

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – October 28, 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.

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

4. Alterations 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.

Vice-Chair Stewart noted for the record receipt of statistical reports by the Commission from the Public Safety departments for the month ending September 2024. It was reported that reports were not received from the Montville and Chesterfield Fire Companies nor the Building Department.

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

- a.** The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Commissioner Baker to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2024. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

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

Vice-Chair Stewart asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

9. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford read into the record the Animal Control reports for the month ending September 30, 2024. See Agenda Item 10b for these statistics. The Lieutenant also reported that the Montville Police Department held its first annual “Fifth Quarter” Bonfire that took place after the Homecoming Football Game on October 10, 2024. The bonfire was a huge success, and the PD is looking forward to a bigger, better one next year. Thanks were given to the Fire Departments, Public Works, and the Fire Police who assisted with the event that would not have been possible without them. The new K9 process has concluded, and the PD is happy to announce that Officer Bayron Mora will be their next patrol K9 handler. Thanks was given to Commissioner Gillette for his assistance. An application was made for the FY25 DRE Grant (Drug Recognition Experts) for the PD instructor and the Department was awarded \$44,938.37 for the upcoming year for instruction, education, and travel. The Department is awaiting a response to an application for the FY25 DUI Grant per its request for \$65,000. Lt. Radford will also be applying for the DDHVE Grant for April of 2025. Lastly, he wished a happy birthday to all of the October 28th babies.

Fire Marshal Report

Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel read into the record the Fire Marshal Statistics in the absence of Fire Marshal Barnes for the month ending September 30, 2024, that were submitted as follows:

Fire Marshal’s Office Activities	September 2024
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments	98
Fire Investigations	3
Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel) 3 Fire Alarms/1 Hazmat	4
Requested to the Scene Q54 (Fire Marshal Barnes) 1 Hazmat	1
Burn Permits Issued	1
Illegal Burn	0
Construction Project Inspection	4
Emergency Management Obligations	6 hours

Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel reported on Fire Prevention Week at the three (3) elementary schools with 873 students and the bags given to each of them. He thanked the Chesterfield Fire Department for their participation with apparatus as well as the SRO and the Police Department. The Deputy Fire Marshal also spoke about fire department investment into the ESO Program outlining its features once the module is opened and the cost per department of \$1,000, all of which is on hold. Commissioner Perkins inquired about the hold status; the Deputy Fire Marshal spoke to preplanning for the ESO Program which the majority of the State is using. He

reported to Commissioner Bauer that the total cost for the program would be \$4,000 - \$5,000 annually. Further, he explained that some of the Town fire departments were not using the software and spoke about combining the data from the four (4) fire companies into one channel through him reducing the cost to \$1,000 annually. Any data changes regarding the program can be done by the Deputy Fire Marshal including one-click reports, tasks, and revisions to the program. When asked whether he had reached out to the Fire Chiefs, Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel remarked he had mentioned the topic, but some do not want to look into the program. He added that the ESO Program has cloud-based availability thus having the ability to work on the program anywhere. He also explained, per a question posed by Vice-Chair Stewart, that he has yet to do fire prevention at day care facilities as he does not have a full list of them but would be happy to do so as well as at the Tyl Middle School. The Deputy Marshal also responded to Commissioner Bauer regarding a statewide burn ban due to increased fires from the lack of rainfall and humidity although there is no information currently on the Town webpage and reported having attended a meeting on Saturday about the same. The Deputy Fire Marshal also responded to Vice-Chair Stewart about Fire Safety Day on October 5, 2024, at Home Depot and having been asked by the store management to discuss fire prevention.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins reported that the September 2024 fire department statistical reports were sent to the Commission for Mohegan and Oakdale. She also read into the record the data concerning the Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Committee meeting held earlier this evening and the Dispatch Report as follows:

Montville Fire Company (September 2024) – No Report

Incidents:	Total
Canceled Calls	
EMS Calls	
Fire Calls	
Motor Vehicles Calls	
Other Calls	
Total Calls:	

Mohegan Fire Company (September 2024)

Incidents:	In District	Out of District/In Town	Total
EMS Calls	68	65	133
Fire Alarm Calls	4	8	12
Structure Fire Calls	1	2	3

