

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – January 27, 2025 -- 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 6:04 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**3. Roll Call.**

Present were Chairperson 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.**

**Motion** by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Baker to amend Agenda, Item 13.A as follows: To Consider and Act on a Motion to Accept the revised Town of Montville policy for purchasing Town fire apparatus. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 7-0-0, 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 reported on the Commission having received the statistical reports from all of the Public Safety departments for the month ending December 31, 2024. Fire Marshal Barnes submitted this evening to the Commission the Fire Marshal Annual Report 2023–2024.

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

**a.** The Special Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2024.

**Motion** by Commissioner Baker; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to approve the Commission Special Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2024. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 7-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

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

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel remarked that Item 12.C under Unfinished Business had been removed from the Agenda.

**9. Remarks from Department Heads.**

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford noted for the record per the remark by Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel that the NexGen item was removed from the Agenda. He read into the record the Animal Control reports for the month ending December 31, 2024. See Agenda Item 10.B for these statistics. The Lieutenant also reported on the status of the Animal Control Facility—the Town awarded the contract to Orlando Annulli & Sons, Inc. and the contract has been signed with a weather dependent start date of March 1, 2025. He also reported on having spoken with Comms Plus today concerning the Dispatch radio upgrades. The radios have arrived and are being mounted awaiting IDs from the State for the upgrade to begin. The Lieutenant also reported that the Citizens Police Academy starts this Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and every Wednesday thereafter for the next 11 weeks. Currently, there are 22 participants. Thanks were extended to Commissioner Gillette and Vice-Chair Stewart for assisting with interviews for a Dispatcher and Police Officer candidate. Lastly, the Lieutenant read positive correspondence about Officer Kelly from Sergeant Galdenzi regarding an MVA on December 10, 2024 at 15:07 hours northbound on I-395. The driver veered off the road and struck the concrete barrier and guardrail per information obtained from the occupant of one of the three (3) vehicles at the scene. The driver was found slumped over with his foot still on the accelerator. Officer Kelly accessed the vehicle by forced entry and turned it off and assisted the unresponsive driver who showed signs of an overdose. He administered Narcan and began chest compressions until a response arrived from Troop E and local EMS. The driver was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Officer Kelly was recognized for his quick, decisive actions and his potentially lifesaving efforts.

Fire Marshal Report

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

<b>Fire Marshal's Office Activities</b>	<b>December 2024</b>
<b>Inspections of Businesses and Apartments</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Fire Investigations</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel)—2 Fire Alarms/2 Illegal burn/4 Medicals/2 MVAs/1 Propane Smell</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Incident Responses Q54 (Fire Marshal Barnes)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Burn Permits Issued</b>	<b>0</b>

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<b>Construction Project Inspection</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Emergency Management Obligations</b>	<b>6 hours</b>

Fire Marshal Barnes also read into the record the Annual Report, 2023-2024 for the Fire Marshal's Office and Montville Emergency Management in addition to the Town of Montville Career Firefighters. Fire Marshal Office Activity: 21 Fire Investigations, 76 Open Burning Permits, and 654 Inspections. Montville Emergency Management was involved in two (2) Millstone Exercises on March 26, 2024 and the evaluated exercise on May 1, 2024 for which the Department received high marks from FEMA, DEMHS and Millstone Station during the event. Career Firefighters and the four (4) Town Volunteer Fire Companies responded to 3436 emergency calls that included both medical and fire responses in 2024, and increase of 362 calls from 2023.

**10. Committee and Liaison Reports:**

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

Commissioner Perkins read into the record the Montville Fire Company statistics for December 2024 and the data concerning the Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Committee meeting held earlier this evening as follows:

**Montville Fire Company (September 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Canceled Calls</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>39</b>

**Montville Fire Company (October 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Canceled Calls</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>54</b>

**Montville Fire Company (November 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Canceled Calls</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>66</b>

**Montville Fire Company (December 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Canceled Calls</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Fire Calls—1 assist out-of-town</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>79</b>

**Mohegan Fire Company (December 2024)**

<b>Incidents/Calls:</b>	<b>In District</b>	<b>Out of District/In Town</b>	<b>Mutual Aid</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Lift Assists</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>Fire Alarm</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>Structure Fire</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>MVA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>Brush/Wet Down</b>		<b>1</b>	
<b>Smoke Investigation</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Station Coverage</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>Haz-Mat Incident</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Special Event</b>		<b>1</b>	
<b>Motor Vehicle Fire</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Utility Emergency</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	

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<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2</b>
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<b>No Volunteer Response</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Transport all Volunteer</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Transport by other department</b>	<b>4</b>

**Oakdale Fire Company (December 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles Calls</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>94</b>

**Chesterfield Fire Company (December 2024)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Fire Calls</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other Calls</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>83</b>

**Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Committee (October -- December 2024)**

<b>Fire Companies</b>	<b>Stipends</b>	<b>Tax Abatements</b>
<b>Montville</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mohegan</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chesterfield (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chesterfield (4<sup>th</sup> quarter)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Oakdale</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>

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

The December 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 (December 2024)**

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	9	64
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	3	16
# of Animals D.O.A.:	1	2
# of Animals Euthanized:	1	2
Total Complaints Investigated	47	359
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	1	17
Total Enforcement Action:	0	11
Total Other Calls for Service:	60	349

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

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	1	4
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated:	6	20
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	2	4
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service	0	0

Commissioner Callaghan had no other information to report.

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

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

Police Activity	Total
Total Calls for Service	863
Citations:	
Infractions	16

<b>Juvenile Summons</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Misdemeanors</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Written Warnings</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Total Citations</b>	<b>142</b>

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

Vice-Chair Stewart read into the Building Department statistics for December 2024 as follows:

<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>108</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>85</b>						
<b>Pending Permits</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>95</b>						
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>114</b>						
<b>Active Blight</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>264</b>						
<b>Blight Abated To Date</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>538</b>						
<b>Blighted Property Liens</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>								

Vice-Chair Stewart also reported that the Department is working on the upcoming budget.

**11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.**

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex remarked that December was a busy month throughout the Town, not just Chesterfield. He commented on the light snowstorm two (2) weeks ago that was slippery from Fire Street to the pumphouse and reported on two (2) cars having slid off the road and another that collided. A firefighter got out of a vehicle and slipped and fell and was transported to the hospital but is doing well. The Chief reported that everyone responded well during these incidents; he thanked everyone and for the appropriate action taken for care of the public and staff. He also reported on a structure fire that occurred the other night with the Oakdale Fire Company first on the scene. Fire Chief Truex remarked that the fire could have gotten out of hand but was contained in the room. He also noted that firefighters, career and volunteer, are working well together doing what they need to do.

**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.

At the request of Mayor Bunnell, Fire Chief Truex reported that the four (4) fire companies use EMS Charts, and the Town has ESO. The fire companies received an email a couple of weeks

ago from the EMS program that reported it will discontinue the fireside program data at the end of the year that is used for the NFIRS report. The fire companies notified EMS that it was moving on and looking for a new program, reviewing ESO and any other programs. The ESO program is expensive, but the Chief reported that review of other programs would depend upon their costs which is being researched. Discussion with the Deputy Fire Marshal (“DFM”) was not had as the ESO program is currently in use by the Town and its capabilities were made known by ESO. Commissioner Perkins asked that the fire companies speak with the DFM before signing a contract; Chief Truex noted that the assumption is that the fire companies will use the same program although only one (1) other company is known. The decision will be cost driven and if cheaper in price the question “why” will be determined. Per a question by Commissioner Bauer, Fire Chief Truex reported that the EMS NFIRS data portion will no longer exist although the fire companies are in a 3-year contract that EMS has already violated and indicated it would not release them from the contract. Conversation has been had with the company that does ambulance billing who provided the name of only one (1) other company. Fire Chief Messer is handling the EMS matter; Fire Chief Truex is dealing with the vender just mentioned. Per a question by Chairperson Murphy as to whether the Town will be getting money back from EMS; Chief Truex reported that a bundle was purchased as part of the EMS contract, and it has now agreed that it will forego the terms of its contract once a decision has been made by the fire companies concerning a new data program vendor and release the Town from the current contract. As to a realistic time frame for the same questioned by Commissioner Bauer; Chief Truex approximated 2-3 months given everything that is going on. Mayor Bunnell confirmed that discussion will be had with the Fire Marshal concerning moving forward.

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

Commissioner Baker remarked that he had nothing to add to the report from Lt. Radford.

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

Fire Marshal Barnes remarked there was no update to report on this item. Vice-Chair Stewart remarked that other considerations must be determined given the massive fire in California. He noted that Connecticut has different geography and vegetation that would determine what we would have to do. The question was raised as to whether the item should remain on the agenda. Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel reported that the Town has everything that it needs, is very prepared, current burning in the State has dropped and State and Federal officials came together on this matter. The Fire Marshal and DFM are willing to discuss the issue as needed. **Motion** by Commissioner Baker; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to remove Item 12.C from the agenda. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 7-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

**13. New Business.**

- a.** To Consider and Act on a Motion to Accept the revised Town of Montville policy for purchasing Town fire apparatus.



