivation of marijuana as an agricultural use. As such, it is considered a manufacturing use, which is not currently allowed in residential zones. To allow cultivators and/or micro-cultivators to grow marijuana in residential zones, the Planning & Zoning Commission would be required to draft regulations allowing the use. Should a municipality choose not to specifically address cannabis establishments in its Zoning Regulations, such establishments shall be permitted as if they were any other similar use in any zone. She felt that it was important that the town address the variety of cannabis-related uses enabled by the new legislation. Likewise, Town Attorney Matt Willis, Halloran & Sage, LLP, recommended that the town adopt zoning regulations specifically addressing cannabis establishments under the new statute. Many towns have defined and prohibited the uses or placed a temporary and limited moratorium on its uses. The Planning Department is currently researching other towns' regulations for guidance. The Planning & Zoning Commission requests that the Town Council provides them with their thoughts and opinions on the matter.

Mayor McDaniel added that, originally, a town with a population of less than 25,000 was allowed to have one medical marijuana facility. In reviewing the Public Act, it is possible for the town to have two recreational facilities and the existing facility may become a hybrid facility. Town Planner Burdick concurred, adding that, the other uses, including cultivators, are exempt from the population requirement. Mayor McDaniel further added that the issue is continuously evolving and referred to two recent articles published in the *Hartford Business Journal*. The articles discuss the possibility of the State offering grants to encourage the cultivation of cannabis and, because hemp is currently allowed as an agricultural use, the State is investigating the possibility of allowing cannabis as an agricultural use. He noted that towns that house such facilities would receive 3% of the gross revenue of the sales.

Town Planner Burdick requested that the Councilors read and review the material and contact her with any questions and/or provide her with any recommendations or thoughts they might have.

b. Presentation by Troop 93 Life Scout Tyler Lawton regarding the proposed Horton Cove Trail

Life Scout Lawton provided a brief presentation of his proposed Eagle Scout project. The proposed trail would be located on approximately 15 acres of undeveloped land located behind the Public Safety Building at 911 Norwich-New London Turnpike. The trail would measure 3,504 feet or a total of 0.75 miles and would include five (5) small bridges. The goal of the trail is to create a safe and accessible path and foster a community project involving the Scouts, the town, local businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts. Studies have shown that contact with nature is beneficial for one's mental and physical health, creating a happier and healthier community. It can also increase the property values located in the vicinity of the trail as well as the economic development of the area. A kiosk will be placed at the trailhead, allowing for postings of community events. To help raise funds for the project, a Patronicity (similar to GoFundMe) page has been created. Any funds that are raised will be matched by a Sustainable CT Community Match Fund. His goal is to raise \$1,500.00 in donations, for a total of \$3,000.00. He also plans to solicit funding from local businesses, including gift cards, that could be included in the Sustainable CT Matching Grant. The highlights of the trail will include a mountain laurel grove, two glacial erratic fields, scenic views, and wildlife. The land was originally settled by the Haughton Family and the trail will be located at a respectable distance from the existing gravesites of William and George Haughton. He reviewed the site work that would be conducted, including any necessary actions to mitigate any possible erosion along the trails. No fences will be placed along the trail, which does not include access to any steep areas.

Life Scout Lawton thanked the Town Council for their time and consideration and looks forward to the completion of the project. Councilor Caron commented on an excellent and impressive presentation and proposed the possibility of utilizing the Town's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds to help fund the project.

Town Planner Burdick stated that former Town Planner Marcia Vlaun worked with Life Scout Lawton to create the trail. The creation of the trail was approved by the Inland Wetlands Commission as a permitted non-regulated use. In addition, the Planning & Zoning Commission provided a favorable §8-24 Review, with the condition that a permanent parking area for trail users is provided. Town Engineer Tom Cummings has been contacted to create a conceptual plan based on Montville Police Lt. Dave Radford's suggestion of creating a driveway and small gravel parking lot for three to four vehicles at the trailhead. She expressed the Planning Department's support for the project and commended him on an amazing job.

