

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – October 24, 2022 -- 6:00 PM**  
**Town Council Chambers – Town Hall**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**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 Healthy strongly recommends that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, continue to wear masks indoors.**

**(Mayor Ronald McDaniel – March 8, 2022)**

**1. Call to order.**

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**3. Roll Call.**

Present were Commissioners William Bauer, Mickey Gillette, Gary Murphy, Karen Perkins, and Stephen Stewart. Absent were Commissioners Traci Callaghan and Thomas Pedersen. A quorum was present.

Chairman Murphy for the record the arrival of Mayor McDaniel at

**4. Amendments to the Agenda *None***

**5. Communications:**

- Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police, Animal Control and Building Official.

Chairman Murphy confirmed receipt of the monthly statistical reports and noted the Building Report was not submitted. Commissioner Stewart reported it was sent out on Friday. Chairman Murphy read into the record a letter from Town Chairman McNally to Mayor McDaniel dated October 18, 2022. The letter expressed Town Council opposition to all negotiations with Town Firefighter Union Local 3386, IAFF that directly violate Town agreements in effect with Town Volunteer Fire Companies. This communication was emailed to the Commission.

**6. To consider and act on a motion to approve minutes:**

- a.** The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2022.

**Motion** by Chairman Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to approve the September 26, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Remarks from the Public.**

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for comments. Resident Lenny Bunnell of 5 Little John Drive and Town Council member spoke in favor of Agenda, Item 12c. He noted two (2) revisions of the policy that were circulating and asked to be considered by the Commission from Lt. Radford. He and Lt. Radford had been in contact about language in the job description and the final revision content was derived from at least two (2) other departments, newly formed. Language from the job descriptions of Ledyard and East Lyme were similar in content and was incorporated into the Montville job description for police chief that fits the needs of the Town. He noted his full support of it.

Resident Stephen Frischling 1606 Route 85, Oakdale remarked on the Everbridge Policy. He commented on remarks by Fire Marshal Barnes at the September 26 Commission meeting praising Deputy Fire Marshal Milton for his hard work in setting up EOC sites, portals and for its launch. He also referenced denial by the Deputy Fire Marshal on September 29 Commission concerning the aforementioned S. Frischling spoke to the need to determine who was responsible for the EOC launch, associated costs to the Town over two (2) years, and clarity about the overall system, its use and management responsibilities.

**8. Remarks from Department Heads.**

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford reported 874 calls for service by the PD for the month ending September 30, 2022. There were also 54 infractions, 1 juvenile summons, 17 misdemeanors, and 90 written warnings for a total of 162 citations. As to the recent PD interviews, one (1) applicant remains in the hiring process and has successfully passed the hardest steps. and is well into the background phase. More interviews will need to be conducted in the near future and assistance will again be sought from the Commission. A new version of the “Pink Patches” in support breast cancer is still for sale and will be donated to a local individual suffering from cancer. Lt. Radford also referenced an updated version of the new job description for a Town Police Chief handed out this evening.

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported Fire Department calls for service for the month ending September 30, 2022, totaled 264. Of those calls, 81% or 193 were EMS incidents and 18% were fire related. For the year, there are 110 more calls for service than last year.

**9. Committee and Liaison Reports:**

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins reported the Montville Volunteer Firefighter Relief Committee met this evening and approved the quarterly firefighter eligibility for stipends as follows: Montville 8, Mohegan 10, Chesterfield no report submitted, and Oakdale 5 with (7 tax abatements). The meeting schedule for 2023 was also set as follows: January 23, April 24, July 24 and October 23 at 5:00 p.m. The Finance Director files the schedule with the Town Clerk. She also reported on a social media comments concerning the Montville Volunteer Fire Department participation in a local tanker shutter drill.

