

Town of Montville
Public Safety Commission
310 Norwich New London Turnpike
Uncasville, Connecticut 06382

860-848-3030

**Town of Montville
Public Safety Commission –Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 21, 2009 -7:00 p.m.
Town Hall - Town Council Chambers**

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Jetmore called the regular meeting of the Public Safety Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

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

4. **Consider and act on a motion to approve the November 23, 2009 Special Meeting minutes**

Motion made by Commissioner McNally, seconded by Commissioner Wojcik to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. **Communications**

Chairman Jetmore reviewed the following correspondence with the Commission:

A memo dated November 30, 2009 from Lt. Bunnell to all of the Montville Fire Chiefs regarding the annual Christmas parade held on Sunday, December 6, 2009 asking for assistance of fire police during the event.

A memo dated December 10, 2009 from Lt. Bunnell to the Montville Fire Chiefs thanking them for their participation in the holiday parade and for helping to keep the

event safe. He stated they conducted themselves professionally, effectively and safely and he appreciates all of their efforts.

A document from the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Municipal Police Support Committee Police Services report to the Town of Montville from Douglas Fuchs, Chief of Police, Redding Police Department.

6. Remarks from the Public

Steve Stewart, past Chief of the Chesterfield Fire Company spoke in regards to agenda item 9(a) Public Safety Plan, stating he supports the study and agenda item 9(b) regarding the M32 Fire Truck at the Chesterfield Fire house. He stated the Town Council never made the removal of the M32 truck a requirement and has not asked that the truck be taken out of service and put into reserves and this is why the truck was not removed. He hopes if the Public Safety Plan is approved and an independent study is done, this will determine exactly how many trucks each fire house requires for the density and activity in each region of the town. He stated it is economically not responsible to remove the truck and put it into reserve status because the town will still have to incur the costs of maintaining the truck, storing the truck in a garage, routine checks of hoses and equipment, costs to keep the truck insured and general upkeep. He does not see any benefit to removing the truck from service.

Keith Truex, Chief of the Chesterfield Fire Company, discussed the lack of hydrants in the Chesterfield area and the need for an additional truck in case of emergency. He stated the costs of putting a truck in reserve status would not save the town a large amount of money because the truck still has to be insured and maintained. He discussed the money the fire company has invested in the truck at no expense to the town. He does not feel removing the truck from service and adding it to reserves would be a good decision for the town.

7. Remarks from Department Heads

Lt. Bunnell, Montville Police Department, stated he does not have a status report for the Commission this month but hopes to have it for discussion at the next meeting. He discussed the Christmas Parade, stating it went extremely well. A discussion was held regarding a new route for the parade next year to accommodate the larger number of participants requiring additional room at the staging area. He discussed the possibility of combining the tree lighting with the parade. He welcomed suggestions from anyone who would like to help out with the parade route. He discussed the agility testing for the police recruits scheduled for January 2, 2010 to be held at the Montville High School from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the track and at the gymnasium. He discussed a vacancy in the academy for February. A discussion was held regarding the Building Committee. He stated the Town Council changed some of the wording but is still in favor of a new building. He stated the new Hyatt Hotel has opened and he stated the building is booked for New Year's Eve. He discussed the plaque for Commissioner

Baxter, stating he met with the vendor and Commissioner Allyn. He hopes to present the plaque at a dedication at the next Town Council meeting.

Chief Truex discussed the M31 truck, stating the Chesterfield Fire Company has a 90-95% volunteer response. He inquired regarding the paid firefighter status and discussed recent commercial development in the Chesterfield area justifying the need for additional help.

8. Reports from Committees

a. Reports from Public Safety Commission Liaisons

Commissioner Butterworth discussed a letter from the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association regarding the tri-town plan. He discussed the pros and cons of combining police forces vs. an independent police force. He discussed grants and union issues. The sub-committee continues to meet and he will keep the Commission updated regarding progress.

Chairman Jetmore discussed the Building Committee, stating they continue to meet and move forward. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2010.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion Regarding Public Safety Plan

Commissioner Allyn indicated he is not sure what direction the Public Safety Plan is moving toward but he would like to revive the discussion with the Town Council. In the meantime he will discuss the Plan with Councilor Buebendorf and work toward options and alternatives to present to the Town Council. He suggested sending a letter to the Town Council asking them to consider and move forward with the Public Safety Plan.

b. Discussion Regarding M32 Fire Truck – Chesterfield Fire House

Chairman Jetmore inquired if anyone had anything further to discuss regarding this issue. Mayor Jaskiewicz commercial development in the Chesterfield area of town and would like the Commission to let this issue go for now.

10. New Business

a. Discussion Regarding Taser Gun Use, Policies, Practices and Directives

Chairman Jetmore stated the issues discussed at this meeting are not in response to any issues reported or any ongoing problems.

Sgt. Collins distributed copies of the X-26 Advanced TASER System training policy for the Commission to review. The document indicates only personnel who have successfully completed a departmentally approved training course in the proper use and

deployment of the TASER shall be authorized to use a department issued TASER. He discussed guidelines for the handling and deployment of the TASER and procedure for its use. He discussed various incidents where officers have utilized the use of the TASER and how useful a tool it is. He stated it gives the officers an additional tool for use in the field and since it has been implemented there have been fewer injuries to officers during arrests. He discussed liability issues, stating the officers have procedures to follow after a tasing incident. Anyone who has been tased is attended to by medical personnel unless they sign a release stating they refuse medical attention. All officers using the TASER have been tased themselves and know how it feels.

b. Discussion Regarding Incident Supervision Regarding Montville Police Department

A discussion was held regarding procedure for incidents requiring a supervisor on a site. Sgt. Collins stated any incident serious enough to cause attention requires a supervisor presence. The officers responding to a scene use their own common sense to make the judgment call. Most times the officers are better safe than sorry and will call for a supervisor if there is a question of whether or not they should. He thanked the EMS and first responders for all their help during these situations, stating the police rely on them for their help.

c. Public Safety Response During Power Outages

Lt. Bunnell and Sgt Collins indicated the police do the best they can during times of power outages, they utilize everyone possible to man the busiest intersections to keep traffic moving. They use temporary stop signs and utilize manpower from fire police and the barracks as needed. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated they respond as quickly as possible and handle these situations as best they can. He thanked Sgt. Collins for a great presentation.

11. Remarks from the Public

Steve Stewart discussed the M32 truck issue, stating he hopes this is finished for now and offered his assistance with the Public Safety Plan if it moves forward in the future.

12. Remarks from Mayor Jaskiewicz

Mayor Jaskiewicz discussed the holiday parade, stating they may have to go back to the original route to accommodate the larger number of participants. He thanked the fire police for all their help during the parade. He discussed the opening of the Hyatt Hotel and stated he took a tour of the facility. He discussed applying for a grant for the hire of a full time paid fireman. He discussed the Tri-Town meetings and stated there is a big push for regionalization of police forces and he will continue to listen to gather valuable information regarding this issue.

13. Remarks from Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf

Councilor Buebendorf indicated she is still learning the workings of the Public Safety Commission and looks forward to working with the Commission in the future. She wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

14. Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Allyn discussed the status of the Town and the Uncas Health District. Mayor Jaskiewicz updated the Commission regarding the situation with the Uncas Health District and the Northeast Health District. Commissioner Allyn wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Commissioner McNally wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Commissioner Wojcik wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Commissioner Butterworth clarified his statements at a previous meeting regarding the M32 truck at Chesterfield Fire Company and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Commissioner Jetmore thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

15. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Wojcik, seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 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