Motor Vehicles Calls	3	2	5
Search/Rescue Calls		1	1
Smoke Investigation Calls		2	2
Utility Emergency Calls	1		1
CO Emergency Calls		1	1
Vehicle Fire Calls		1	1
Total Calls:	77	82	159

Oakdale Fire Company (Oakdale 2024)

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

Chesterfield Fire Company (September 2024) – No Report

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	
EMS Calls	
Fire Calls	
Motor Vehicle	
Other Calls	
Total Calls:	

Volunteer Firefighter’s Relief Committee (July -- September 2024)

Fire Companies	Stipends	Tax Abatements
Montville	8	2
Mohegan	9	0
Chesterfield	*	*
Oakdale	8	7

*No Report -- on a fire call

Dispatch Calls (September 2024)

Fire Calls	
In Town–7 were lift assists	
Out-of-Town–3 assists from out-of-town/7 assists out-of-town	
Total:	34
EMS Calls	
Total:	223

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

The September 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 (September 2024)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	9	32
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	1	4
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	1
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	1
Total Complaints Investigated	50	185
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	2	7
Total Enforcement Action:	1	3
Total Other Calls for Service:	57	175

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (September 2024)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	0	2
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated:	3	11
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	1	1
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service	0	0

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Commissioner Gillette read into the record the Police Department statistics for the month ending September 30, 2024, as follows:

Police Activity	Total
Total Calls for Service	984
Citations:	
Infractions	23
Juvenile Summons	0
Misdemeanors	8
Written Warnings	126
Total Citations	157

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

2024-2025 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	135	153										
Pending Permits	99	102										
Inspections	118	106										
Active Blight	248	252										
Blight Abated To Date	529	531										

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.

Vice-Chair Stewart had no information to report on this item.

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

Commissioner Baker remarked that he had nothing new to report, but everything is moving along.

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

Vice-Chair Stewart remarked that an update was needed on the dams in Town as to which are private or not and a report on the same for the bridges as some were washed out.

- d. Discussion regarding NexGen System.

Commissioner Baker remarked that Chairperson Murphy was to provide feedback on the number of pagers available to firefighters in Town.

13. New Business.

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve selecting a subcommittee to review and investigate the two (2) currently used data programs by the Town's Fire Department, ESO and EMS Charts. The subcommittee upon their review will report back to the Commission with a recommendation as to which program should be the sole program providing data to the Town.

Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel remarked on additional expenditures associated with the ESO Program. There is a recurring fee of \$3,573 for each Town fire department but the price will be lower with one (1) module. It was read that the motion for this agenda item is to determine a subcommittee. Commissioner Baker noted that Mayor Bunnell asked to have a 3-member subcommittee. A Roll Call vote was taken as follows: ***In favor:*** Commissioners Bauer, Baker, and Stewart. ***Opposed:*** Commissioners Perkins and Gillette. **Vote:** 3-2-0. Commissioner Perkins noted she was not against the ESO program but remarked once a subcommittee is formed then nothing gets done and added that all Commission members should be on it. Commissioner Baker remarked that the 3-person subcommittee would be tasked to review both programs, meet with Town entities concerning the programs, schedule meetings and report back to the Commission on their findings on the better program. Commissioner Perkins noted that the subcommittee once formed could also decide that more members were needed. The Vice-Chair asked who would be interested in being a part of the subcommittee. Commissioner Bauer agreed to sit on the subcommittee as he was tired of talking about it but remarked he wanted to speak with the Deputy Fire Marshal and asked if it was in Lt. Radford's wheelhouse. A point of order was raised by Lt. Radford who remarked that the motion was not actually valid as there was no second to it. **Motion** by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Baker to enact a subcommittee to review the two (2) current data programs used by the Town's fire department, either ESO or EMS Charts, and offered if there is another program out there that it be reviewed as well. Discussion: Commissioner Baker remarked that the motion for the subcommittee by Mayor Bunnell was clear that three (3) Commissioners review the ESO and EMS Charts programs and make a recommendation as to which one is most appropriate. **Motion withdrawn.** **Motion** by Commissioner Baker; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to clarify that the subcommittee for review of the ESO and EMS Charts programs will consist of three (3) Commissioners. **Roll Call vote:** ***In favor:*** Commissioners Bauer, Stewart, and Baker. ***Opposed:*** Commissioners Perkins and Gillette. **Vote:** 3-2-0. **Motion carried.** Vice-Chair Stewart asked who wanted to be on the subcommittee who are expected to meet, collect data,

