

**Town of Montville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2022, 5:30 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 5:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.
3. Roll Call
Present were Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
4. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit
Joe Rogulski, 74 Roselund Road, Uncasville, expressed his support for the establishment of an independent police department and is interested in viewing the cost savings for the town.
5. Executive Session
 - a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of strategy and/or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, without prejudice to the Council’s right to discuss the same in private pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(2). Discussion to include members of the Town Council, Mayor Ronald McDaniel and Attorney Eileen Duggan.

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 5:32 p.m. Chairman McNally resumed the meeting at 5:55 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.
6. New Business
 - a. **Resolution #2022-98. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the funds necessary to implement the written agreement, and the terms of the written agreement, between the Town of Montville and Montville Association of Management Employees (MAME), Local 818, Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the period of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.
 - b. **Resolution #2022-99. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the proposed list of expenditures related to the American Rescue Plan funds, as recommended by the COVID-19 Impact Study Committee. (Councilor Mandler)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Chairman McNally proposed, and the Councilors agreed, to vote for the items line-by-line:
 1. (2) Big Screen Television Sets Housing Authority \$ 2,000.00
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor.
 2. Tractor w/Arm Public Works \$ 150,000.00
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor.

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| 3. | (10) iPads | Youth Services | \$ 9,500.00 |
| | Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. | | |
| 4. | Interior & Exterior Renovations | VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) | \$ 35,000.00 |
| | Discussion: Chairman McNally stated that the VFW requested that the item be tabled; the item must be opposed to move the item to the next meeting. Voice vote, 0-7, all opposed. | | |
| 5. | Pick-Up Truck | Public Works | \$ 69,000.00 |
| | Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. | | |
| 6. | Mental Health Services | Senior, Social & Youth Services | \$ 30,000.00 |
| | Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. | | |

- c. **Resolution #2022-100. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to set the date of Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding an ordinance titled “Ordinance Establishing the Montville Police Department”. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk. Discussion: Chairman McNally stated that the establishment of an independent Montville Police Department is a multi-step process, which includes the Public Hearing, passing of the Ordinance, the establishment of a timeline for implementation, drafting and approval of the Chief of Police Job Description, the establishment of policies, hiring of employees, etc. It is estimated that the total cost will be approximately \$160,000.00 per year, excluding any incidental items. The establishment of an independent police department would also qualify the town to receive additional grants, resulting in improved accountability and increased morale. Issues facing the State and the Town include the current shortage of State Police Troopers and the high-turnaround rate in the town’s Resident State Troopers. The town is currently paying approximately \$240,000.00, plus overtime, for the Resident State Trooper. Councilor Bunnell expressed his support for the Ordinance, stating that when he first entered the police force, the Resident State Trooper cost approximately \$40,000.00; the cost will only increase. In addition, approximately 4,000 of the 17,000 SF of the 10-year-old \$6.5 million Public Safety Building are currently being utilized. The establishment of an independent police department would enable them to utilize the entire building as it was designed. Chairman McNally added that the Town has taken steps to minimize the financial impact to the Town, including establishing the Impound Lot, Fingerprinting Machine, new Camera Machine, and Policies. Lt. Dave Radford stated that they have been working towards this end and felt that it is time to stand on their own to better serve the Town. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

7. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit
Wills Pike, 71 Pheasant Run, Oakdale, expresses his pride in the work the Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee, of which he was a member, conducted. He expressed his support for the establishment of an independent police department. He noted that the Town Charter, which designates the Mayor as the Chief of Police, may need to be amended. He also reminded the Councilors that Lt. Radford is currently a member of the Union and, as such, might not qualify as a candidate for the Police Chief position.
8. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor
Mayor McDaniel thanked the Councilors for accommodating the Special Meeting on such short notice.

Councilor Bunnell stated that there is no need for an additional administrative layer in the Police Department, as evidenced by those in Ledyard and East Lyme.

Councilor Caron thanked everyone for their support in establishing an independent police department, adding that it would be beneficial to the officers and the town.

Councilor May thanked the Mayor for his hard work on the contract and is happy to see the Ordinance to establish the Montville Police Department moving forward.

Councilor Rix wished the school staff and students a happy and safe return.

Councilor Yuchniuk stated that he has been working hard with Lt. Radford to move forward with the establishment of an independent police department to minimize any impact. He felt that the Town is now in a good position and that it was time to move forward.

Councilor Mandler echoed Councilor Rix's comments and thanked the department heads for moving forward during the pandemic and utilizing the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to help stabilize, normalize, and get things moving again. Councilor Caron expressed his appreciation to Councilor Mandler for all of his hard work meeting with the department heads and organizing their requests for the Committee to review.

Chairman McNally thanked everyone for their time and the many meetings of late.

9. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Mandler, to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 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