5. Alterations to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May, to add the following item to the Agenda:

16(I) THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to amend Resolution #2022-13 and to set the date of April 27, 2022, at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding the General Government proposed Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 at Montville High School Auditorium and to set the date of April 28, 2022, at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding the Board of Education proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 at Montville High School Auditorium. (Councilor McNally)

Discussion: None, Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2022

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. The Public Hearing Minutes of March 21, 2022 (Fire Fighters Relief Program)
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 7-0, 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 interviewing candidate for the Inland Wetlands Commission. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: Candidate Robert Roshto was interviewed for the Inland Wetlands Commission. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 7:31 p.m. Chairman McNally resumed the meeting at 7:38 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.
8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit
Chris Lawton, Church Road, Troop 93 Activities Chair and father of Life Scout Lawton, expressed the regrets of the Cub Master, a Firefighter who was called for duty, for not being present to express his support. On behalf of the Cub Master and himself, he expressed their support for Life Scout Lawton, who has been working very hard on the project and is very proud to be able to do something for the community. He stated his full support as a resident, taxpayer, Scout, and father and looks forward to seeing the trail come to fruition.
Oakdale Fire Company Chief Micah Messer expressed his support for item 16(b). He has received positive feedback from all of the firefighters regarding the modification to the Firefighters Relief Ordinance. The amendment would have a positive impact and is a great gift to the firefighters and greatly helps with the recruitment and retention of firefighters.
9. Communications
 - a. Copy of the March 2022 Financial Reports from Terry Hart, Finance Director
 - b. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of February 2022
 - c. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of January 2022 (WPCA)
10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred
Mayor McDaniel reported that a firm answer has been received from the Mohegan Tribe regarding the road swap; they are waiting to hear back from the Town Attorney.
11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred
Finance Director Hart reported that she is currently working with the Tax Collector to compare the effects of waiving property taxes totaling less than \$10.00 or \$25.00 and drafting a Policy. Due to the administrative and processing costs, it is not cost-effective to issue the notices and collect the funds from accounts totaling less than \$10.00. She is also working on a Motor Vehicle Records Policy, as required by the town's insurance carrier, and a Private Duty Policy with the Police Department. The three policies will be forwarded to the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee for review. The Tax Collector is anticipating the foreclosure or sale of delinquent properties this month. She is also working with the Town Attorney on a list of properties that are eligible for a tax sale.
Mayor McDaniel reported that he has been busy working on the proposed FY2022/23 budget, which he will present to the Town Council this evening. They are currently in negotiations with the Firefighters Union. They have also been paying careful attention to discussions surrounding House Bill 5474, which would eliminate the personal property tax payments by the Tribes. A joint letter with Ledyard Mayor Fred B. Allyn III stating their opposition to the Bill was sent to the legislators. In addition, they are ensuring the receipt of the PiLOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) and Mohegan-Pequot funds which were not included in the

Governor's proposed budget. He expressed his appreciation to Diana's Restaurant, which hosted a nice Veterans luncheon with an organization that provides quilts to Veterans. With the approval of the Public Waste/Solid Waste Standing Committee, the Town submitted a \$162,000.00 CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) application for a Solid Waste Sustainability Grant. A meeting was held with the Town Planner and the Principals of the Oxoboxo Loft project who are in the process of restructuring their financing portfolio based on the grant that was previously submitted for the brownfields. He was recently informed of the possible receipt of a pass-through grant from the State that would fund 75% of the \$1.1 million ADA Fishing Pier project. The Town Dock will be a separate project and will not be included as part of the grant.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure

Councilor Yuchniuk stated that the Committee discussed and approved the following three items that are on this evening's agenda for approval: Use of Body Worn Cameras Policy, Public Works Director Position Description, and Policy Concerning the Use of Town Vehicles.

b. Finance

Councilor McNally reported that the Committee has been meeting with the Department Heads regarding their proposed budgets and the Mayor's budget will be received during this evening's meeting.

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal

Councilor McNally reported that Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr., will be retiring. The Public Works Department continues to work on the paving of the roads and, as the Mayor reported, a presentation was provided to the Committee regarding the CT DEEP Solid Waste Sustainability Grant.

