

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – September 23, 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 6:01 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 and Karen Perkins. Commissioner Mickey Gillette was absent from the meeting. A quorum was present.

**4. Alterations to the Agenda.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to add New Business Item 13a. Discussion on the NexGen system. Discussion: Vice-Chair Murphy asked whether the item is incorporated under Item 12b on the agenda. Commissioner Baker remarked that the system is for notification so he wanted it kept separate. **Voice vote: 6-0-0, all in favor.**  
**Motion carried.**

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

**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 August 2024. It was also noted that the report from the Mohegan Fire Company was not received.

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

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024.**

**Motion** by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Baker to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 6-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

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

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Mike Morin of 117 Seabury Road, Lebanon has been a firefighter in Town for nearly 26 years. He remarked about the line item regarding firefighter data that has been on the agenda for a year and discussion at the last meeting regarding call responses, the four (4) paid staff on duty during the day and discouraged volunteers. M. Morin noted that more volunteers are needed and suggested an EMT course in schools to get kids interested early.

**9. Remarks from Department Heads.**

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford read into the record the Police Department statistics for August 2024 found under Agenda Item 10c. He also reported on the Animal Control monthly statistics for August 2024 due to the absence of Commissioner Gillette. That data can be found under Agenda Item 10b. The Lieutenant also reported on positive correspondence to Chief Blanchette from Resident Mike Sergio concerning Sergeant Spring, Sergeant Galdenzi and Officer Mora regarding a vehicle that ran a stopped sign, struck his house, and left the scene on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Within an hour, these officers located and identified the offender who was charged with DUI, evading responsibility and several other charges. Noted by the resident was the professionalism, confidence and overall demeanor of the PD personnel. Connecticut Statewide Dare Coordinator TFC White expressed gratitude for Officer Todd who did an exemplary job with presenting middle school lesson #2. Dare Officer Todd adapted and developed the upgraded, new material of the Dare America middle school curriculum and was described as a highly motivated participant. Lt. Radford also reported on a meeting held on September 10 regarding the new Animal Control Facility. That project meeting with the Engineer involved requirements for rebid and work on the estimate for completion by September 30. On Friday, October 4 the bid documents are estimated to be released if approved by the Department of Economic and Community Development (“DECD”).

Chairperson Murphy asked about the protocol concerning tinting for car windows and whether the PD has tint meters, per a discussion had with Town residents and others last week. Lt Radford reported the PD does not have tint meters as they were out-of-stock. Chief Blanchette reported that darker tints for rear windows are installed from the factory and per law 35% of light must pass through the meter. Rear car windows can be fully tinted with the exception of two (2) side mirrors. Windshields must have less than 35% tint although a medical exemption can be sought and the 35% tint measure is exempt for police and livery vehicles. Chairperson Murphy explained that someone was stopped at a light and heard screaming coming from the adjacent car but was unable to see if someone was being assaulted from the car side window due to the tint. Chief Blanchette spoke of after-market tint on vehicles and others from out-of-state that have different local regulations that are not really targeted. He did state that

reflective, mirrored tint that causes glare is illegal and stated this concern can be looked at. Commissioner Baker asked for the status on the Dispatch radio hardware/software; Lt. Radford responded that upgrades are done by the Town IT Department and his having contacted Communications Plus but there is a wait for the licensing key for upgrades and a wait for the go ahead from the State.

#### Fire Marshal Report

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

<b>Fire Marshal's Office Activities</b>	<b>August 2024</b>
<b>Inspections of Businesses and Apartments</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Fire Investigations</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel)— 23 EMS/1 CO/5 Fire Alarms/5 MVAs/1 Hazmat/1 Utility Emergency</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Requested to the Scene Q54 (Fire Marshal Barnes)—1 CO/1 Fire Alarm/1 Hazmat/1 Utility Emergency</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Burn Permits Issued</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Illegal Burn</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Construction Project Inspection</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Emergency Management Obligations</b>	<b>4 hours</b>

The Fire Marshal noted that he was asked to provide a breakdown of calls for him and Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel. He also reported that Home Depot contacted him regarding Fire Prevention Day on Saturday, October 5. Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel sent emails to the Town fire departments on the same. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and will include Touch a Truck and a build a kit for fire trucks for kids. There is no cost for the event. Chief Blanchette also reported on National Light Out on Friday, September 27 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Fair Oaks. The event is for youth and will include a fire department Touch a Truck, children's activities and free food.

#### **10. Committee and Liaison Reports:**

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

Commissioner Perkins reported that the August 2024 fire department statistical reports were sent to the Commission for Montville, Chesterfield, and Oakdale as follows.

