

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – April 28, 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 6:00 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, Tracy Callaghan and Karen Perkins. Chairperson Murphy and Commissioner Micky Gillette was absent. 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 that all of the reports for the month ending March 31, 2025 were received from all departments.

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

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Commissioner Callaghan to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2025. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

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 and Police Department reports for the month ending March 31, 2025. See Agenda Item 10.B and 10.C respectively for those statistics. He also reported on the ground-breaking ceremony for the ACO facility that went well last month. The contractor continues to move forward with building it. The Dispatch radio system upgrade is complete, fully updated and operational. The Lieutenant recommended that focus now be directed toward updating the Fire Companies radios as the communication to dispatch is getting worse with the current radio system that they have. Lastly, K-9 Sig successfully completed his training as a firearms detection K-9,s and Officer Mora and K-9 Gunner will graduate in May from the K-9 Academy.

Fire Marshal Report

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

Fire Marshal's Office Activities	March 2025
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments	21
Fire Investigations	3
Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel)—3 Brush Fires, 1 Wires Down, 6 Medicals, 2 Illegal Burn, 1 Fire Alarm	13
Incident Responses Q54 (Fire Marshal Barnes)—4 Brush Fires, 1 Smoke in the Building	5
Burn Permits Issued	4
Emergency Management Obligations	10 hours

The Fire Marshal also reported having spoken to Vice-Chair Stewart earlier tonight concerning research about the fires at CT Scrap. He read into the record the following data: October 19, 2020—Scrap Pile; May 23, 2022—Grappler Fire; November 16, 2022—Scrap Pile; March 22, 2023—Shredder Fire; September 15, 2023—Shredder Fire; April 22, 2023—Scrap Pile; and April 23, 2025—Scrap Pile. Fire Marshal Barnes noted that the fires are difficult to investigate and are typically attributed to lithium ion batteries found in cell phones, laptops, and power tools. Also noted was the 12-13 hours of mutual aid for the October 19, 2020 and November 16, 2022 scrap pile fires. A thermal runaway that can occur in a matter of seconds was also referenced. The Fire Marshal has spoken with Dave Waddington since the second scrap fire and noted that the last scrap piles were one-third (1/3) of those in the past. Trucks are used to keep the piles lower; and the piles are searched before shredded i.e. propane tanks. CT Scrap also operates from a Town permit. Discussion followed concerning the scrap yard permit to operate issued by Planning & Zoning and runoff for fire suppression—all sewers have filters/separators. Calls about air quality should be directed to the Fire Marshal who then notifies the State. Fire Marshal Barnes concluded that State inspections are done at the scrap yard, but a scrap fire is not covered under fire code.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins read into the record the Montville Fire Activity statistics for March 2025 and reported having received the monthly reports from the fire companies as follows:

Montville Fire Activity (March 2025)		
Total Calls:	318	
Fire Calls:	72	Out of the 72, 2 were assist out of town
Ambulance Calls:	246	Out of the 246, 2 were assists out of town; 2 were assists FROM out of town
Lift Assists for Ambulance Calls:	22	

Commissioner Perkins also reported that there was no Fire Relief Committee meeting held; it will meet next month.

Montville Fire Company (January 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Canceled Calls--(dispatched and canceled en route)	21
EMS Calls--(32 EMS call excluding vehicle accident with injury)	53
Fire Calls--(1 outside storage fire; 1 fire other)	2
Motor Vehicles Calls--(MVA with injuries)	7
Other Calls—(3 medical assist/assist EMS crew; 1 smoke or odor removal; 1 power line down; 1 hazardous condition, other; 1 unauthorized burning; 1 animal rescue; 1 carbon monoxide incident; 1 gas leak (natural gas or LPG); 1 no incident found on arrival at dispatch address; 1 alarm system activation, no fire—unintentional)	12
Total Calls:	96

Montville Fire Company (February 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Canceled Calls--(dispatched and canceled en route)	20
EMS Calls--(32 EMS call excluding vehicle accident with injury; 9 emergency medical service incident, other)	41

Fire Calls	0
Motor Vehicles Calls--(6 MVA with injuries; 2 MVA without injuries)	8
Other Calls—(4 power line down; 3 alarm system activation, no fire—unintentional; 1 carbon monoxide incident; 1 combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other; 1 smoke scare; odor of smoke; 1 service call, other)	11
Total Calls:	80

