

## **TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**Regular Meeting – August 26, 2024 -- 6:00 PM**

**Town Council Chambers – Montville 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.**

Chairperson 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 Chairperson Gary Murphy, Vice-Chair Stephen Stewart and Commissioners Brian Baker, William Bauer, Tracy Callaghan, Mickey Gillette and Karen Perkins. A quorum was present.

#### **4. Alterations to the Agenda -- None**

#### **5. Special Recognitions and Presentations.**

##### **Badge Pinning Ceremony – Career Firefighter/EMT Darin Jones**

Fire Marshal Barnes recognized Firefighter/EMT Darin Jones who previously worked at the Mashantucket Fire Department; has lived in Montville for 18 years; grew up in East Lyme and graduated from East Lyme High School. Firefighter/EMT Jones began his career in East Lyme as a volunteer with the Flanders Fire Department while in high school. He graduated from Dean College with an Associate Degree in Sociology/Criminal Justice and from Eastern Connecticut State University with a Bachelors Degree in Sociology/Criminal Justice. He then worked at Pfizer in New London as a shift supervisor in the Emergency Services Unit doing firefighting/EMS and hazardous materials and thereafter worked 17 years at the Mashantucket Fire Department before being hired in Montville. Firefighter/EMT Jones' list of qualifications include Firefighter 2, Hazardous Material 472 Technician, Certified Diver and many others. He has been married to his wife Shannon for 16 years and has four (4) daughters Sean married to John, Madyson, Payton and Kamryn who are all present tonight with the exception of Payton. Payton is a sophomore at Montville High School who made the varsity volleyball team and her Dad felt it was more important for her to attend tonight's match. Also in attendance is his mom Diane and Aunt Sue Wangen. In off time, Firefighter/EMT Jones has coached all of his daughter's softball teams in Montville and coached high school football in East Lyme,

Montville and at St. Bernard's. He also took on the role of head coach for Norwich Tech in addition to coaching shot put and discus for the Norwich Tech Track program. The recognition ceremony was preceded by and followed by a bagpipe processional.

*The meeting recording was paused at 6:06 p.m. and resumed at 6:09 p.m. to allow for photos following the recognition ceremony.*

**6. Communications:**

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

Chairperson Murphy noted for the record receipt of statistical reports by the Commission from the Public Safety departments for the month ending July 2024. Commissioner Baker asked if it would be possible in the future to have the fire department reports sent out 24 hours before the meeting. Chairperson Murphy remarked that the question can be asked; Commissioner Perkins remarked that she sends the reports to the Commission once she receives them. The Chairperson and Commissioner Perkins remarked that notice would be sent to the fire departments to have the monthly reports sent a few days prior to the meeting.

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

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2024.

**Motion** by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Baker to approve the PSC Regular Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2024. Discussion: Commissioner Baker noted clerical corrections to the minutes as follows: Item 9—"Captain" not Police John Perry; Item 11—"shows" not sows discord; Item 12b—"supplement" not append; Item 13—"fire chief" not fire marshal and "M-13" not M-12 cited twice; Item 13b, their "Town's" fire service needs. Commissioner Perkins remarked that in the past she emailed Recording Secretary Gathers with corrections to the minutes and asked Commissioner Baker if he would do the same. She also noted that it helps to see the changes. **Motion to Amend** by Commissioner Baker; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart. **Voice vote: 7-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Motion** by Commissioner Baker; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the original motion as amended. **Voice vote: 7-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried, as amended.**

