

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – February 27, 2023 -- 6:00 PM
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

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.

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, Traci Callaghan, Mickey Gillette, Gary Murphy, Thomas Pedersen, Karen Perkins, and Stephen Stewart. A quorum was present.

4. Amendments to the Agenda – *None*

Commissioner Stewart asked whether a question with one budget for Agenda, Item 12.a would require all parties to return for the next meeting. Chairman Murphy responded the budgets would be responded to and voted upon individually and additional information on specific budgets would be requested if needed.

5. Communications:

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

Chairman Murphy confirmed the receipt by the Commission of the statistical reports from all departments for January 2023. He commented on two (2) communications distributed to the Commission prior to tonight's meeting from the Montville Professional Firefighters Union, IAFF Local 3386. He recommended a 30-day delay on the two (2) communications for posting and so that other citizens have the right to speak on it and place them on the agenda for next month's meeting. Commissioner Perkins asked if communications were typically read into the record. Commissioners Gillette and Perkins each noted one (1) item is already on the Agenda for this evening for an investigation committee. Mayor McDaniel noted the documents could be accepted into the meeting record as communications. **Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to enter into the record two (2) communications from Montville Professional Firefighters Union, Local 3386, IAFF. Discussion: none. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve minutes:

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023.
- b. The Special Meeting Minutes (Police Chief Interviews) of February 15, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the January 23, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes and the Special Meeting Minutes (Police Chief Interviews) of February 15, 2023. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Remarks from the Public. --None

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford reported 887 calls for service by the PD for the month ending January 31, 2023. There were also 22 infractions, 0 juvenile summons, 16 misdemeanors, and 76 written warnings for a total of 114 citations. He also reported on newly designed Montville PD K-9 sweatshirts that are on sale at the PD for \$35. The Lieutenant also read into the record several positive letters and PORs for incidents involving Montville Police Officers over the past month or so. The first letter concerned an FBI assist involving Detective Saffioti and Officers Lalumiere and Dicoella regarding a complaint of illegal drugs and firearms. Each officer received an individual positive letter. The second letter concerned the assist to a mother who believed someone was outside her home and involved Officer Osunniyi and an Officer not determined yet. The third letter involved Officer Kuckel and concerned the saving of a small child who he found outside on a cold night; he has been recommended for a medal of merit.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department January 31 2023, month ending report had 232 total calls for service. Fifteen percent of the calls were fire calls and eighty percent were EMS related calls.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

- a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins read into the record one (1) of the communications from the Montville Firefighters Union mentioned earlier. The letter from Union President Timothy Condon requested the Commission “investigate, create and recommend a Town policy regarding the after-action review of large-scale incidents and emergencies of interest that the career and volunteer fire companies respond to” with a goal to “enhance future emergency responses.” The analyses would be “tools for improvement” only.

- b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

The statistical reports for the month ending January 31, 2023, submitted by ACO Swanson are as follows:

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (January 2023)

	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded	6	79
# of Animals Sold as Pets	3	46
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	1
Total Complaints Investigated	76	609
Total Animal Bites Investigated	2	8
Total Infractions/Summons	0	3

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (January 2023)

	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded	0	2
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	1
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	3	29
Total Animal Bites Investigated	1	2
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

Commissioner Callaghan remarked she had nothing new to report.

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Commissioner Gillette remarked he had nothing new to report.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics report for January 2023 was submitted as follows:

2022-2023 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	110	107	171	188	117	205	111					
Pending Permits	159	87	143	136	127	136	102					
Inspections	187	197	167	193	120	127	139					
Plan Reviews	62	70	67	71	57	70	62					
CO's	5	4	0	0	2	1	2					
Violation Notices	2	0	0	0	2	0	2					
Unsafe Notices	2	1	0	2	0	0	1					
Blight Identified	182	184	188	199	201	203	195					
Blight Abated To Date	454	454	459	467	479	478	487					

Commissioner Stewart read the statistics for the month ending January 31, 2023. He also reported an Asst. Building Inspector has not yet been hired. Mayor McDaniel reported he interviewed a potential candidate and reiterated that the whole region has this employment problem. He also reported that the Council of Governments (COG) hired a candidate on a part-time basis to support some area towns. Mayor McDaniel is attempting to get resumes on those candidates who applied with the COG who may not have taken the job as it was a part-time position.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Oakdale Fire Chief Messier reported submitting his budget to Commissioner Perkins for FY2023-2024 in the amount of \$97,000 that represents one-third of what is needed. He referenced the expense for new iPads and the rising cost of utilities over the past year.