Montville Fire Company (March 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Canceled Calls--(dispatched and cancelled en route)	25
EMS Calls--(38 EMS, call excluding vehicle accident with injury; 3 emergency medical service incident, other)	41
Fire Calls—(5 brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire; 1 passenger vehicle fire; 1 fire, other; 1 off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire)	8
Motor Vehicles Calls--(MVA with no injuries)	3
Other Calls—(4 alarm system activation, no fire—unintentional; 2 power line down; 2 smoke scare; odor of smoke; 1 removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator; 1 smoke or odor removal; 1 system malfunction, other; 1 arcing, shorted electrical equipment; 1 combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other)	13
Total Calls:	90

Mohegan Fire Company (March 2025)

Incidents/Calls:	In District	Out of District/In Town	Mutual Aid
EMS	78	77	
Lift Assists	6	8	
Fire Alarm	4	11	
Structure Fire	1	3	
MVA	7	2	

Brush/Grass/Wet Down	1	5	
Smoke Investigation	3		
Elevator Entrapment	1		
Haz-Mat Incident		1	
Utility Emergency	2	5	
Vehicle Fire		2	
Station Coverage			1
Total Calls: 218	103	114	1

Oakdale Fire Company (March 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls: (dispatched & canceled en route)	17
EMS Calls: (41 EMS call excluding vehicle accident with injury; 1 Emergency medical service incident, other (1))	42
Fire Calls: (2 brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire; 2 building fire)	4
Motor Vehicles Call: (2 MVA with no injuries; 1 MVA with injuries)	3
Other Calls: (11 Medical assist, assist EMS crew; (5 unauthorized burning; 3 Power line down; 3 false alarm or false call, other; 3 smoke scare, odor of smoke; 1 unintentional transmission of alarm, other; 1 carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO; 1 electrical wiring/equipment problem, other; 1 smoke detector activation, no fire—unintentional; 1 local alarm system, malicious false alarm)	29
Total Calls:	95

Chesterfield Fire Company (March 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls: (28 dispatched & cancelled en route)	28
EMS Calls: (EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury)	19

Fire Calls: (2 brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire; 2 building fire; 1 fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined; 1 special outside fire, other)	6
Motor Vehicle: (MVA accident with injuries)	2
Other Calls (22 incident type not listed; 2 power line down; 2 cover assignment, standby, move-up; 1 false alarm or false call/other; 1 carbon monoxide detector activation , no CO; 1 arcing, shorted electrical circuit, 1 gas leak (natural gas or LPG); 1 public service assistance, other; 1 service call, other)	32
Total Calls:	87

b. Report from Animal Control Liaison. (Callaghan)

The March 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 (March 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	8	87
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	2	25
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	3
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	3
Total Complaints Investigated	49	512
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	4	21
Total Enforcement Action:	0	13
Total Other Calls for Service:	65	521

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (March 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	0	5
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated:	1	30

Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	5
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service	0	0

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Police Lieutenant Radford read into the record the Police Department statistics for the month ending March 31, 2025 as follows:

Police Department Activity – March 2025	Total
Total Calls for Service	1166
Citations:	
Infractions	80
Juvenile Summons	0
Misdemeanors	4
Written Warnings	321
Total Citations	405

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

Vice-Chair Stewart read into the record the Building Department statistics for February 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	62	158			
Pending Permits	99	102	83	88	81	95	96	85	72			
Inspections	118	106	124	162	125	114	108	71	114			
Active Blight	248	252	256	259	260	264	272	277	279			
Blight Abated To Date	529	531	532	535	537	538	543	547	549			
Blighted Property Liens			3	2								

Vice-Chair Stewart reported that the number of outstanding permits are being worked on. Failure to follow-up or report back to the Building Department with proof of compliance is a violation of the code. Work is being done on the backlog for a manageable number, as to a request about information on the same by Commissioner Gillette. The Chief also reported that the wait continues for the State

11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex recognized the career and volunteer firefighters involved in securing the recent scrap yard fire that was contained within four (4) hours given it was a much smaller pile. Three (3) ladder trucks were started and the Chief noted that a lot of lessons were learned from prior fires, and it was a good job by all who responded. The Fire Marshal is awaiting the State to assign _____ groups that has been in process for two (2) years. The Chesterfield and Oakdale Fire Companies have applied for FEMA grants but may be delayed due to the new federal administration. The Chief also reported that the new Chesterfield truck will be ready for pickup in May but the rescue tools for it have a 6-8 week timeline. It will give firefighters an opportunity to qualify for and sign-off on the truck. The Chief also responded to Vice-Chair Stewart concerning a water supply drill to be held on May 4th at the Public Works garage. The four (4) fire companies and mutual aid from other towns will be present.

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 noted that this item is ongoing.

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

The project is getting there but not there yet and reported by Lt. Radford and Fire Chief Truex.