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

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

**9. Remarks from Department Heads.**

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford remarked that Commissioner Gillette has the Police Department statistics for July 2024. He then reported the July 2024 Animal Control statistics into the record. See Agenda Item 10b for that data. The Lieutenant reported that the Town Council had approved funding for upgrading the radio system for Dispatch and the PD is following State protocol and ordering the equipment needed for the 800 band width for the fire department and the Town as a whole. Correspondence to Chief Blanchette was read into the record concerning mutual aid requests

as follows: Waterford Police Chief Marc Balestracci praised Officer Kuckel, described as well prepared, professional and instrumental as part of a partial Regional Special Response Team for the Waterford Annual Waterford Day Parade on August 10. The large mass gathering was uniquely challenging from a public safety perspective requiring observation points and quick responses. East Lyme Interim Police Chief Michael Macek appreciated Officer Michaels for support, professionalism and stepping into a role for the safety of the 20,000 citizens who attended the Celebrate East Lyme Day 2024. The event required countless planning and security was the top priority to make it a safe environment. East Lyme Interim Chief Macek also expressed sincere appreciation and thanks for the assistance from Montville Dispatcher Jaskewicz concerning an individual with a gun on August 16. Information was relayed to the corresponding officers by Dispatcher Jaskewicz who alerted info to the East Lyme frequency—an alert, quick response and a job well done. Chairperson Murphy asked about the DWI checkpoint over the past weekend; Lt. Radford noted that it would take place this Friday, August 30.

#### Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Barnes read the Fire Marshal Statistics into the record for the month ending July 31, 2024, were submitted as follows:

<b>Fire Marshal's Office Activities</b>	<b>July 2024</b>
<b>Inspections of Businesses and Apartments</b> <b>A total of 191 individual inspections/reinspections</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Fire Investigation</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel)</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Requested to the Scene Q54 (Fire Marshal Barnes)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Burn Permits Issued</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Illegal Burn</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Construction Project Inspection</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Emergency Management Obligations</b>	<b>6 hours</b>

#### 10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

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

Commissioner Perkins reported that the July 2024 fire department statistical reports were sent to the Commission when received as follows.

##### **Montville Fire Company (June 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Canceled Calls</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>52</b>

**Montville Fire Company (July 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Canceled Calls</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>39</b>

**Mohegan Fire Company (July 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>182</b>

**Oakdale Fire Company (July 2024) No Report**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	
<b>EMS Calls</b>	
<b>Fire Calls</b>	
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	
<b>Other Calls</b>	
<b>Total Calls:</b>	

**Chesterfield Fire Company (July 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>75</b>

Commissioner Perkins remarked on the start of a new report from Dispatch for the month of July 2024 that will be reported each month as follows:

- 227 EMS Calls
- 35 Fires
- 214 EMS (Montville) – 7 out-of-Town assistance; 6 Mutual Aid

The Commissioner remarked she wants a fire report that identifies what actually goes on at the fire departments but also said she would meet with Dispatch monthly. The Commission will be emailed the report. Commissioner Perkins also remarked that the reports will be a starting point as to what occurs at the Fire Departments and Dispatch. Vice-Chair Stewart remarked the reports will reference the number of people, the number of calls and other activities such as training as reported by Chief Truex last month. The reports are a work in progress and the data from them will ensure that the budgets are done right and show the need to possibly hire more. The Vice-Chair also remarked that a lot of things require funds that is hard to approve and/or justify without proof. Commissioner Perkins referenced a quote she likes—"One Town, One Team." Chairperson Murphy likes the information on the report and remarked on having to call for mutual aid (Salem, East Lyme, Norwich, and the Mohegan Tribe) for coverage to the Town when paid firefighters are busy or out-of-town. Ultimately, obtaining "true" numbers as to who is covering the Town when departments are busy is needed. Commissioner Perkins questioned how much mutual aid is enough; the Chairperson wants to know the reason for the calls—number of paid staff in Town, the number of paid staff out-of-town, and the volunteers who are no shows—as paid staff at times will be slammed. Also, if two paid staff are responding there is no incentive for an EMT to come out to a call. Vice-Chair Stewart noted that the data needed is the number of people responding, the type of incidents, and the time of day. Commissioner Baker remarked he thinks there is a misunderstanding about mutual aid that he has heard two (2) ways. Specifically, there is the typical call when an out-of-town company comes to assist when there is a major incident but is not mutual aid when a department calls another department to take a backup call. Chairperson Murphy acknowledged that the Dispatch call information is great but it will not show the volunteers who are responding, as most will not go on a call when two (2) paid staff respond. He also reported having spoken with EMTs who do not respond because they cannot go to the calls but added there are volunteers who do come out but know they cannot respond to the call.

