

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Parks & Recreation Commission
Special Meeting – September 15, 2022 -- 6:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

The 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.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comments by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced.

1. Call to order.

Chairperson Southard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Matt Beaupre, Jon Chase, Deborah Schober, Morgan Matthewson, Kate Southard, and Rocky Stone. Absent were Commissioners Noah Carver, Kevin Clang, and Denise Gladue. A quorum was present.

Also in attendance was Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell and Director Peter Bushway

4. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit).

Chairperson Southard asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

5. New Business.

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to recommend to the Town Council modifying the Camp Oakdale Simpson Lane Tennis Court Project from 4 Tennis Courts to 2 Tennis Courts and up to 6 Pickleball Courts on the south side, using the current authorized funding amount of \$600,000 (\$500,000 of State Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) and \$100,000 of Town American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funds).

Motion by Commissioner Stone; seconded by Commissioner Beaupre to recommend to the Town Council modifying the Camp Oakdale Simpson Lane Tennis Court Project from 4 Tennis Courts to 2 Tennis Courts and up to 6 Pickleball Courts on the south side, using the current authorized funding amount of \$600,000 (\$500,000 of State Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) and \$100,000 of Town American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funds). Discussion: Chairperson Southard reported on the desire for a much bigger project than the one proposed. She and Commissioner Stone tried to obtain more funds. There has been community response for pickleball courts; the proposed modification accounts for the rehabbed tennis courts at the high school. A meeting was held with Town Council Chair McNally who concurred with the modification and will move it through the process. Commissioner Stone reported \$800,000

was targeted for the project but it is short \$230,000. There is a lot of social media response to pickleball locally and across the U.S. Classic Turf was contacted for a new quote similar to the previous one. Removal of two (2) tennis courts would lower the cost of the project to \$580,000, a better one for this particular time, and will take 12-14 weeks to complete. As to the Board of Education, they will do its own thing according to Town Council Chair McNally. Other aspects of the project include the removal and repair of the concrete agreed upon by Public Works Director John Carlson, according to Chairperson Southard. Commissioner Stone reported the tennis court lights are now in a bad spot and work will be done with PW Director Carlson to install new conduits and a foundation to place the lights off of the tennis courts. Professional classifications and specifications are not warranted as the project is not related to a professional association. Six (6) LED lights will be placed on each of the courts and work will be conducted with PW Director Carlson for infrastructure of lights in the future as lighting is on the CIP Plan. As to whether the existing light towers are reusable, it is unknown at this time. Commissioner Stone noted the aim is to present a revamped project to the Town for approval.

Town Councilor Bunnell questioned if the six (6) pickleball courts will be placed where the two (2) tennis courts are currently located. Noting the prolonged time for the project, he proposed moving the six (6) pickleball courts to the back of the area and keeping the existing tennis courts. At one time, there were eight (8) tennis courts and this plan will leave only two (2). Commissioner Stone remarked he has had no discussion with any residents in opposition to the two (2) tennis courts and stated the existing courts would have to be completely removed as part of the project. Commissioner Chase asked if there was discussion about repair of the dilapidated jungle area; Commissioner Stone stated the modified proposal is a good one with a 20-year warranty. Commissioner Chase inquired whether the existing front area of the courts could be overlaid with asphalt and work done on the back area; do pickleball courts require the same construction as tennis courts, and what would be the added cost for less renovation. Commissioner Schober noted the Commission must approve the modified project to forward it on to the Town Council for approval. The status of the State funds was also questioned; Chairperson Southard confirmed the funds will be obtained.

The Commission discussed the modified project with emphasis from Commissioner Stone that if the project does not move forward the \$100,000 will be removed from the project by the Town. Rising costs resulting in several bid attempts and begging for more funds may be required according to Commissioner Beaupre. Hungry contractors in need of work and the prior approval of the project by the Commission that went to Finance resulting in higher costs due to lag time was noted by Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Schober, respectively. Commissioner Chase noted setting up a contractor costs money and said he wanted to know the cost difference for doing work on the backside of the tennis courts and keeping an overlay on the front for 10-plus years given the Town Council Chair's comment. Commissioner Stone remarked again that the Commission cannot worry about the actions of the Board of Education. Chairperson Southard reiterated the ARPA Committee will be taking back funds that has been expressed since April/May by that Committee. Commissioner Matthewson commented on working to secure projects over the past five years at her job including the rising cost of quotes by 20% and the inability to obtain quote even with substantial funds in place. She also noted the commentary over the past two (2) years about the Department and BOE tennis courts and ultimately asked

what was going to be done. Commissioner Chase was leery about the issue of approval of State bond in addition to the ARPA funds of \$100,000 being reissued for an alternative project thus expressing the need to wait. Town Councilor is not convinced the \$500,000 State bond will not come to fruition. He added the \$360,000 was taken back given a report by the ARPA Committee to the Town Council. Chairperson Southard reported on the eventual cleanup of the area by PW Director Carlson deemed an eyesore by Town Councilor Mandler and Town Council Chair McNally. As to questions concerning a sidewalk that is not on the table at this time and fencing to which a new one will be installed, Commissioner Stone reported the cost for the project, \$600,000 was received today at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call vote: *In favor:* Commissioners Beaupre, Matthewson, Schober, Southard, and Stone.
Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Remarks from the Public of Non-Agenda items (3-minute limit).

Chairperson Southard asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

7. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell remarked to the Commission to make the State-funded grant work by signing the project contract and getting an IOU from the State for its funds. Commissioner Stone suggested reaching out to the contractor as to when he can start; Director Bushway responded June 2023 is the target date per his last discussion with the contractor because of the temperatures at night.

8. Remarks from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Chase thanked everyone for changing his mind about the modification as it appears to be a high quality project. Chairperson Southard praised Commissioner Stone for his phone calls during the day (that she does not have the liberty to do) and meeting on Friday night with Town Council Chair McNally; she greatly appreciated his efforts. Commissioner Chase asked that the Commission be apprised of the Town Council decision.

9. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Schober; seconded by Commissioner Beaupre to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gloria J. Gathers
Town of Montville -- Recording Secretary/Minutes Clerk

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON
THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**