

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – October 23, 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 Chairman Gary Murphy; Vice-Chair Stephen Stewart, and Commissioners William Bauer, Traci Callaghan, Mickey Gillette and Karen Perkins. Commissioner Thomas Pedersen was absent.

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

**5. Special Recognitions and Presentations,--*None***

**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 the month of September 2023. Vice-Chair Stewart remarked that the report was not received from the Building Department; Mayor McDaniel reported it was being worked on.

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

- a.** The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2023.

**Motion** by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2023. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0-0, all in favor.  
**Motion carried.**

- b.** The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2023.

**Motion** by Commissioner Callaghan; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2023. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0-0, all in favor.  
**Motion carried.**

**8. Remarks from the Public. (Agenda items only—three-minute limit.)**

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 September 30, 2023. Reported were 944 calls for service. A total of 120 citations were issued that included 33 infractions, 1 juvenile summons, 12 misdemeanors, and 74 written warnings. New Officer DeSimone was sworn in and is going through the process; everyone else is doing well with training and certifications. Lt. Radford also presented Commissioner Bauer with a commemorative patch in honor of the Department’s Independence as given to the Commission two (2) months ago.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported Fire Marshal Statistics for the month ending September 30, 2023, as follows: Inspections of businesses and apartments (46), Fire investigations (2), Incident responses/requested to the scene (5), Burn permits issued (1), Plan Review (1) and Final C/O Inspection (1). During the month of September, a total of six (6) hours was spent on Emergency Management obligations. The Fire Marshal was sad to announce that Deputy Fire Marshal Milton excepted a position with the Norwich Fire Marshal Office; his last day will be November 9, 2023. The union has posted the position with a closing date of Friday, October 27. If there are no viable applicants from the union search, the position will be posted publicly. Hiring was advertised again for firefighters per second interviews with the candidates by him and the Human Resources Officer from the interviews conducted by the Commission. For various reasons the quality of the applicants did not suit and the position was reposted with a closing date of October 27, 2023, although there are currently some applications. Fire Marshal Barnes also thanked Mayor McDaniel for his twelve years with the Town of Montville and his ongoing support of the Department over the years.

**10. Committee and Liaison Reports:**

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins emailed the monthly statistical reports for the fire companies to the Commission as shown below. She is working on getting the breakdown of calls for the companies from Dispatch that she will forward to the Commission once received. Commissioner Perkins also reported the Firefighter Relief Fund held earlier this evening. Stipends were awarded as follows: Montville six (6) stipends; Mohegan seven (7) stipends; Chesterfield two (2) stipends and two (2) tax abatements and Oakdale five (5) stipends and nine (9) tax abatements.

**Montville Fire Company (September 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>136</b>

**Mohegan Fire Company (September 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>151</b>

**Oakdale Fire Company (September 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Accident Calls</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>73</b>

**Chesterfield Fire Company (September 2023)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>48</b>

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

The statistical reports for the month ending September 30, 2023, submitted by ACO Swanson are as follows:

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

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD FY</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>294</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

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

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD FY</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>1</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>1</b>	<b>1</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>

Commissioner Callaghan had nothing new to report.

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Commissioner Gillette had nothing to report.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

Commissioner Stewart remarked that he spoke last Monday with the COG representative who is filling in at the Department who explained that he and Vern Vessey worked limited hours. Per their point of view, the Department report is a low priority. The Department is working on 2-3 big projects and a lot of individual, residential solar installation. Mayor McDaniel reported that recruitment of building officials is a global issue. The COG is being looked at to use regional funds from the State to navigate this difficult situation that will be a growing trend. Grants will be sought to train individuals using a tiered approach, an apprentice program, for retention. He explained the COG model for recruitment and retention. The Mayor will be attending the COG meeting on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> when the COG model will be discussed.

<b>2023-2024 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>Pending Permits</b>												
<b>Inspections</b>												
<b>Plan Reviews CO's</b>												
<b>Violation Notices</b>												
<b>Unsafe Notices</b>												

<b>Blight Identified</b>												
<b>Blight Abated To Date</b>												

**11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.**

Chief Truex of the Chesterfield Fire Company reported that things are going reasonably well with the new schedule for fulltime firefighters. His one concern was having two (2) career firefighters working who cannot work separately given that volunteers are not coming out for night calls; it seems to him to be a waste of manpower. The Chief asked whether the plan was an affirmed intention by the attorney and if so remarked it would be in the Town’s best interest to seek legal clarification to separate the career staff. If the question has not been asked, it is working against proficiency. Chairperson Murphy remarked that his opinion would be to seek the advice the new mayor and Town Council as he is not certain if the Commission has any say in the matter. He noted that the Mayor, the Union, and the Town Attorney work as a team. Chief Truex intends to go to the Town Council but wanted to start here with the Commission per the Charter. Commissioner Perkins questioned the new schedule for firefighters at two (2) of the fire companies. Mayor McDaniel remarked on having operational control at the request of the Fire Chiefs for the new work schedule and that the two-man career firefighter decision was the result of arbitration. Further, volunteers are supposed to be responsible for night coverage as first responders as part of their agreement; career staff acts to supplement the volunteers. It was acknowledged that the schedules should be given time to determine what is or what is not working.

**12. Unfinished Business. -- *None***

**13. New Business.**

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to request additional employees to comply with increased minimum staffing requirements, from 13 to 16 employees, per the terms of August 18, 2023, collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Montville and the Montville Firefighters Local #3386.