**b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)**

The July 2024 Activity Reports for the Towns of Montville and Salem submitted by Police Officer/ACO Bruce Rebelo were read into the record under Agenda Item 9 by Lt. Radford as follows:

**Town of Montville Animal Control Report (July 2024)**

Activity	Month	YTD FY
<b># of Animals Impounded:</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigate</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Enforcement Action:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Other Calls for Service:</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>

**Town of Salem Animal Control Report (July 2024)**

Activity	Month	YTD FY
<b># of Animals Impounded:</b>	<b>2</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>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Enforcement Action:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Other Calls for Service</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)**

Commissioner Gillette reported into the record the Police Department statistics for the month ending July 31, 2024, as follows:

Police Activity	Total
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>990</b>
<b>Citations:</b>	

<b>Infractions</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Juvenile Summons</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Written Warning</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Total Citations</b>	<b>155</b>

**d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart) – No Report**

<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>123</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Pending Permits</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>						<b>80</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Active Blight</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>						<b>TBD</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>246</b>
<b>Blight Abated To Date</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>						<b>TBD</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>527</b>

**11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.**

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex remarked on mutual aid factors and gave examples. First, if a department is out-of-town or handling a major issue in Town and a major issue occurs in Town, have the Mohegan Tribe handle it. This situation warrants doing the right thing at that time. Commissioner Perkins stated that she would get more details on the calls for the next Dispatch report. The second example cited by Chief Truex was paid staff versus volunteers on an ambulance acknowledging that volunteers will not show if two (2) paid staff are on a call. He explained that a lot less volunteers come out as the two (2) paid staff must stay together. Commissioner Perkins remarked that the purpose of the data is not to make people look bad and noted that issues exist; Commissioner Callaghan questioned if there is an incentive for volunteers. Chairperson Murphy remarked on looking at the data on the amount of calls from an individual each month for nonreportable incidents; Vice-Chair Stewart reported that call volume was up by 300 last year; Commissioner Callaghan noted that you cannot say no to calls that require lift assists. Commissioner Perkins proposed hiring more firefighters; Commissioner Baker remarked if 70% of calls are EMS why not hire per diem EMTs, an idea that can be reviewed at one-third of the cost for a firefighter at \$113,000. Chief Truex reported that he finally finished the last of the recommendations by the Fire Chiefs for the cost of a replacement M-37 versus new. The refurbishment for the truck only, not including tools and radio, is \$313,000, two-thirds the cost of new. The Chief is waiting for feedback from the other fire chiefs.

**12. Unfinished Business.**

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve a Policy to systemize and retain firefighter data to observe trends and effectiveness.

Chairperson Murphy remarked that this item would remain on the agenda for next month. Mayor Bunnell reported that research is still being done on the type of programs, the cost, user friendly and a discussion with Fire Marshal and IT and he asked the Commission to bear with him.

- b. Fire Companies Radio System Upgrades. *(Baker)*

Commissioner Baker remarked that Lt. Radford reported on this item.

### **13. New Business.**

- a. Discussion regarding the Town of Montville's preparation to respond to a catastrophic emergency like that in Oxford, CT. *(Stewart)*

Chairperson Murphy remarked that Vice-Chair asked him to add this item to the agenda. The Vice-Chair spoke on the thunderstorm a week or so ago that caused flooding and washed out roads in Oxford. It is hoped that the Town is better equipped to handle this type of situation and mentioned the dams in Town, i.e., Oxoboxo and the downstream near Williams Road where there are trailers. The Vice-Chair remarked that we need to do whatever we can to make the Town safer for this type of emergency, i.e. Public Works. Commissioner Baker reported on a June monsoon that occurred in 1982 and noted that it goes deeper than just emergency services. Chairperson Murphy asked that the Director of Emergency Services and the Assistant Fire Marshal come back at the next meeting with recommendations

