

**Town of Montville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Council Chambers**

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 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
Present were Councilors Caron, Mandler, May, and McNally. Absent were Councilors Bunnell, Rix, and Yuchniuk. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*
5. New Business
 - a. **Resolution #2022-87. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the discontinuance of Fort Shantok Road (east), Sunny Hill Drive, and a portion of Shantok Heights Road and to Quit Claim said roads to the Mohegan Tribe as heard at a Public Hearing held on July 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Town Council Chambers at Montville Town Hall and to set the date of August 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. for a Town Meeting to be held at Montville Town Hall in Town Council Chambers for the purpose of approving the discontinuance of the above-described roads.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that, while he understands the concerns of the citizens, some of which were not related to the item at hand, any sight-line issues may be worked out with the Tribe. He encouraged everyone to attend the Town Meeting and vote on the matter. Roll Call vote, 4-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Mandler, May, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.
 - b. **Resolution #2022-88. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to increase the Finance Director salary from \$105,000.00 to \$120,000.00, effective October 1, 2022. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: Chairman McNally stated that the salary increase would place the salary in line with the surrounding towns' salaries for the same position. It was noted that the position is a personal service contract, under the guise of the Town Council; general wage increases have been applied annually, per contract. The position has been posted on the Town website, GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association), and CCM (Connecticut Council of Municipalities). Roll Call vote, 4-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Mandler, May, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.
 - c. **Resolution #2022-89. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to transfer \$200,000.00 (two hundred thousand dollars) from the General Fund Surplus to Student Resource Officer (10820-51021) for the purpose of hiring two (2) new Police Officers to serve as the School Resource Officers. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Chairman McNally reported that a meeting was held with the Superintendent of

Schools Laurie Pallin, Board of Education Chairman Wills Pike, and Montville Police Department Lt. Dave Radford to discuss the School Security Plan. Numerous safety/security plans will be implemented utilizing a recent grant that was received and additional plans are being investigated utilizing the Town's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds. It was felt that hiring School Resource Officers (SRO) would be beneficial to both the schools and the Town, who can utilize the Officers when school is not in session. Councilor Caron, who also attended the meeting, spoke in favor of the resolution, stating the importance of ensuring the safety of our children, teachers, and administrators. He also felt that the Town should review the possibility of engaging such services for their public meetings and events and urged the expedite the process. Councilor May, who also attended the meeting, also spoke in support of the resolution. He agreed that it would be beneficial to both the Town and the schools and reminded the Councilors of the need to review its future impact on the budget. Councilor Mandler questioned whether the SROs would have a flexible schedule so that they would be available to cover extra-curricular school activities. He felt that the resolution was well overdue and expressed his support. Mayor McDaniel also spoke in favor of the resolution, which has been a longtime funding issue and is always discussed following unfortunate incidents. He stated that there are also logistical issues that will need to be worked out. He expressed his regrets for not being able to attend the meeting due to a conflicting engagement. He also urged them to investigate the possibility of applying for a COPS FAST Grant. Roll Call vote, 4-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Mandler, May, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2022-90. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to allocate \$7,715.70 (seven thousand seven hundred fifteen dollars and seventy cents) of the American Rescue Plan funds to help fund the Everbridge program. (Councilor Mandler)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: Councilor May spoke positively about the Everbridge program with which they have been working for the past six years. Councilor Mandler stated that the WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority) paid \$2,571.90 of the total bill of \$10,287.60. Roll Call vote, 4-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Mandler, May, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

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

17. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel reported that an additional request for ARPA Funding will be made for the failing A/C systems in the Public Safety Building. Estimates are in the process of being received. While approximately \$22,000.00 has been allocated in the Capital Plan, the total bill will most likely be approximately \$60,000.00 for the units and controls. He added that the price estimates for the old Town Hall renovation (for the Social Services Department) is also expected to be substantial.

Councilor Caron thanked the Councilors for their support for the Student Resource Officers. He looks forward to moving forward.

Councilor May thanked the Public Safety Commission, Police Department, and BOE for investigating the possibility of hiring School Resource Officers. He wished to find out the status of those who have subscribed to the Everbridge program, adding that funds might need to be allocated to help promote the program to the residents.

Councilor Mandler expressed his regrets for not attending the recent BOE Meeting during which the hiring of the Student Resource Officers was discussed. He stated the need to take care of all of the Town's citizens.

18. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, 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