13. New Business.

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve the FY2025-2026 Fire Department Capital Improvement Plan. *(Tabled at PSC 02-24-2025 meeting.)*

Motion by Commissioner Baker; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to approve the FY2025-2026 Fire Department Capital Improvement Plan. Discussion: It was reported that the Town is looking for alternate financing and that CIP funds were moved to FY 2026; this year there will be no funds. The plan is for apparatus that firefighters must have. **Roll Call vote:** *In favor:* Commissioners Perkins, Bauer, Stewart, Baker and Callaghan. *Opposed:* none. **5-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve the disposal of the existing Chesterfield Fire Company Rescue Truck M-37.

Vice-Chair Stewart remarked that the Chesterfield M-37 must be looked at to either convey to the Fire Marshal's office, Public Works, or to an outside vendor. The Fire Marshal could also obtain it from Public Works as it would be appropriate to turn it over to that department and to work with the Fire Marshal to maintain it rather than selling it. **Motion** by Commissioner Callaghan; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to relinquish the Chesterfield Fire Company existing Rescue Truck M-37 to Public Works. Discussion: It was noted that there are currently no plans for the truck and to have Public Works deal with it or wait for someone to buy it. If the truck is disposed of the procedure for it must follow Town ordinance according to Commissioner Baker as Mayor Bunnell requested due to its age. The truck was not deemed

unsafe action recommended per Vice-Chair Stewart. Commissioner Bauer noted that the Commission is a recommending body and spoke of relocating the truck to Public Works and leave it to their mechanics to decide. If disposed of, the matter would go to the Mayor and the Finance Department remarked Vice-Chair Stewart. The concern for Town Councilor Sabilia is that Public Works has no use for it or funds. No action was taken on the prior motion on the floor. The motion revised as follows by Vice-Chair Stewart: To reallocate existing Chesterfield Rescue Truck M-37 to Public Works once it is placed out of service. **Motion** by Commissioner Callaghan; seconded by Commissioner Bauer. **Roll Call vote:** *In favor:* Commissioners Perkins, Bauer, Stewart, Callaghan. *Opposed:* Commissioner Baker. **4-1-0. Motion carried.**

14. Remarks from the Public three-minute limit.

Vice-Chair Stewart asked three (3) times for remarks. Carol Howard who lived in Town for 56-58 years and moved to Salem in 1985 thanked all who responded to the scrap fire; the time it took to contain, and the size of fire deemed lessons learned. She remarked having been on Facebook and discussion had about air quality, declared that something must be done, and noted that statistics were not done on other scrap yards. Police Lt. Radford noted that in his 26 years with the force, vehicles have always gone to Public Works to determine their future. Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel remarked on the need to get the data for the EMS program for the reports that go to the State. Fire Chief Truex questioned why we are stuck on the ESO program given the data between the two (2) systems do not mix. He noted that EMS Charts will not be in use by the end of this year nor with the Fire Chiefs rushed in doing their due diligence. Whatever program is chosen the Town will pay for it and the best decision made. Fire Chief also questioned what is the data and what will it be used for. Vice-Chair Stewart remarked that the point will not be argued at the podium.

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell remarked on his upcoming vacations plans and thanked the Commission for its approval of the Fire Companies FY2026 CIP and the Chesterfield M-37 to the Fire Marshal's Office. He appreciated the data from the Fire Marshal concerning lithium batteries and remarked whether signage on this topic regarding disposal would be helpful. The Mayor also noted that neither four (4) hours versus 12 hours to contain a scrap file is ideal environmentally for citizens.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Sabilia remarked that he appreciated the time involved with the information concerning the M-37 and although not faulting Fire Marshal Barnes he spoke to the costs to move the truck, having it sit in a parking lot and if it will require replacement. The matter does require more time and thought than a couple of hours.

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Baker remarked he was glad that all were safe from the fire incident. He noted the support from the four (4) fire companies, mutual aid, and the Fire Marshal—a managed effort for a situation that was extinguished quickly due to their training and past experience with a scrap fire. He also commented on the benefit of the Speed Enforcement Grant. Commissioner Bauer echoed the comments of others. Commissioner Perkins asked whether discussion of the ESO program could be added to Old Business on the Agenda as a review for the Commission. She also thanked the volunteer and career firefighters and mutual aid for their support at the scrap fire. Vice-Chair Stewart noted that mutual aid is a very good thing, but you do not want to build plans around it as it has some problems. He also congratulated involved with shuttering the scrap fire and mentioned that the speed enforcement has also slowed him down.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Baker seconded by Commissioner Bauer to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 4-0-0, 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.**