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

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Canceled Calls</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>26</b>

**Oakdale Fire Company (July 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>77</b>

**Oakdale Fire Company (August 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>81</b>

**Chesterfield Fire Company (August 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>88</b>

Commissioner Perkins reported on the Dispatch statistics for the month of August 2024 as follows:

**Dispatch Calls (August 2024)**

<b>Fire Calls</b>	
<b>In Town (CO/ fire alarm/hazmat/illegal burn</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Montville assisted out of town—(1) provide manpower assistance/equipment; the other standby)</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	
<b>Montville in town – (20 were lift assists)</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>Montville assisted out of town – (from providing manpower/equipment to transport)</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Montville requesting assistance (transport)</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>242</b>

Commissioner Perkins responded to a question posed at the last Commission meeting concerning the number of lift assists—for July 2024 there were 17.

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

The August 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 (August 2024)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD FY</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Enforcement Action:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Other Calls for Service:</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>118</b>

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

<b>Activity</b>	<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>0</b>

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<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>8</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)**

Lt. Radford read into the record the Police Department statistics for the month ending August 31, 2024, as follows:

<b>Police Activity</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1092</b>
<b>Citations:</b>	
<b>Infractions</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Juvenile Summons</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Misdemeanors</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Written Warnings</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Total Citations</b>	<b>229</b>

**d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)**

<b>2024-2025 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>135</b>	<b>153</b>										
<b>Pending Permits</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>102</b>										
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>106</b>										
<b>Active Blight</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>252</b>										
<b>Blight Abated To Date</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>531</b>										

Vice-Chair Stewart reported that Commissioner Baker has reached out to the Department about a breakdown of the permits for residential, commercial, and industrial properties and they are working on that data. It was reported by Mayor Bunnell that Vern Vesey is getting more involved in Department activities and working with the trainee regarding procedures and programs alongside Dave Jenson.

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

**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 there was nothing to report.

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

Commissioner Baker remarked that he had nothing to add to Lt. Radford's report given earlier.

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

Vice-Chair Stewart had nothing to report but stated the Emergency Management Director was asked by the Commission to research the issue of a catastrophic emergency. Fire Marshal Barnes distributed to the Commission a list of all the registered dams in Town that includes dates of inspection, the names of the dam owners, the hazard class and explanations for "B", "C" and "A" grades found at the back of the list. He reported that he spoke a couple times with Mike Caplet who works for the Department of Emergency Management for the State of Connecticut Emergency Management, has an office at Troop K and is the liaison in the area who provides resources. Fire Marshal Barnes also reported that two (2) of the dams have been recently upgraded and two (2) have been dismantled. Safety resources available include swift and cold water rescue teams, three (3) boats, firefighters who are certified cold water rescuers and dive teams. During emergency weather conditions, Fire Marshal Barnes suggested paying close attention to national weather forecasts in order to take action, having all fire chiefs in contact with each other and have everyone be a part of the Everidge alert system. He also noted that low lying areas in Town would be evaluated for evacuation purposes and remarked that all dams must be inspected by an engineer familiar with dam construction. There was also no information on how often dam inspections take place nor can dam owners be compelled to have dam inspections. It was noted by Mayor Bunnell that the list of dams should include the locations of them.

**13. New Business.**

- a. **Discussion regarding NexGen System.**

Commissioner Baker remarked on problems firefighters are having with receiving and/or missing notifications from NexGen in addition to "IamResponding." The notifications are not received sometimes for a period of four (4) minutes after a call is dispatched and what causes the glitches is not known. There is a need to look for background to better serve the need and as to how to get volunteers to come out. Lt. Radford remarked that the problem is not with NexGen; instead, it is a problem with the cell phone carriers as NexGen takes the information and sends it out. Chairperson Murphy reported on a call sent out regarding St. Thomas More the other day but no notification was transmitted from NexGen or IamResponding and