Mayor McDaniel stated that the responsibilities of the Public Works Director will be divided between four (4) of the Public Work employees, who he will be overseeing.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Bunnell: Library Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission, Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund

Library Committee – *no meeting*

Fire Fighters' Relief Fund – *no meeting; item 16(b) on the agenda*

Parks & Recreation Commission – Items discussed included the American Red Cross Babysitting Classes contract and the receipt of three (3) Summer Camp applications (nine (9) positions are available). Other discussions included:

Tennis Courts – The Commissioners discussed and approved a motion to generate a letter to the Mayor expressing their opposition to a joint tennis court facility at Fair Oaks. A Special Meeting was held to discuss the location of the tennis courts and the need to maintain its current location at Camp Oakdale.

Farmers Market – The Farmers Market will begin on Tuesday, June 14, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and will include musicians to entertain the public.

Carnival – A presentation was provided by *Mr. Hot Dog* and a discussion took place regarding possible selling conflicts with the other vendors during a recent Subcommittee meeting. The Northeast Midway contract was signed and the entertainment and 14 vendors have been secured.

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services, Non-Profit Organizations

The Old Town Hall cupola has been repaired and the interior renovations and exterior painting remain to be completed. He enjoyed seeing all of the seniors at the Senior Center

for the St. Patrick's Day dinner. Though many of the seniors are beginning to return, the Senior Center has been experiencing difficulties securing instructors. The Senior Center is seeking to hire a cook for the kitchen; the position is currently being filled by a volunteer. He commended Social Services Assistant DeeAnn Morton on a fantastic job. The Director has submitted a list of items to be considered for funding by the Ad-hoc Covid-19 Impact Study Committee.

- c. Councilor Mandler: Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Impact Study Committee

WPCA – The Administrator position has been advertised; funding for the position will be discussed at a later date. The Attorney reported back to the Authority regarding the legality of the motion allowing them to proceed with the engineering study for the d-box.

Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Impact Study Committee – The Committee will be meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, April 12, to discuss the requests for Phase II of the funds. Funding for Phase I of the funds has been completed with a deficit of \$813.00.

- d. Councilor May: Conservation Commission

The Commission continues to work on fulfilling the Sustainable CT Action Items. They are making plans to host a Volunteer Day and he is in the process of obtaining bids for the purchase of timber for bog logs. The Commission is also in the process of organizing a Walk & Talk event at Hopmead State Park.

- e. Councilor Rix: Board of Education, Farmers Market Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission

Board of Education – The “Indians” nickname has been removed from Montville High School. Rob Alves has been appointed as the Principal of Montville High School and Tyl Middle School has begun their search for both a Principal and Vice Principal.

Planning & Zoning Commission – An application for a proposed 22-unit multi-family dwelling to be located on Route 32 was approved, with conditions.

Farmers Market Committee – Opening Day will be held on Flag Day, June 14, and will include a ceremony by the Boy Scouts. June 21 is Community First Responders Day and July 12 is Kids Day.

- f. Councilor Yuchniuk: Economic Development Commission, Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board

The Economic Development Commission is continuing to work with Sustainable CT on updating their website. He is hoping to connect the Commission with the Norwich Chamber of Commerce.

The Youth Services Bureau is working on their summer programs, which are open to children grade 7 and above and are offered three days a week.

