

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – February 24, 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.

Vice-Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 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 Department, Animal Control and Building Official.

Vice-Chair Stewart reported on having received the monthly statistical reports for Oakdale and Chesterfield fire companies; but not from Mohegan or Montville which Commissioner Perkins confirmed she did not receive. The reports from the Fire Marshal, Police Department, Animal Control and Building Department were received by the Commission.

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

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27 2025. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

b. The Special Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the Commission Special Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2025, as amended. Discussion: Vice-

Chair Stewart noted a correction on Pg. 2 concerning the motion in the amount of \$78,4000 for the “FY2025-2026 Public Safety Building Budget.” **Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.** *(The amendment was approved with existing motion on the floor.)*

8. Remarks from the Public. (Agenda items only).

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 January 31, 2024. See Agenda Item 10.B for those statistics. The Lieutenant also reported on having applied again for the High Risk Rural Roads Speed Enforcement Grant that was approved in the amount of \$49,115.72. Four (4) pieces of equipment, radar units, were purchased at approximately \$3,600 each totaling \$14,000. This is the second year that the Department has taken part in this effort. Due to its stats from last year’s grant, 877 traffic stops in the 3-month period March 1 – May 30., a press conference will be held by the State DOT recognizing the efforts of the Department as one of the top enforcers. The press conference will be Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Barnes read into the record the Fire Marshal Statistics for the month ending January 31, 2025, that were submitted as follows:

Fire Marshal’s Office Activities	January 2025
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments	43
Fire Investigations	2
Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel)— MVA (2); EMS (2); Stove Fire (1); Minor vehicle fire (1); Broken sprinkler pipe (1)	7
Incident Responses Q54 (Fire Marshal Barnes)—Stove Fire (1)	1
Burn Permits Issued	2
New Business Inspection	1
Emergency Management Obligations	10 hours

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins read into the record the Montville Fire Activity statistics seen below and reported earlier that monthly reports were not received from Mohegan and Montville Fire Companies for January 2025.

Montville Fire Activity (January 2025)

Total Calls **310**
Fire Calls **30 -- Assist out-of-town (1)**
Medical Calls **280 – Assist out-of-town (5); Assist from out-of-town (1); Lift Assists (25)**

Commissioner Perkins noted that there were 124 calls from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and 75 of them between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to midnight. She will track this activity for reporting purposes and will send this report via email to the Commission as requested by Commissioner Baker. Vice-Chair Stewart reported on an article regarding the City of New London Fire Department and the dramatic increase of their calls that would require more personnel or a way to respond to the calls more efficiently.

Montville Fire Company (January 2025)—No Report

Incidents:	Total
Canceled Calls	
EMS Calls	
Fire Calls—1 assist out-of-town	
Motor Vehicles Calls	
Other Calls	
Total Calls:	

Mohegan Fire Company (January 2025)—No Report

Incidents/Calls:	In District	Out of District/In Town	Mutual Aid
EMS			
Lift Assists			
Fire Alarm			
Structure Fire			
MVA			
Brush/Wet Down			
Smoke Investigation			
Station Coverage			
Haz-Mat Incident			
Special Event			

Motor Vehicle Fire			
Utility Emergency			
Total Calls:			

No Volunteer Response	
Transport all Volunteer	
Transport by other department	

Oakdale Fire Company (January 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls (Dispatched & canceled in route)	10
EMS Calls (EMS call excluding vehicle accident with injury (52); Emergency medical service incident, other (1))	53
Fire Calls (Building fire (2); Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire (1))	3
Motor Vehicles Calls (MVA with injuries (2); MVA with no injuries (1))	3
Other Calls (Medical assist, assist EMS crew (13); Alarm system activation, no fire, unintentional (6); Power line down (2); Cover assignment, standby, move-up (2); Sprinkler activation, no fire, unintentional (1); Unintentional transmission of alarm, other (1); False alarm or false call, other (1); Unauthorized burning (1); Animal rescue (1); Smoke scare, odor of smoke (1); Alarm system sounded due to malfunction (1))	30
Total Calls:	99

Chesterfield Fire Company (January 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls (Dispatched & cancelled in route)	26
EMS Calls (Excluding vehicle accident with injury)	27
Fire Calls (Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined and building fire)	2
Motor Vehicle (MVA accident with injuries)	2

Other Calls (Incident type not listed (22); Cover assignment/standby/move-up (6); Medical assist/assist EMS crew (3); False alarm or false call/other (2); Animal rescue (1)	34
Total Calls:	91