Chief Keith Truex of the Chesterfield Fire Company reported on submitting his budget for \$97,000 and reported and/or commented on the following: incurring new iPad expenses as part of the new dispatching system; utility costs as his company does not use Town fuel due to the proximity of refueling given the location of the station; fully supportive of the medal of merit for Officer Kuckel indicating he was the EMT who responded to the call and will provide a letter if needed; and referenced the letter from career firefighters and asked if debriefing was done noting there are different types of debrief; the need for operational control; and a request to the Town to hire one (1) additional firefighter to work on the overnight shift at Chesterfield. In addition, Chief Truex reported on the increased call volume at Chesterfield; the Town's lack of a true packet for administering career staff evaluations and the failure to notify him of a person deemed qualified; and a suggestion that candidates for qualification are sent to Company 1 or Company 2, instead of his company.

11. Unfinished Business.

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

It was reported the system is used a couple of times a day and notices are sent out by the Fire Marshal. This item will be removed from the Agenda.

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

Chairman Murphy reported no meeting was held due to other pressing items.

- c. Report from Town Administration on the progress of the formation of the Montville Police Department.

Mayor McDaniel reported the accreditation and hiring process is moving forward with the candidates chosen by the Commission.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion concerning possible action on the water tank installation problem at Millwood on Old Colchester Road.

Fire Marshal Barnes reported there were no more updates to report pending delivery for an out attachment.

- e. To Consider and Act on a Motion concerning the need for a written Career Firefighter Out-of-Station Policy.

Chairman Murphy reported as of yet nothing has been written pending additional information.

- f. To Consider and Act on a Motion concerning the Radio Transmission Policy for all emergency vehicles when leaving the station for nonemergency business.

Chairman Murphy reported this item would be delayed until next month pending information for Item 12.g that would affect this policy.

12. New Business.

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve the FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Budgets. Chairman Murphy remarked on the \$97,000 given yearly to the fire companies for a while and the fairness of it given Chesterfield station having less calls in addition to more expenses for utilities and fuel—the Town not paying for what firefighters spend. Chief Truex remarked the budgeted amount only covers a portion, any increase inhibited by taxpayer ability to afford more; and reduction of heat to the bays (52 degrees) so things do not freeze. Parity of the budget for each of the fire companies was the aim for the \$97,000 budget amount per Mayor McDaniel. The Commission with input from Chief Truex discussed the following: fire companies budget requests for the actual operating budget or true budget; responsibility of the Commission per the Town Charter concerning budgets; replacement of service vehicles and equipment; acknowledgement of actual company expenditures; itemization of budgets per expenditures; donations and ambulance calls that support the Chesterfield budget; level funding of budgets; not to exceed 3%; and an explanation of the overall budget process.

Motion by Chairman Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the FY 2023-2024 Chesterfield Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$110, 000. Discussion: none. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Murphy, and Pedersen. *Opposed:* Commissioners Gillette, Perkins, and Stewart. 4-3 vote. Motion approved.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the FY 2023-2024 Oakdale Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$97, 000. Discussion: Chief Messier remarked he was not looking for more funding nor the Town to fully fund his budget; he added a lot of funds come from ambulance bills. He is looking to purchase a new ambulance; a \$260,000 cost, and he is trying to put funds away every year. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Perkins, Pedersen, and Stewart. *Opposed:* Chairman Murphy. 6-1 vote. Motion approved.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the FY 2023-2024 Montville Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$97, 000. Discussion: Chairman Murphy reported he received a letter from Chief Messier who is requesting an increase of 3.48% due to increases in heating, fuel for the building, electricity, and telecommunications for tablets for the CAD system and emergency calls that increased the cost