select a chair, hold meetings and asked to contact the Recording Secretary to post agendas. **Motion** by Commissioner Baker; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart that the three (3) Commission members appointed to the subcommittee are Commissioners Perkins, Bauer, and Baker. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

14. Remarks from the Public. (Three-minute limit.)

Vice-Chair Stewart asked three (3) times for remarks. Montville Professional Firefighter Tim Condon of 51 Galvin Lane, Waterford reported on two (2) career staff who delivered babies assisted by two (2) Town Police Officers. They were asked to sign the birth certificates and noted that these events are noteworthy in that responses are usually for fires and distress calls. He also thanked the Commission regarding Agenda, Item 13a, to bring to a close a record and retention system of fire department activities for future reference. Currently, the Town has no methodology, but he suggested that the fire departments also continue to track their own data that is not prohibited but will serve as a global level for the Town. Resident Matt Suarez of 18 Cranberry Drive apologized for his tardiness as he was on a call and the Town Hall building was locked. Vice-Chair Stewart introduced M. Suarez as the newly elected Chief of the Mohegan Fire Department as of the last meeting of that Department. Chief Suarez referenced having additional statistics for the Mohegan monthly statistics report given to Commissioner Perkins. He noted there were 50 calls not within the Mohegan district with no responding volunteers; eight (8) EMS transports with no paid staff and five (5) who went to the hospital with no career staff aboard. Additionally, he reported on transports by other departments outside of their district. There were 11 transports by other ambulances i.e., the Mohegan Tribe or by Oakdale or Chesterfield departments who provided coverage. Deputy Fire Chief Meigel thanked Cindy Breton in the Mayor's office, the Parks and Recreation staff and Melanie Rivera for stuffing the bags for the children for Fire Prevention Week.

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell congratulated new Mohegan Fire Chief Suarez and outgoing Chief Gaetano in appreciation and thanks for his service. He also remarked on a good start to an old program regarding Fire Safety Day and thanked Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel for bringing the program out of dormancy and to see what we can do better for next year. The Mayor noted the Pep Rally at the high school also made a comeback and thanked the four (4) Fire Departments and Public Works for their efforts in addition to Officer Aleshire for coordinating the event. The Trick or Trunk event had less trunks but was well attended and done safely with the presence of the Fire Departments, Public Works, Police Department, and Fire Police. Lastly, the new ACO Facility got State approval upon submission of all pertinent information and the invitation to bid will go out tomorrow on the State DES sites. The site visit by contractor will be held on November 5th and the bid opening will be on November 19th. The Mayor remarked we can finally say we are making progress.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Sabilia was absent from the meeting.

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Baker thanked all public safety responders for their hard work and dedication. He remarked on a structure fire in the Mohegan area that was dealt with quickly with everyone safe and acknowledged the great job done and to keep up the good work. Commissioner Bauer congratulated Fire Chief Suarez on new position as well deserved and remarked that he would reach out to Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel and Lt. Radford regarding Agenda, Item 13a as subject area experts to lead and guide the Commission subcommittee. Commissioner Perkins thanked the Police and Fire Departments and welcomed Fire Chief Suarez. Vice-Chair Stewart congratulated the Police Department on the grant it obtained and the others in process and remarked that he hoped this philosophy would continue for everyone. He also remarked that he hoped the subcommittee would work with timely resolution and conduct interviews as needed. The Vice-Chair also acknowledged an ongoing brush fire in East Lyme that started at 9:30 a.m. today and responses made by Chesterfield and Oakdale Fire Departments to the scene. He also noted that the brush fires in Town were kept small. Lastly, Vice-Chair Stewart wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to be safe.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Baker to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 5-0-0, 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**