

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – April 24, 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 Mickey Gillette, Gary Murphy, Thomas Pedersen, Karen Perkins, and Stephen Stewart. Absent were Commissioners William Bauer and Traci Callaghan. A quorum was present.

**4. Amendments to the Agenda**

**Motion** by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to consider and act on a motion to review radio equipment quotes for the four (4) Fire Departments and the Fire Marshal's Office, as New Business, Item 12.a. Discussion: none. Roll Call vote. *In Favor*: Commissioners Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed*: none. 5-0, vote. Motion carried.

**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 statistical reports from the departments for March 2023. Commissioner Stewart reported no report from the Building Department as the Building Inspector was in an motor vehicle accident, is hospitalized and had surgery.

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

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2023.

**Motion** by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Pedersen to approve the March 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: Commissioner Stewart noted a correction to the minutes on Page 8, Section 13, "*Kimberly Dole*" not Kimberly Doyle. **Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded Commissioner Stewart to amend the minutes accordingly. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried. **Motion** by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of

March 27, 2023, as amended. Discussion: none. Voice Vote: 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried. (*A vote was not taken on the original motion; instead, a new motion was made to approve the minutes, as amended.*)

**7. Remarks from the Public.**

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

**8. Remarks from Department Heads.**

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford reported a correction to his monthly report originally run on April 4, 2023, as to citations as follows: There were 909 calls for service by the PD for the month ending March 31, 2023. Also reported were 39 infractions, 4 juvenile summons, 15 misdemeanors, and 90 written warnings for a total of 148 citations.

Fire Department Report

There were no Fire Department statistics reported from Fire Marshal Barnes for the month ending March 31, 2023. See Item 9.a for individual Fire station statistical reports.

**9. Committee and Liaison Reports:**

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins reported the Montville Volunteer Firefighter Relief Committee met this evening to review stipends as follows: Montville Fire Company – 8 stipends; Mohegan Fire Company – 10 stipends; Chesterfield Fire Company – 3 stipends; 2 tax abatements; and Oakdale Fire Company – 6 stipends; 7 tax abatements.

Commissioner Perkins also read statistics into the record for the fire companies for the month ending March 31, 2023, as follows:

**Montville Fire Company (March 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>7</b>

**Mohegan Fire Company (March 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>12</b>

**Oakdale Fire Company (March 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>9</b>

**Chesterfield Fire Company (March 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>7</b>

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

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

**Town of Montville Animal Control Report (March 2023)**

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD FY</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>110</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>66</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>799</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

**Town of Salem Animal Control Report (March 2023)**

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD FY</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</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>5</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Commissioner Gillette remarked he had nothing to report. He welcomed Chief Blanchette and wished him good luck on his new assignment and looked forward to working with him.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

There no Building Department statistics reported for March 2023. Commissioner Stewart reiterated his remarks regarding the status of Building Inspector Jensen.

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	123				
Pending Permits	159	87	143	136	127	136	102	95				
Inspections	187	197	167	193	120	127	139	120				
Plan Reviews	62	70	67	71	57	70	62	69				
CO's	5	4	0	0	2	1	2	3				
Violation Notices	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	2				
Unsafe Notices	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	1				
Blight Identified	182	184	188	199	201	203	195	205				
Blight Abated To Date	454	454	459	467	479	478	487	491				

**10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.**

Chief Micah Messier remarked on the dry conditions of last month associated with multiple brush fires including a 5-acre brush fire and reported on a house fire at Oxoboxo Lake and another D & W Transport fire. Many responded and helped with the D & W fire that included assistance from volunteers and mutual aid from 13 fire departments who were on the scene from 1:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Chief said he pulled into his driveway at home near 1:30 p.m. Per a question by Chairman Murphy regarding the brush fire on Cherry Lane and the lack of radio communication, Chief Messier concurred there are a lot of bad frequency spots but spoke positively of the new radio system being used by the Town, the State and other communities. Chairman Murphy remarked on the \$1 million price for the new radios, the Town having to research towers, and the need for the new radios for the new radio system. He also remarked on the State support for infrastructure and the increased communication that will be gained with the new radio system and equipment.

**11. Unfinished Business.**

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

Chairman Murphy reported the Committee will meet on May 4th and it hopes to finish its work before the next Commission meeting.

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

Lt. Radford reported the progress of the formation of the Montville Police Department is still moving forward and is right on schedule.

- c. 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 had nothing new to report on the water tank installation. Chairman Murphy asked if contact could be made with the distributor who Fire Marshal Barnes commented he spoke with last week.