Fire Marshal Barnes remarked that when sending out his October 5<sup>th</sup> email he was not aware that during negotiations the three (3) open shifts would be covered by overtime. The Commission was put on notice that for the next budget year, a request would be made to them, the Town Council, and Finance for firefighters for those three (3) shifts that are being covered by overtime. It was noted by Mayor McDaniel that budget requests would be sent out over the next two (2) months. Fire Marshal Barnes also remarked on statistical data that has been generated over the past two (2) months concerning paid staff and volunteer responses to calls for service. Union President Tim Condon, 51 Gallup Lane, Waterford, explained the rational for the compiling the data became apparent with the recent schedule change and thus trying to figure out what does or does not work. The data search was heightened by the requests from Commissioner Perkins and Town Councilor Yuchniuk over the months with the caveat that the measurement of firefighter data has not been done well; currently the CAD system data is being gathered in communication with Lt. Radford and Dispatch. It was noted that the CAD

system is flawed and the statistics gathered are not designed to throw mud or cast blame but, instead to act as a benchmark, a snapshot of data. The data was provided by career firefighters on shift, handwritten, and although not a perfect system and potentially not accurate would reference data over a specific period of time on to show how the fire system is working. The data time period used was September 5 through September 30, 2023. Specifically, there were 221 responses to calls for service with an average of 9-10 calls for service daily. Of those calls, fire companies responded as follows: 177 or 80% by Montville; 156 or 70.6% by Mohegan; 19 or 8.6% by Chesterfield; and 83 or 37.6% by Oakdale. Of the 221 calls, the responses to the 43 fire calls were distinguished—out of 39 calls one or more companies were not able to respond. The busy time was determined as being 5:00 p.m. and capped at 9:00 p.m. when EMS calls were designated as 8% of which 68% had two (2) paid firefighters on the ambulance; 24% had one (1) paid and one (1) volunteer; and 8% has no paid staff. These EMS calls were further broken down into the percentages by fire company for certified firefighter presence during the date range for gathering information. Multiple calls when the fire companies did not respond were covered by mutual aid response which is common. Union President Condon concluded his report noting that in his 15 years this type of data has never been tracked and adding that assistance is needed for the fire companies to get volunteers. The Commission was noted as the entity that would survive the election and be charged with creating policy for the data presented this evening to be tracked and reviewed for trends. It was asked that this item be added to the next Commission meeting agenda. T. Condon also noted that the form created for the data was not 100% accurate and this data search was a means to stir curiosity to get data more readily and accurately.

**b. To Consider and Act on a Motion regarding the New Master Agreement for Fire Suppression Standpipe Systems on Bridges.**

Mayor McDaniel remarked that the information he forwarded on to the Commission about the New Master Agreement for Fire Suppression Standpipe Systems on Bridges is compressed and will be charged with a cost throughout the State. The Commission discussed working in compliance with the State directive and costs for each specific bridge per year. Mayor McDaniel sought a recommendation from the Commission on the Agreement.

**Motion** by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to accept and comply with the State on the New Master Agreement for Fire Suppression Standpipe Systems on Bridges. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0-1; abstention by Commissioner Perkins. **Motion carried.**

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

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

**15. Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor McDaniel remarked it was a pleasure to work with the Commission and thanked them for volunteering their time and expressed hope that they would continue to serve.

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

Town Councilor Yuchniuk reported on the Planning & Zoning Committee meeting to be held tomorrow when site review plans for the new, proposed Animal Control Facility will be discussed at 6:00 p.m. in Town Council Chambers. He also remarked on Fire Marshal Barnes' hope for more staff and his wish that he had made the request in the past during budget season even when he chaired the Commission indicating that three (3) employees would be stretch. Lastly, he noted that this may or may not be his last Public Safety meeting and expressed appreciation for the hard, important work being done by the Commission.

**17. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Callaghan wished Mayor McDaniel good luck and remarked she enjoyed working with him. Commissioner Perkins remarked that it is important that residents know their paid and volunteer firefighters particularly during a time of need and her aim to work on an initiative to get their names out to the public acknowledging that it makes a difference. She further thanked Mitchell Dole, Mikey Morin, and Adam Kaplan for their professionalism and care, on a personal note. She also reported on a fundraiser that will be held on Saturday, October 28, outside the Senior Center. Attending will be food vendors and two (2) live bands with 100% of the proceeds to be used to assist local veterans. Vice-Chair Stewart thanked Mayor McDaniel for his service to the Commission with hope that will enjoy time fishing and golfing. He also thanked the volunteers and paid fire personnel and the Police for their great service to the Town. The Vice-Chair also noted the upcoming Trick-or-Trunk on Saturday evening a Tyl. Commissioner Bauer thanked Mayor McDaniel on the things he has done during the past 12 years. He also expressed thanks to Lt. Radford for his police officer who provided ongoing CPR to a musician singing at the American Legion and later passed away. Commissioner Bauer conveyed his thanks and gratitude and that of the musician's wife and requested a formal thank you offline. He also echoed Commissioner Perkins on the awesome service of the police and fire service in Town. Chairman Murphy on behalf of the Commission expressed condolences to Commissioner Perkins on the loss of her husband. He remarked that a lot of citizens in your own district know who you are. He also reported on a Fire Prevention event that he and two (2) volunteers and paid fire staff would be attending and remarked on Commissioner Perkins' idea for the residents to know firefighters by name. The Chairman also commented on some of the ridiculous ambulance calls received many of which are psychological emergencies that add a lot of work and eat away at the people hired thus suggesting the need to possibly hire more EMTs. He also referenced the results of the Commissions interviews of potential firefighters indicating they were best candidates on that day. Lastly, Chairman Murphy thanked Mayor McDaniel for standing with the Commission, his appreciation for all he has done and his wish to him and Town Councilor Yuchniuk to be well.

**18. Adjournment.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0-0, 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.**