Public Safety Commission – Commissioner and long-time Mohegan Fire Department Volunteer Michael Hillsberg recently passed away; the Town owes him a debt of gratitude.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Douglas Brush to the Inland Wetlands Commission with a term to expire on May 10, 2026.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Sierra Davis to the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire on May 12, 2026.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Anthony C. Tufares from the Inland Wetlands Commission, effective immediately.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Chairman McNally expressed his regrets. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2022-27. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$15,129.75 (fifteen thousand one hundred twenty-nine dollars and seventy-five cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Many of the refunds are due to duplicate payments made by the mortgage companies and sellers as a result of the refinancing and purchasing of properties. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2022-28. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve and adopt the ordinance titled “An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance 2006-003, Establishing The Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Program Of The Town Of Montville” as heard at the Public Hearing held on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Council Chambers at Montville Town Hall. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Councilor Bunnell stated that minor changes were made to the Ordinance provide the Volunteer Firefighters with options as to how they would like to be reimbursed for their services. He stated the difficulties throughout the nation with recruiting volunteers and hopes that the amended ordinance will help them increase and maintain their volunteer pool. Councilor Mandler concurred, adding that the amendment was very long overdue. Mayor McDaniel corrected Oakdale Fire Company Chief Messer, stating that the incentive is not a gift, but a well-earned and deserving incentive that recognizes the Firefighters for their service. Roll Call vote, 6-0-1, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, and Yuchniuk. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Councilor McNally. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2022-29. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to accept the fiscal year 2022-2023 Montville Water Pollution Control Authority proposed sewer budget in the amount of \$6,471,075.00 (Six million four hundred seventy-one thousand seventy-five dollars). (Councilor Mandler)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2022-30. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to adopt the fiscal year 2022-2023 Town of Montville Water Pollution Control Authority proposed water budget in the amount of \$1,922,650.00 (One million nine hundred twenty-two thousand six hundred fifty dollars). (Councilor Mandler)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: The budget does not include any rate increases. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2022-31. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the Use of Body Worn Cameras Policy, as recommended by the Town Administration/Rules and Procedures Committee. (Councilor Yuchniuk)
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Councilor Bunnell commented that the Policy is much-needed. Like the cruiser cameras, the body cameras will also prove beneficial for the officers and the public, alike. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Resolution passed.
- f. **Resolution #2022-32. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the position description for Public Works Director, as recommended by the Town Administration/Rules and Procedures Committee. (Councilor Yuchniuk)
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Councilor May stated that he is pleased with the position description and expressed his appreciation to the Committee for their hard work. Councilor Caron concurred, stressing the importance of hiring an individual who can conduct bid specifications, review plans, and has building knowledge. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Resolution passed.
- g. **Resolution #2022-33. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the Policy Concerning the Use of Town Vehicles, as recommended by the Town Administration/Rules and Procedures Committee. (Councilor Yuchniuk)
Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that additional language regarding insurance may need to be added to the Policy. Councilor Mandler concurred, adding that the policy is based on information received at the time of being drafted and is a living document that will need to be amended over time. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Resolution passed.
- h. **Resolution #2022-34. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the favorable §8-24 review for an Eagle Scout Project for the construction of a walking trail (“Horton Cove Trail”) at 911 Route 32, Uncasville, CT (M/B/L 083-029-0000), with the condition that permanent parking is provided. (Councilor McNally)
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Councilor Bunnell stated that the proposed use of the property, which has very limited use due to a grant that was received for the Public Safety Building, is ideal. Other than Opening Day, he did not foresee any parking issues. He thanked and commended Life Scout Lawton for a great job and his efforts, commitment, and persistence. Councilors Mandler, Rix, and Caron concurred. The Councilors were impressed by his presentation and look forward to its completion. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Resolution passed.
- i. **Resolution #2022-35. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to receive the Mayor’s proposed budget for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year. (Chairman McNally)
The Town Council received the Mayor’s FY2022/23 proposed budget. With the help of the staff, he has aimed to balance the operating needs of the town with the current economic realities, e.g., rising inflation costs and the resurgence of residential real estate values. They are faced with an austere fiscal picture, static state aid, declining growth rate, and rising costs. Fortunately, due to the receipt of ARPA Funds, they have been able to offset some of the costs. He recommended they bond a portion of the school improvement projects and fund their rolling stock rate replacement so as not to fall further behind. Orders should also be placed in a timely manner to help avoid any supply chain issues. He also proposed utilizing part of their Unassigned Fund Balance and ARPA Funds to help mitigate the tax impact on the residents. While no new staff additions are recommended, he is proposing changing the employment status of the Social Services

Administrative Support from part-time to full-time to accommodate the residents' growing needs. The town is also dealing with the loss of key longtime personnel and filling these positions has proved problematic and time-consuming. He appreciates the hard work of the town staff who continue to work within their means and submit realistic requests. He expressed his willingness to work with the Town Council in meaningful and positive ways. The proposed budget reflects an increase in expenses by approximately 1.45% and a mil rate decrease of 5.31%.

- j. **Resolution #2022-36. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ron McDaniel to consummate the sale of 30 Church Road, Oakdale, CT to Tyler Duchesneau by virtue of a quit claim deed for \$45,500 per the purchase and sales agreement dated March 31, 2022. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that the agreement does not include any contingencies. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Resolution passed.