remarked although phones are nice pagers are good as well. According to Lt. Radford, the IT Director recommended an alternate when use of NexGen began and referred to a switch having to be reset occasionally and having individual receivers for each of the four (4) fire companies so each has its own receiving point to alleviate the switch problem. It is not known whether the individual receivers will help or not as the signals must still go through a cell carrier but the Lieutenant had not heard of a lot of missed calls or occasional delays. Commissioner Baker asked whether the delays can be fixed or minimized. Commissioner Bauer proposed that the root cause of the delays be determined by obtaining data to support the delays; Commissioner Baker remarked that information can be sent to the Fire Chiefs to attain dates and times of delays and when they happen. Commissioner Bauer questioned whether the data we are looking for is for delayed or missed calls. Per discussion, it was determined that delayed calls is the issue and having the Fire Chiefs check with the firefighters as to how to be notified as the notification systems are trying to keep up with the volume of calls. The data for missed calls can be investigated by the Fire Chiefs for discussion at the next Commission meeting per Commissioner Bauer. Commissioner Perkins inquired if the pagers are paid for by the fire companies; Commissioner Bauer questioned if the pagers are available why are they not used. Chairperson Murphy remarked that an initial notification should be by pager and noted that the Oakdale fire company pays for their own pagers. Paging is direct from Dispatch and not through cell carriers according to Vice-Chair Stewart and the call can be heard real-time with pagers per Lt. Radford. Commissioner Bauer again questioned why the pagers are not used; Chairperson Murphy noted that 80% of firefighters have a pager and noted that IamResponding will provide all information and pinpoints location. Who makes the decision regarding policy for pager use given the 20% shortfall as it seems the pager is the solution with the cell phone as secondary contact according to Commissioner Bauer who proposed that a recommendation can be made by the Commission offering resolution to the issue. Chairperson Murphy will find out the number of pagers; Commissioner Baker also noted that firefighters can respond intercompany so they get all calls. **Motion** by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Chairperson Murphy to have the Chairperson determine the number of pagers available for use by firefighters and have the Commission then move forward with Agenda, Item 13a at next month's meeting. Discussion: Commissioner Perkins asked if she should still contact the Fire Chiefs. Chairperson Murphy confirmed that he will find out the number of pagers each fire company has. **Voice vote: 6-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

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

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Resident Matt Suarez of 18 Cranberry Drive remarked that NexGen works timely and that he used to get communication from all four (4) fire companies but someone used that to limit nonresponders. He referenced too many were on the system but he can still get notifications regarding the east side of town, not the west side. M. Suarez also remarked that he uses his pager when in town but shuts it off outside of town. He also noted that everyone at his fire company, Mohegan, has a pager. Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel remarked that communication issues are ongoing throughout the State with a



conversion to use of pagers. Cell phone use puts a concentrated, big demand on cell phone towers as everyone uses them. There are ways to get messages and IamResponding has multiple ways to respond. Commissioner Bauer ask Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel about ways to get messages (text or email), the problems the fire departments go through with NexGen and his experience with each. The Deputy Fire Marshal reported on problems had with certain cell phone carriers and having to change the settings on one phone. IamResponding is an ESO program that pushes out data to recipients but also holds data to track and holds stagnant as there is no director to use ESO. The program trends effectiveness and will allow all components for notifications—building size, pictures, access to it, and the size of the property. Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel asked that the program be reviewed to help everyone inclusively.

**15. Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor Bunnell remarked that the ordinance to declare for paid firefighters per Public Act 24-16 regarding cardiac, stroke, and pulmonary embolism in a line of death duty as requested by the Commission was finalized by the Town Council on September 16. The contract for the replacement M-12 for the Montville Fire Company was signed and delivered and thanks was given to Commissioner Baker for helping to get it pushed through. The Mayor also remarked that he was in agreement with Firefighter Morin regarding the data program issue and asked that the line item be included on the next meeting agenda for appointment of a subcommittee of three (3) commissioners. The subcommittee will review the data programs and come back to the Commission with a recommendation. Congratulations was expressed for the three (3) police officers cited this evening in addition to the DARE Officer who continue to follow those who started the program—Officers Dave Rowley, Dennis Monahan, and Karen Aleshire. In addition, meetings have recently started with the current DOC administration and commitment was obtained regarding community safety and the inmate work force that has less of a count which means less people qualify. Lastly, Mayor Bunnell, he is in regional talks with Norwich, the Mohegan Tribe, the Norwich Golf Course, and State legislators to relieve flooding on Route 365—elimination of the Trading Cove Dam to eliminate water on the road and to help elevate the fish population.

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

Town Councilor Sabilia addressed the unfinished business regarding firefighter data and remarked on the importance of moving it forward as much as we can. He also thanked Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel for bringing a lot of information to the meetings.

**17. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Baker thanked all public safety officials and remarked he was appreciative of the jobs they do and asked that they keep up the good work. Chairperson Murphy asked Mayor Bunnell if he would send his request in writing concerning formation of the subcommittee. He also expressed appreciation to the public safety staff for everything that they do and remarked that it is important.

**18. Adjournment.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 6-0-0, 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**