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

The January 2025 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 (January 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	6	70
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	3	19
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	2
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	2
Total Complaints Investigated	43	402
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	17
Total Enforcement Action:	0	11
Total Other Calls for Service:	57	406

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (January 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	1	5
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated:	4	24
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	4
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 January 31, 2025, as follows:

Police Activity	Total
Total Calls for Service	969
Citations:	
Infractions	31
Juvenile Summons	1
Misdemeanors	6
Written Warnings	152
Total Citations	190

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

Vice-Chair Stewart read into the record the Building Department statistics for January 2025 as follows:

2024-2025 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	135	153	108	157	118	85	107					
Pending Permits	99	102	83	88	81	95	96					
Inspections	118	106	124	162	125	114	108					
Active Blight	248	252	256	259	260	264	272					
Blight Abated To Date	529	531	532	535	537	538	543					
Blighted Property Liens			3	2								

Commissioner Gillette asked if there was still a running list of outstanding blight that exceeded 4,000 at one time. Vice-Chair Stewart will find out how many are still outstanding.

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 asked if there were any updates; Commissioner Perkins reported that Mayor Bunnell was waiting for information from the fire chiefs. The Vice-Chair added that a decision is still pending on the software for reporting.

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

Commissioner Baker deferred to Lt. Radford for an update on the radio system project. Lt. Radford reported that he spoke with Comms Plus at the end of last week. They have the State IDS, and everything needed for Dispatch but are awaiting another key in a couple of weeks. By mid-March, Dispatch should be up and running.

13. New Business.

a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve the FY2025-2026 Fire Department Capital Improvement Plan.

Vice-Chair Stewart noted that the Fire Department Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was not available for the Commission Special Meeting concerning the FY2025-2026 budgets on February 6. Commissioner Baker reported having reviewed the CIP and spoken with three (3) of the fire chiefs and with Chief Platt of the Mohegan Fire Company in the absence of Chief Suarez on an item relevant to that company. Commissioner Baker noted a change to the heading of the CIP to Montville Fire Companies Capital Improvement Plan as it is not a fire department. He referred to an item written as Forsetry although pronounced by Commissioner Baker as Forestry M-24 (Town/FEMA). Commissioner Baker confirmed with Chief Platt that the Mohegan Fire Company supplemented funds for this purchase as the grant received by the Town did not take care of everything that was needed/wanted for the truck. Additionally, the Town owns the M-24 and maintains it. Therefore, as to the replacement schedule going forward the ownership is on the Town and should be removed from the CIP. Further, he proposed removing the Forsetry M-34 Town that is owned by Chesterfield to the company owned area of the list. As to the Rescue M-47 (Town/State) this item is currently State owned and will be turned over to the Town in the near future and per Chief Messer it is classified as a rescue although it is not. The M-47 will be retitled as Special Operations as it can do a multitude of tasks on the fire scene i.e., a fire mover as questioned by Commissioner Perkins. Oakdale will take care of that. At the bottom of the CIP, Commissioner Baker noted that there a list of numbers multiplied by 1000 for replacement purposes for upcoming years. He will request feedback from the Finance Department as to whether an account will be created for the purpose of replacement vehicles and other apparatus requested by the fire companies as it has not been done by the Town over the past years. If it will not be funded, should it be taken out of the CIP. Commissioner Baker asked that the motion be tabled until the corrections to the CIP have been made. He will reach out to the keeper of the plan, Chief Turner, and to Finance for clarity as mentioned.

Motion by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Baker to table approval of the Montville Fire Companies' FY2025-2026 Capital Improvement Plan to the March Commission meeting. Discussion: none. **Roll Call vote:** *In favor:* Commissioners Perkins, Bauer, Stewart, and Baker. *Opposed:* Commissioner Gillette. **4-1-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

14. Remarks from the Public. (*three-minute limit.* -- None

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Commissioner Baker remarked that he believed that Mayor Bunnell was absent from the meeting in order to attend the Board of Education budget presentation.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Commissioner Baker remarked that he believed Town Councilor Sabilia was absent from the meeting in order to attend the Board of Education budget presentation.

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins thanked the Police Department and Fire Companies for everything they are doing. Vice-Chair Stewart remarked that all be safe and invited anyone who is available to attend the upcoming Police Department press conference.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Baker; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 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**