### **14. Remarks from the Public. (three-minute limit).**

Chairperson Murphy responded to a question from Resident Matt Suarez at the last meeting about remarks on non-agenda items only for this Agenda item. Per the Town Clerk, this distinction began 15 years ago under former Commission leadership but the Commission has now changed its agenda to allow remarks on agenda and non-agenda items. Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Matt Suarez of 18 Cranberry Road asked what EMTs were spoken to as no one had asked him. He explained that he goes out on calls in case someone else does not come out but if he is not needed he does not go. Chairperson Murphy noted there are individuals that go out for all calls. M. Suarez also noted that volunteer numbers are down. Resident Kim Doyle of 19 Sharp Hill Road remarked she had attended several Commission meetings and had heard about the cost for staff. She did some investigation as to why more grants are not sought and noted it was because the Town does not have a fire department and therefore does not qualify for federal grants. She also noted presence of volunteers when brings food to husband and others who are working. K. Doyle also remarked that the Town is losing out on a lot of money that could be used for new staff and apparatus although she does not see the need for all the apparatus. As to the comment by Commissioner Baker about hiring more EMTs, K. Doye asked who is taking the ambulances as they are owned by the departments and inquired if he was buying new ones. Asst. Fire Marshal Meigel referenced a description from Wikipedia about mutual aid that is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries. He also reported



that the DFM states fire departments in town are crossing boundaries to assist other departments in town which is a mutual aid call since each have a separate FDID numbers. He remarked that the DFM mentioned when he spoke to ESO that all fire departments in town should have separate case numbers and that having one is correct. The ESO program also tracks calls for service and activities that provides information for application for grants if reported to the NIRFS. The ESO Program shows the four (4) separate data numbers that must be done per department in addition to calls for peak hours, whether a career or volunteer responds, mutual aid trends, and hourly trends. He also noted that call volume is needed for both paid and volunteer staff. DFM states that volunteers should not be discouraged from responding to calls as they should help the career staff in case someone gets hurt or take over or be available to act from the scene to respond to other calls. If the volunteer does not come out, they will not be able to take the call which makes matters worse. As taught in school, everyone should work together as a team, which is important. Additionally, DFM states that mutual aid should not be used as a crutch to solve low staff issues and that four (4) firefighters should be on an apparatus according to FNPA 1720 and the Town is violating that standard. As for recruiting, there are better incentives that will keep volunteers and it needs to be researched. Montville Fire Department Union President Tim Condon remarked on the good comments that have been made from this meeting. He reported that a year ago the data item on the Agenda was added and more volunteers were seen. The Town fire service is a combination department and he remarked we need to act like one and he dislikes the paid versus volunteer stuff. Change is occurring and everyone has a perspective. T. Condon suggested having a new communication model, a subcommittee with a strict agenda to keep on target. Everyone has an idea while not basing the perspective on data. He agreed with Commissioner Baker that a majority of calls are for EMTs that other towns are dealing with as well and there is a perception that they are not of higher wage. He suggested a new public safety study, a topic he discussed with Fire Chief Messer, and to sit together as equals and talk candidly outside of the public eye. Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex of 1046 East Lake Road remarked that no one is discouraging volunteers, certainly not at the chief level, for coming out and he is unaware how this comment began. Instead, we are getting feedback from volunteers that they are discouraged and the numbers are not there is one of the biggest things.

#### **15. Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor Bunnell remarked that he spoke with Commissioner Perkins a month ago regarding the activity calls—calls that are not met are mutual aid etc. One town, one report—medical calls should break down data was his thought including all activity as the Commission recommends the budget to the Town Council. The Mayor encouraged the departments to do the data to get the activity for inhouse training etc. If a fire chief is not present at the meeting, one should be able to look at the data to get a reasonable assumption as to needs. Use of EMS Charts has no cost but there is a cost for the EMS program. Both programs offer the same data and the Mayor is considering them before passing them on to the Commission. As to the ordinance to declare for paid firefighters (per Public Act 24-16) as requested by the Commission, the Town Council sent it back to the Town Attorney for review. A special meeting of the Town Council will be set on the same to set a public hearing to identify who declares for firefighters. The Animal