## **12. New Business.**

- a. To Consider and Act on to review the radio equipment quotes for the four (4) Fire Departments and the Fire Marshal's Office.

Commissioner Stewart remarked that the radio equipment quotes came in today and asked whether discussion should be pushed off until next month. He also noted there was not one (1) quote for all the fire companies. Chief Messier did not agree with the delay as the Town Council needs action to happen as soon as possible. Commissioner Stewart questioned why three (3) departments have requested Kenwood radios: Chief Messier uses the vendor that the Town uses and it can only supply Erik or Motorola radios; he also has used this vendor consistently for service. The Kenwood, Erik, Harris and Motorola brands are the best for their line of work as it is a sturdy brand as the radios are subjected to different environmental conditions and get dropped a lot. Commissioner Perkins meet twice with the Fire Chiefs who determined the radio equipment they needed; the quotes for the equipment were received yesterday and presented this evening. The Cherry Lane incident was deemed a good example for having better communication equipment. Additionally, Dispatch can communicate with the radio brands chosen and although the cost of the equipment is a lot, better communication is the end goal in addition to an upgrade in frequency for fire and police. Schools are also having to make sure recommendations for current building are applied when constructed.

Requests for portables at Montville Fire Company were questioned and it was noted by Chief Messier that the company has always had banks of radios. The Chief also noted that a Finance Meeting was being held tomorrow and the cost for the all the apparatus for the fire companies and the fire marshal's office is approximately \$700,000. There is also no cost to access the State communication system; only the equipment needs to be supplied according to Lt. Radford. The possibility for grants, federal and state, were discussed to offset costs and there are some available for schools all dealing with communication. A radio will be supplied to each paid firefighter so they will have their own individual identifier given a mayday situation; modules for dispatch console have been ordered and will be installed; and the ability to simulcast for "dead areas" on the State system, were all noted by Fire Marshal Barnes. He also noted by staying with the Harris radio money is being saved by changing radio bodies and antennas. The use of chargers versus batteries for the radios was also explained by Chief Messier. Commissioner Perkins questioned how the Town Council would decide on the funds for the radio equipment; Chairman Murphy deemed that based on past experience the Town Council will determine a dollar figure that the Fire Chiefs will need to work with but he suggested the Fire Chiefs attend the upcoming Finance Committee and Town Council meetings.

**Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to move forward the radio equipment quotes for the four (4) fire companies and the Fire Marshal's office of approximately \$700,000 to the Finance Committee and the Town Council for review and consideration. Discussion: none. Roll Call vote. *In Favor*: Commissioners Gillette, Murphy, Pedersen, Perkins, and Stewart. *Opposed*: none. 5-0, vote. Motion carried.

**13. Remarks from the Public. (*Non-agenda items only—three-minute limit*) -- None**

**14. Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor McDaniel was absent from the meeting.

**15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.**

Town Councilor Yuchniuk asked that someone from the Commission sends an email tonight to the Town Council Chairman so the fire department radio equipment quotes are added to the agenda for tomorrow's Finance meeting. He also suggested that the Fire Chiefs be present at that meeting. The Town Councilor also noted for the record that he did not receive the fire department call reports and asked that he be added to the email chain. Also, he questioned whether the fire department reports were a duplication of calls or if they are all independent. Chief Messier explained the EMS calls are accurate per the EMS Charts; however, the fire and MVA calls are not but can be obtained from Dispatch. The fire reports gives a better look at what the departments are doing and Dispatch can provide starting and ending numbers for calls by department. The Police Chief will be responsible for handling the monthly report as of July; a report the Fire Marshal used to prepare.

**16. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Pedersen thanked the fire departments for the work they do that at times can be a thankless job. Commissioner Stewart welcomed the Police Chief and noted the progress being made on updating the communication system and his displeasure with getting information at the last minute. Commissioner Perkins noted the delayed receipt of the fire department quotes was her inaction, not the Fire Chiefs. Chairman Murphy welcomed the new Police Chief and looked forward to seeing him at meetings and asked that he reach out to him with any questions he might have. He also thanked the firefighters who were present at the scrap yard fire and noted the intensity of the burning and smoke that garnered Facebook complaints on the health aspects of it. The scrap yard had dry hydrants but the pipe to them was broken so tankers were called into action, 13-14 of them, a quick decision to dispense water. The Chairman also noted the response of area fire departments to the bridge tanker fire; New London was surprised by the number of apparatus at the scene at that hour of the day.

**17. Adjournment.**

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 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.**