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

The statistical reports for month ending September 30, 2022, submitted by ACO Swanson are as follows:

Town of Montville Animal Control Report September 2022)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>43</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>252</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>		<b>2</b>

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (September 2022)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette) – No report

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics report for September 2022 was submitted as follows:

<b>2022-2023 Building Department Report</b>												
	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>Permits Issued</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>146</b>									
<b>Pending Permits</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>83</b>									
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>106</b>									
<b>Plan Reviews</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>									
<b>CO's</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>									
<b>Violation Notices</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>									
<b>Unsafe Notices</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>									
<b>Blight Identified</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>651</b>									
<b>Blight Abated</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>463</b>									

To Date												
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Commissioner Stewart read into the record the Building Inspector Report for the month ending September 30, 2022. An Asst. Building Inspector has not yet hired with a lot of new, upcoming projects. Just Building Inspector Jensen and the secretary are in the office handling the work load.

**10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- None**

**11. Unfinished Business.**

- a. Update from Mayor McDaniel or his designee concerning the Town of Montville Everbridge System.

Mayor McDaniel deferred to Fire Marshal Barnes about the system that continues to be a work in progress and there are policies on the Agenda regarding the same. The Fire Marshal had no comments.

- b. To consider and act on a motion to approve future Commission Committee Assignments.

Chairman Murphy reported no meeting was held.

**12. New Business.**

- a. To consider and act on a motion concerning policy for the Town of Montville Citizen Alert System (Everbridge) Mass Notification System.

**Motion** by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to consider and act on policy for the Town of Montville Citizen Alert System (Everbridge) Mass Notification System. Discussion: Commissioner Stewart noted policy revisions, 1) Paragraph 1 to change police director to say, “police chief”, 2) third paragraph to change emergency management to say, “emergency management director” and 3) change the last paragraph 1930 hours (seven days) to 7:30. Chairman Murphy asked for clarification regarding paragraph 2 concerning those who have alerting policy and why the Fire Chiefs were not included in the policy as a first line of defense. Per Fire Marshal Barnes, the original intent of the system was for transmission of emergency storm-related issues and not adding the fire chiefs was to prevent unnecessary message alerts being sent out to discourage signup with an inundation of messages. The Commission discussed the first line defense in emergency situations and delays that would prevent immediate contact with the Fire Marshal or Police Chief as questioned by Chairman Murphy. Resident Jon Leonard described the types of Everbridge systems—for State CT alerts given to every town and for the one purchased by the Town for citizen alerts for nonemergency situation -- and how they differ with situations by explanation. Chairman Murphy asked that the fire chiefs be added to the policy; Fire Marshal Barnes will discuss the change with Mayor McDaniel. Commissioner Perkins noted emergency contact for the Senior Center was not mentioned although Social Services was included. Mayor McDaniel remarked policy was brought first to the Commission procedurally and changes to it should be reflected in the minutes. It would then be submitted to TARP and further to the Town Council. The Commission consideration is a recommendation, not policy. Roll Call vote: *In favor:*

Commissioner Gillette; *Opposed*: Commissioners Bauer, Murphy, Stewart; *Abstained*: Commissioner Perkins. 1-3-1, Motion failed.

- b. To consider and act on a motion concerning the State of Connecticut WebEoc Policy for use by the Town of Montville Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

**Motion** by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to consider and act on a motion concerning the State of Connecticut WebEoc Policy for use by the Town of Montville Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Discussion: Fire Marshal Barnes stated the policy for use of WebEOC is State operated and the Town is authorized to use it through the State and this policy confirms that use that he was asked to write. The State has the authority to allow or disallow use and this policy was discussed with the Regional Director. Affiliation with the Town would be confirmed by the Fire Marshal with the State. The WebEOC Shares information shelter status, road closures, schools, and order equipment through it and is checked regularly by Fire Marshal Barnes weekly. The Fire Marshal and Asst. Fire Marshal Milton have access to WebEOC from his computer but no access outside of the office. Chairperson Murphy asked about access given the absence of the Fire Marshal or Asst Fire Marshal in an emergency or a ‘what if’ situation. Dispatchers get notification from the Fire Marshal. Mayor McDaniel does not have access to the operation. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Bauer, Gillette, Perkins, Murphy and Stewart. *Opposed*: none. Motion carried.