- k. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ron McDaniel to consummate the sale of 245 Lynch Hill Road, Uncasville, CT to Integrity Solutions, LLC by virtue of a quit claim deed for \$19,900 per the purchase and sales agreement dated April 6, 2022. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that the agreement includes a contingency of 14 days to survey the lot to ensure that the property is a suitable building lot with a well and septic area. Chairman McNally questioned the drastic reduction in the sale price of the property by nearly half approximately 16 days after its initial posting, the Mayor stated that the price reduction was, in part, due to the terrain. Only one offer was received for the property. Councilor Bunnell expressed his confidence in the Mayor's efforts and felt that, based on the current real estate market, any additional interest in the property would have been expressed.

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor Rix, to amend the motion to present a counteroffer of \$28,000.00. Discussion: Councilor Mandler felt that reducing the price after only 16 days was not acceptable. Roll Call vote, 6-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Bunnell.

Resolution #2022-37. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to authorize Mayor Ron McDaniel to consummate the sale of 245 Lynch Hill Road, Uncasville, CT to Integrity Solutions, LLC by virtue of a quit claim deed for \$28,000 per the purchase and sales agreement dated April 6, 2022. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Resolution passed.

- l. **Resolution #2022-38. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to amend Resolution #2022-13 and to set the date of April 27, 2022, at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding the General Government proposed Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 at Montville High School Auditorium and to set the date of April 28, 2022, at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding the Board of Education proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 at Montville High School Auditorium. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: The Resolution was amended to fix a typographical error. Roll Call vote, 7-0. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Resolution passed.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – *none*

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel thanked everyone for their hard work and wished them a Happy Easter.

Councilor Bunnell wished everyone a Happy Easter. He expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and Finance Director for their efforts in drafting the proposed budget. He also commented on the need to move forward and repair the existing tennis courts with the ARPA Funds that were approved by the Town Council. He felt that renovating the high school tennis courts would not benefit the public. The usage of the existing courts has declined as a result of their declining condition. He reiterated the need to continue the project as planned, citing the continuing expression of interest in both pickleball and tennis.

Councilor Caron expressed his appreciation to everyone, including the Town Planner for her presentation regarding potential Adult-Use Cannabis and the Finance Director and Mayor for the proposed budget. He spoke in opposition to House Bill 5474, stating that, while they are somewhat protected by the pact, there are always gray areas. He urged the Councilors to speak to their legislators regarding the House Bill. He also expressed his unhappiness with the dissolution of utilizing the term ‘Indians’. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Councilor May concurred with Councilor Caron regarding House Bill 5474, adding that the town could, potentially, lose approximately \$700,000.00 in the tax revenues of commercial properties located on tribal land. He expressed his support for recreational cannabis use for its positive economic impacts. The facilities, he felt, are well regulated and asked that the Councilors review and consider the zones in which the cultivators can be located. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Chairman McNally spoke with respect to the tennis courts, stating that \$360,000.00 was approved to repair the four (4) tennis courts located at Camp Oakdale. The School Board expressed their concerns with the additional cost of busing the children to a location where supervision would be minimal. Two successful meetings have been held between the BOE and Parks & Recreation. The funds that were allocated for the project would not be sufficient for the (minimum of) six (6) tennis and pickleball courts that are necessary to meet the town’s needs. Numerous alternatives have been suggested and all of the parties have agreed that Fair Oaks would not be the best location for the courts. The project will continue to be investigated. He reported that he is currently in the process of drafting a letter to their legislators regarding House Bill 5474 on behalf of the Town Council. The Republican Town Committee will also be drafting a letter. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Councilor Rix wished everyone a Happy Easter and a Good Night.

Councilor Yuchniuk stated that, as a son of and a former police officer, he strongly disagreed with the legalization of marijuana. Because it has already been legalized by the legislators, he felt that it would be in the town’s best interest to approve the existing medical marijuana facility as a hybrid facility and receive the tax benefit for the town. He would need to further investigate the matter regarding its cultivation.

Councilor Mandler expressed his dismay with those department heads who do not provide him with answers to his questions. Most of the information he has gained has been achieved through his own research. He felt that, though one might not respect him, they should respect his position. He is apolitical and strives to work hard for the residents and do what is best for the town. He regards everyone as his friend. He wished everyone a safe and Happy Easter.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor Rix, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S
WEBSITE LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – MEETING RECORDINGS**