

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – June 26, 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. A moment of silence was held to commemorate the memory of Montville K9 Officer Barrett.

**3. Roll Call.**

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

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

**5. Special Recognitions and Presentations**

Chairman Murphy read excerpts from thank you letters sent by and at the request of Police Chief Blanchette to the department heads and their staff who assisted and accompanied Officer Daniel Witts and his family for the final escort for his partner, K9 Barrett and the Montville Police Department. They included the Norwich Police Department, Connecticut State Police (Troop E, Montville; Troop K, Colchester; Troop D, Danielson; Connecticut State Police Kennel), Rhode Island State Police, and the Cranston, Rhode Island Police Department. Specific department individuals were noted by name as identified in the letters sent by email by Chief Blanchette on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**6. 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 May 2023.

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

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2023.

**Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to approve the May 22, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: none. Voice Vote: 4-0-0, all in favor.  
**Motion carried.**

**8. Remarks from the Public.**

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

**9. Remarks from Department Heads.**

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford reported the Police Department statistics for month ending May 31, 2023. Reported were 899 calls for service. A total of 144 citations issued included 32 infractions, 3 juvenile summons, 20 misdemeanors, and 89 written warnings. Also reported was attendance by the Department at the First Responders Event at the Montville Farmers Market that went well and the Commission was thanked for assisting with dispatcher interviews. The interviews were last minute and Commission help was appreciated. Lt. Radford also reported that Officer Witts has since secured another canine, Sig, and they will start official training shortly. He also responded to a question by Chairman Murphy regarding the status of the case, specifically the charges, sentencing, and plea deal, in which Officers Witts and Barrett were involved. The case was said to be solid and additional time for the assailant will be requested; the next court date is scheduled for August.

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported Fire Department Statistics for the month ending May 31, 2023, as follows: Inspections of businesses and apartments (58), Fire investigations (2), Incident responses/requested to the scene (2), Burn permits issued (24) and New Business inspection (1). During the month of May, a total of two (3) hours was spent on Emergency Management obligations.

**10. Committee and Liaison Reports:**

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins read into the record statistics for the individual fire companies for the month ending May 31, 2023. These statistics were emailed to the Commission and Town Councilor Yuchniuk.

**Montville Fire Company (May 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>16</b>

**Mohegan Fire Company (May 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>10</b>

**Oakdale Fire Company (May 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>4</b>

**Chesterfield Fire Company (May 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>6</b>

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

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

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

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD FY</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>126</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>75</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>977</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>

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

	Month	YTD FY
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</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>6</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</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 met with Chief Blanchette and Lt. Radford on the status of the Department.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

There was not a Building Department statistics reported for May 2023. Department head position is still vacant.

**2022-2023 Building Department Report**

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
<b>Permits Issued</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>123</b>				
<b>Pending Permits</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>95</b>				
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>120</b>				
<b>Plan Reviews</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>69</b>				
<b>CO's</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>				
<b>Violation Notices</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>				
<b>Unsafe Notices</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>Blight Identified</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>205</b>				
<b>Blight Abated To Date</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>491</b>				

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

**12. Unfinished Business.**

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

Chairman Murphy remarked this item was skipped.

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

Lt. Radford reported that the celebration of the formation of the Montville Police Department on July 1 is on schedule with a lot of positive results. There is a fingerprinting issue that is being resolved otherwise things are moving forward. He also reported on a positive meeting with Commissioner Gillette and stated Corrigan will house the PD male prisoners; the Department will hold the female prisoners.

- 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 reported the intake appliance is on order and once it arrives a contractor has been lined up to install it. The Commission will be notified of the same.

**13. New Business. -- None**

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

Lt. Radford asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

**15. Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor McDaniel remarked on the fitting tribute for K9 Officer Barrett and the teamwork of the Police Chief and the Department for organizing it and for supporting Officer Witts during his time of loss and sorrow. It is hoped that a monument can be attained in K9 Barrett's honor. He also reported he contracted with the SE CT COG today for building official services to keep the Building Department afloat with the help of Vern Vesey until a fulltime Department head is hired. There are currently more than 30 applicants in the building official services program potentially pending certification. The development of a succession feeder plan for the future of the Department will be considered. The Mayor also remarked on the hired, certified dispatchers in the Department, that is now fully staffed, and who are being trained on the Town system. Additionally, the clerk position for the PD has been filled internally thus leaving a vacancy in the Fire Marshal's office. The IT Department has been working on intricacies with components in the police vehicles with the State as part of the PD transition specifically and other concerns. Police Chief Blanchette is working on legal issues regarding records management and redaction processing. Mayor McDaniel also remarked he is looking forward to the Saturday celebration for the PD and praised Chief Blanchette for doing a fantastic job so far and to all of the men and women of the Department.

**16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.**

Town Councilor Yuchniuk reported the July 1 Police Department ceremony is finalized and he asked that Commissioners arrive between 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**17. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Perkins congratulated Lisa Covish on her new position with the PD stating it is a good position for her. She asked that all reach out to Officer Witts as she was saddened as well as an animal lover. Commissioner Perkins then wished everyone a safe holiday.

Chairman Murphy remarked to Lt. Radford regarding a band and baseball camp being held at St. Thomas Moore. All of three (3) of their dorms will be occupied and some of the 200 or more attendees will be staying overnight over the next two (2) weeks. He then remarked to everyone to have a safe and enjoyable weekend and said he was looking forward to Saturday.

**18. Adjournment.**

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0-0; 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.**