- c. To consider and act on a motion concerning the job description for Police Chief of the Town of Montville.

Lt. Radford noted the changes to the policy to include the Teamsters Union instead of the ACO and he and Town Councilor Bunnell communicated about it. That change is on page 3 under Essential Functions. The second change is on page 4 regarding Experience and Training as highlighted whereby “A combination of education or experience, which has provided a demonstrated ability to perform the duties of the position may be taken into consideration”--be used if a that will be taken into consideration given a lack in either. **Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to consider and act on a motion concerning the job description for Police Chief of the Town of Montville. Discussion: Commissioner Stewart tried to find the Ledyard and East Lyme information online but was curious about the nature of the work as an administrative position that demeans and limits the significance of the position. His other point questioned the authority over Animal Control that is not included in the ordinance. Per Lt. Radford, administrative encompasses the entirety of the work of the police chief position and the inclusion of the Animal Control creates more latitude and the ability to work with the Department of which the ACO is in agreement. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Bauer, Gillette, Perkins, Murphy and Stewart. *Opposed*: none. Motion carried.

### **13. Remarks from the Public. (Non-agenda items only—three-minute limit)**

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Steven Frischling of 1606 Route 85, Oakdale remarked the WebEOC policy noting restrictions not outlined as its user guide and per CT. General Statutes. He also referenced daily updates for public, educational updates i.e., health not included in the policy. Also, he noted certifications he attained that the Fire Marshal

does not hold and information concerning designation of the fire chiefs as agency heads. He further addressed an email response from the Mayor and the Fire Marshal concerning EOC and Emergency Management, specifically critical positions, staffing, and protocol.

Lt. Radford clarified a comment made earlier by Mayor McDaniel regarding the Town Charter and the Public Safety Commission. Per the Town Charter, he stated he found nothing that says the Commission makes policy.

Union Firefighter President, Tim Congdon remarked on a flurry of calls today that included an MVA, the involvement of paid and volunteer firefighters, state troopers, an ambulance, and a rescue truck that had to be left on the highway. He was asked to appear at tonight's meeting for the same. Although needing to focus as the representative of paid staff union, he marked on the unfairness of the situation today for all involved. He asked at what point do we say as a community that this needs to be addressed and how to measure it. He also noted the disconnect was not with the Mayor, Chiefs, or Departments and asked for consideration to benefit the community and government and those responding to calls for change to the fire service that is critically needed.

**14. Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor McDaniel had follow-up remarks regarding offers to the three (3) PD candidates interviewed. Only one (1) candidate passed some hurdles and hopefully more will be sought to fill open positions. A new Finance Director started last Monday and once acclimated will be sending out budget requests to the departments shortly. A current employee has been promoted to Treasurer. The newly hired Human Resources Director will start in about two (2) weeks. An Asst. Building Official has yet to be hired and is a problematic position to fill across the regions as the pool of candidates is limited. The Town has contracted with Vern Vesey and Chris Ida from the Mohegan Tribe through the end of December to pick up the slack with Building Department duties and if needed the contracts will be renewed.

**15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.** – *No report*

**16. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Chairperson Murphy remarked on a tanker drill held yesterday at the Chesterfield Firehouse. Two (2) tankers from Oakdale Station and one (1) from Chesterfield participated and were supported by the other stations. The drill involved flow of water over a certain number of hours and Town tankers ranked 8 or 9 versus 4 and 5 over others in the area. It was a great job by all. He also refuted remarks by Lt. Radford regarding the Commission making policy. He read into the record a portion of Section 408, Public Safety Commission of the Town Charter concerning the purpose of the Commission and its recommendations to the Mayor of administrative policy for specific positions and protocol for the same.

**17. Adjournment.**

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers  
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

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