Control Facility project per the DECD, the authorizing agency, is seeking more information, specifically, a Town Resolution to accept funds for the new facility and have asked to have a State Historic Office review the old facility for historic value or to have it demolished. Questionnaires are also being issued asking about square footage along with a lot of other information. Mayor Bunnell welcomed Firefighter/EMT Jones as a tremendous asset to the Town and praised his strong Town and family values and his wealth of experience and training. It was noted that Firefighter/EMT Jones was now working on his own. As for the Route 32 paving, it should be completely finished by next year north of Massapeag Road but stripping and lines should be done by next week, weather permitting. He also expressed thanks to the towns of Waterford and East Lyme for their compliments toward the Montville Police Department for providing mutual aid. Lastly, the Mayor also reported that the Town will hire an Assistant Building Official thru the SCCOG who will take the test for the position. The process should take two (2) months with hope that the trainee will pass the test and come on board.

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

Town Councilor Sabilia was absent from the meeting.

**17. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Baker remarked on comments by Deputy Marshal Meigel regarding NFPA 1720 that requires two in/two out on fire apparatus for career staff. The Commissioner noted that it also applies to combination staff per NFPA 1710 but remarked that he was not aware of any town that could guarantee that staffing standard and all do the best they can. He also remarked on annual agreements with neighboring municipalities to provide mutual aid to the best of ability with consideration given to times that are available and times that are not. Additionally, the Commissioner remarked on ambulances and who is staffing them. He explained that career staff operate ambulances owned by the fire department and asked what was the difference if a per diem employee was doing it given that both are Town employees. He also noted that the purchase of new ambulances would not be needed. Lastly, Commissioner Baker reported on a water supply drill held at the Public Works Department on August 4<sup>th</sup> where water shuttles with tankers supplied one (1) of the Town engines for fire flow. Approximately 30 people from surrounding towns were present working as a team of mutual aid partners. The Commissioner then thanked those who provide emergency service to the Town. Commissioner Perkins congratulated Firefighter/EMT Jones on his hire and for now working on his own and also thanked Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel for speaking monthly at the Commission meetings. As to the water supply drill, the Commissioner noted that the training initiative was awesome and should be information sent from the Fire Chiefs. She then thanked the volunteer and career staff and mentioned the upcoming holiday weekend as well as her vacation. Commissioner Stewart remarked that it is nice to hear that mutual aid is being given and that the corresponding letters are good to hear. He also remarked that he agreed with T. Condon about having a meeting to solve problems, getting information out there, and making it fun. He wished everyone a good, safe weekend. Commissioner Perkins also thanked Fire Chief Truex for

attending the meeting and appreciates his input to her comments/questions. Chairperson Murphy remarked that Waterford has five (5) firefighters, East Lyme has four (4) and Bozrah and Salem each have two (2) firefighters stating they all have the same problems and issues that the Town has, even with volunteers. He remembered days when 20-30 individuals showed up for calls noting that the career staff do a wonderful job and work hard and mentioned improvement but noted that a lot of them began their career at the Oakdale station. The Chairperson also remarked that he is a taxpayer who has health issues as do others that he knows but stated firefighters are doing the job and said improvement may be needed but to his knowledge no calls have not been answered, but may have been delayed—he used the example of an ambulance having to travel from one side of Town to another. He also mentioned that every department also has 2-4 people who are relied on—when they show up they are available when they are not there it is a problem. Chairperson Murphy also reported that since 2012, the Oakdale station has obtained \$2 million in federal grants for air tanks, an evac system for a fire truck, a washing machine, and for training grants. He noted that the firefighter grant is good for five (5) years to help pay their salaries but once that grant ends municipalities must pay the massive bill for firefighters hired under the grant program. The Chairperson also noted that even small towns that have 2-3 people working are effected but gave respect to the firefighters and police who put their life on the line on and off the job not hesitating to jump into an incident. He also acknowledged that volunteers have become discouraged even given the incentive (tax abatement) and more so when the two (2) paid firefighters initiative began. Although he understood why the move was made he reflected on what has happened since its onset.

**18. Adjournment.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 7-0-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers

Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

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