**Motion** by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Baker. Discussion: Chairperson Murphy noted that the original purchasing policy referred Town Resolution 2018-41. Commissioner Perkins asked why a new policy versus the old one. Chairperson Murphy explained that the old purchasing policy required that all four (4) fire chiefs had to approve in the majority for a truck to be approved. Some fire chiefs did not agree with the policy as they did not need to tell a chief the needs for his individual department. The revised policy says the other chiefs need only sign off on a purchase that they reviewed the truck, relief from the unnecessary burden for the other chiefs. Commissioner Baker reported he was asked by Chairperson Murphy to review and rewrite the old policy described as “all over the place” and to revise it to make sense. The new purchase policy is organized, identifies the Chiefs’ responsibility for approval. The Fire Company Chief shall submit the policy and any other required information to the Commission 15 days prior to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission. The revised policy will then be sent to the Town Council and the Mayor with a recommendation for approval and sent as a courtesy to the other Fire Chiefs. Mayor Bunnell noted that the old purchasing policy states that the ‘majority’ agreed and would have required the approval of all of the chiefs; instead, it now says ‘approval of the chiefs.’ It was also noted that the apparatus company works with the fire company concerning specificity development to determine its needs. **Roll Call vote:** *In favor:* Commissioners Perkins, Stewart, Bauer, Murphy, Baker, Callaghan, Gillette. *Opposed:* none. **7-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

**b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to set a meeting date(s) for Public Safety Department FY2025-2026 budgets.**

Chairperson Murphy remarked on a having a meeting next week for review of the fire, police, fire marshal, animal control, and building inspector budgets. If Chief Turner is not available or any other chiefs are working or out of town as Chief Suarez will be, a special meeting of the Commission with those persons would be planned with commissioners that are available during the day—Chairperson Murphy, Vice-Chair Stewart, and Commissioner Baker. Mayor Bunnell remarked that the process could be expedited if the chiefs could call into the meeting. The Commission budget special meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in Town Council Chambers. Concerning the line item for the firefighters’ salary, Fire Marshal Barnes remarked that information could be obtained from the Finance Director. Commissioner Baker referenced the firefighter income information he reported to everyone at the last meeting. He specifically referenced the salary and benefits associated for a firefighter with a family recognizing it as the highest salary as a starting point by the Town Council comparing it to last year's overtime for firefighters. Fire Marshal Barnes reported that the advertisement for the two (2) firefighters closes at the end of March, and he is working with the Finance Director on the same. Commissioner Baker remarked that if the firefighter salaries are obtained would the Fire Marshal resubmit his budget with those numbers. Mayor Bunnell noted that the budget special meeting must be posted and that calling in to the meeting can be done.

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

Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel remarked that the ESO program is connected to the hospitals that uses three (3) programs, ESO, EMS charts and another. Although EMS will be replaced, the data can be easily transferred. The DFM reported he has the costs and what the programs entail and that the data from EMS charts will be transferred and the interface with billing and other information is automatically transferred over. Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel also remarked about discussion with the Town to collect data for all four (4) fire companies to a central location at the Fire Marshal's office. Data sheets submitted to the Fire Marshal's office will be scanned in. Fire Chief Suarez remarked about the resolution regarding the purchase of fire apparatus that will be sent on to the Town Council and asked for a copy of it. He questioned further on why approval for the purchase of the Chesterfield M37 was moved forward given the policy in effect has just been revised.

**15. Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor Bunnell remarked that the fire apparatus purchase policy currently in effect was followed but the revised policy makes it clearer about the approval of the fire chiefs and not that they all needed to agree. He reported on talks with Colchester and Bozrah with contracts drafted to provide ACO service as is done with Salem. A report was also given about a mobile app that will replace Everbridge and will be more effective, less strictive for people to sign up and currently being used in Stonington. Congratulations were extended to Officer Kelly with gratitude and appreciation for his quick response and decisive action, a credit to the Town and the Police Department. Lastly, Mayor Bunnell reported on the Civilian Police Academy that had been talked about for the last four (4) years and is coming to reality. He thanked Police Chief Blanchette and Lt. Radford for their efforts to make the program happen, so it is made clear to the public what goes on in the Department and why decisions are made.

**16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.** None

**17. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Callaghan remarked that she was glad no one was hurt in the fire and her appreciation for the efforts of everyone. Commissioner Baker expressed thanks for the diligence and hard work regarding the two (2) recent fires asked that help is provided for those who may have been affected by the circumstances. He asked that all keep up the good work. Commissioner Perkins remarked on the great job by Officer Kelly and thanked everyone for all that they do. Vice-Chair Stewart remarked on the efforts of Officer Kelly, about a fire on Connecticut Boulevard and asked that all be safe. Chairperson Murphy remarked on the efforts of and danger of the driving incident on I-395 for Officer Kelly and the large turnout for each fire with the encouragement to keep up the good work.

**18. Adjournment.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Baker to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 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**