of cell use. Roll Call vote. *In Favor*: Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Perkins, Pedersen, and Stewart. *Opposed*: Chairman Murphy. 6-1 vote. Motion approved.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the FY 2023-2024 Mohegan Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$97,000. Discussion: none. Roll Call vote. *In Favor*: Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Perkins, Pedersen, and Stewart. *Opposed*: Chairman Murphy. 6-1 vote. Motion approved.

Lt. Radford was questioned regarding the type of weapon in his Capital Improvement budget. Current training costs for accountability and management was discussed with 85% expended this year. Any additional funding if received (\$10,000) would be used for training. The patrol boat was put on the water a couple of times this year noting Gardner Lake opted to not use Town services. **Motion** by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Callaghan to increase the FY 2023-2024 budget to \$128,300, an increase of \$10,000 for training. Motion withdrawn. **Motion** by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the FY 2023-2024 Police Department budget in the amount of \$2,741,700. Discussion: Lt. Radford noted there are all kinds of mandated training and additional funding of \$10,000 if not approved would be sought elsewhere. Commissioner Stewart noted the budget was good as presented and asked what the Commission was doing giving away money and expected all mandated training to be covered. The additional \$10,000 was adequate per prior discussion by Lt. Radford and Commissioner Gillette, a response to Commissioner Bauer who confirmed how training credits were achieved. Roll Call vote. *In Favor*: Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Perkins, and Pedersen. *Opposed*: Chairman Murphy and Commissioner Stewart. 5-2 vote. Motion approved.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the FY 2023-2024 Police Private Duty budget of \$250,000. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel explained this budget was separate from the police budget as the Town must lay out funds before it gets it back. Roll Call vote. *In Favor*: Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed*: none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Commissioner Pedersen to approve the FY 2023-2028 Police Department Capital Improvement budget for weapons in the amount of \$13,073.40. Discussion: Prior to the motion, Commissioner Pedersen inquired if the weapons are being replaced for the same model. Lt. Radford remarked on the upgrade due to the number of rounds and replacement parts cause for possible failure for improvement per FBI standards. Most will be traded and a couple will be kept. Roll Call vote. *In Favor*: Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed*: none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to approve the FY 2023-2028 Police Department Capital Improvement budget for holsters in the amount of \$3,436.50. Discussion: Prior to the motion, Lt. Radford noted an accessibility safety issue with the holster.

Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the FY 2023-2024 Animal Control budget in the amount of \$94,978. Discussion: Chairman Murphy noted no expenditures for training an conferences and other expenses, and a reduction in salary. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the FY 2023-2024 Building Inspector budget for \$228,180. Discussion: Commissioner Stewart noted that it was the only department with revenue last year. Mayor McDaniel noted revenue received from the Fire Marshal, Town Clerk, and Police Department. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the FY 2023-2024 Fire Protection budget for \$1,529,920. Discussion: Prior to motion, Chairman Murphy noted the budget for Fire Protection was changed, \$93,730, due to votes on the individual fire companies. Commissioner Stewart noted that the training line item seemed extremely low but there was no information to substantiate it. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the FY 2023-2024 Dispatch budget for \$478,850. Discussion: Chairman Murphy did not think there is enough funds to outfit four (4) new dispatchers. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Commission Secretary budget of \$1,000. Discussion: Per the Commission, the budget should be more. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Building budget for \$82,500. Discussion: Lt. Radford noted he gets the budget for the building but it is run and operated by Public Works. Commissioner Stewart he electricity for this year seems to be more; Mayor McDaniel remarked there is a locked in rate for it. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the FY 2023-2024 for Fire Marshal Private Duty budget for \$3,000. Discussion: none. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the FY 2023-2024 Fire Marshal Emergency Management budget of \$134,392. Discussion: none. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the FY 2023-2024 Fire Marshal budget of \$110,894. Discussion: none. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to table the FY 2023-2028 Fire Department Capital Improvement budget to the March 2023 Commission meeting. Discussion: Information is needed on specific items; Commissioner Perkins suggested the Fire Chiefs come before the Commission for discussion of the same. Chairman Murphy noted not all chiefs are available on Mondays. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve a committee to investigate the separation of the Emergency Management Director and the Fire Marshal positions as requested by the Town Council.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to act on a motion to approve a committee to investigate the separation of the Emergency Management Director and the Fire Marshal positions as requested by the Town Council. Discussion: Commissioner Perkins asked why the motion included “as requested by the Town Council.” Chairman Murphy read into the record the February 15th email from Town Council Chairman McNally regarding the same. Commissioner Perkins inquired whether this request was a personnel matter as the Emergency Director and Fire Marshal are employees. She also asked about the reason for the request. The Commission is not being asked to hire anyone instead to consider the request. The Commission discussed tabling the item and having the Town Council Chair come to speak on the matter; Town Councilor Yuchniuk was unclear about the request for clarification. Commissioner Bauer asked what is the why for the request; specifically, what are the details. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer and Stewart. *Opposed:* Commissioners Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, and Perkins. 2-5, vote. Motion failed.

- c. Discussion and possible action on the organizational chart for the PD COLLECT System.

Lt. Radford reported the current organizational chart refers to the PD under the auspices of the RST and a revised chart is needed for the PD COLLECT System. At present, the ACO is not

currently a part of the system but may be in the future. The chart checks the box for accountability and accreditation.

Motion by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the organizational chart for the PD Collect System, as presented. Discussion: Commissioner Stewart asked who would be in charge of lockup; Lt. Radford remarked it would be himself or the general supervisor on shift. Roll Call vote. *In Favor:* Commissioners Bauer, Callaghan, Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed:* none. 7-0, vote. Motion carried.

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

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Resident Steven Frischling of 1606 Route 85 remarked on discussion as to transparency on public safety via digital media. He referenced a webpage entitled the Department of Public Safety confirmed by Mayor McDaniel is a legitimate Town agency. The Fire Marshal and PD post on the page that exists as means to convey public information page for the two (2) departments. As a public page, resident access should not be blocked as he has been. He requested information on the Town policy concerning transparency and preventing residents from viewing Town assets by the public.

14. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel remarked on PD interviews scheduled for tomorrow with the hope that all arrive here safely to keep the process moving forward quickly.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison. -- None

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins remarked on the Radio project and having received a couple from the fire department and is waiting for a couple more. She also received information regarding grants that she will look into. Once she obtains the information, she can meet with that group again and further asked if there is a grant writer in the Town. She also asked if there is a policy or procedure regarding rubber stamping and asked if it can be researched and/or reviewed and put on the Agenda. Commissioner Murphy asked that she send her request to him and he will see it is added to the Agenda. Commissioner Stewart remarked on the compressed budget timeline probably due to having a new Finance Director but said it was nice to see a complete budget that included salaries and said the Commission tries to do the best it can with the resources it has. He said all the emergency personnel are doing a good job but said there are growing pains with expansion. He then wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. Commissioner Perkins clarified her votes on the fire department budget that was based upon their submissions and asked when they present next year's budgets and want more money to present it. Commissioner Callaghan thanked the police for being there for the community, staying safe and keeping people safe. This is her first year with budget matters and looks for a better understanding of the process next year. Chairman Murphy remarked on the awesome job by Officer Kuckel and commented on the firefighting at the construction fire on Fitch Hill Road in 9 below zero weather who continued to work even with freezing body parts.

Additionally, the requests from the firefighter union will be looked at although they may not get everything they want. He also remarked he supports a Fire Marshal but not an administrator. He then thanked the Commission for sitting in interviews for police chief. Mayor McDaniel gave a shout out to two (2) residents regarding the Fitch Hill Fire.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 7-0; 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.**