

**Town of Montville
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 27, 2025
ROOM 203 6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Jaskiewicz and May. Absent was Councilor Lathrop. Also present was Finance Director Julie Chapman, Mayor Leonard G. Bunnell, Sr., Board of Education Chair Wills Pike and Acting Business Manager John Spang.

4. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the agenda with a three-minute limit - *none*

5. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:

- a. The Regular Finance Committee Minutes of April 29, 2025

Motion made by Chairman May to approve but Councilor Jaskiewicz tabled it for the next meeting

6. Discussion on Animal Control Facility Generator – Chairman May led off discussion with funding for the generator. The hookups are being built in but funding is needed for the generator. May said the Mayor did an excellent job finding one within our budget. May made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that they withdraw \$20,000 from contingency to cover the generator cost. Councilors Jaskiewicz and May; All in favor.

7. Discussion 2025-2026 Budget – Chairman May directed the Finance Director to go over each line item adjustment. Finance Director Chapman discussed the budget adjustments and mentioned the total net cuts of \$505,460. The line by line adjustments are as follows:

- IT Maintenance - \$1,440
- IT Hardware - \$1,800
- EM Uniforms - \$400
- EM Training -\$200
- Fire Marshal Training - \$500
- Fire Marshal Prevention Supplies increased by \$500
- Fire Protection Equipment decreased by \$20,000 because we moved the SCBA Equipment to a Capital Budget which is designated below;
- Police Uniforms decreased by \$4,000
- Police Law Programs was increased by \$5,000
- Police Radio Repairs reduced by \$300
- Police Community Programs was decreased by \$18,000 because these programs are funded by Grants they receive so these are moving to a Miscellaneous Grants Fund and out of the General Fund
- Chairman May mentioned for public record that Finance was able to identify many of the Grants and were able to save quite a bit of money. Finance Director continued on to Animal Control. Due to the added need for ACO's at the AC Facility, \$35,000 was added for two new part time Assistant Animal Control Officers. Chairman May stated that Revenue will be coming in from other towns to cover the ACO part time salaries. Finance Director stated that the Revenue has been added to the Budget. Colchester is at \$55,000, Bozrah is at \$9,000 and

Mohegan is at \$15,000

- Dispatch part-time salaries were reduced by \$5,000 because we no longer hire part time dispatchers
- Dispatch Overtime increased by \$5,000
- Public Works OT increased by \$3,000
- PW Vehicles Expenses for Public Safety increased by \$10,000
- PW Vehicle Expense Other increased by \$5,000
- PW Tires for Public Safety increased by \$5,000
- 14 Bridge St. testing decreased by \$2,600 and line item is now '0'; as this is up for sale, hopefully we will be done with Bridge St. altogether
- Finance Director said that the Board of Education Budget was increased by \$278,000 as money was moved from Capital; one of their buses was moved from their General Fund Operating to help fund the Teachers; Chairman May discussed his meeting with Superintendent Vumback and their will be an increase in Excess Cost including an additional \$150,000 but it won't be in until June or July

8. Discussion on Capital Improvement – Finance Director discussed the Capital Improvement adjustments:

- Dock & Pier in the amount of \$32,446 was removed because that's coming from LoCIP funds
- SCBA Fire Equipment was re-categorized as an operational cost
- Police Car was increased by \$5,000
- The following Capital Improvement budget cuts have been pushed out further on the Capital Plan: Mobile Radios for \$9,918
- Community Center Bathrooms at \$130,000
- Field 7 Drainage by \$250,000
- Paving by \$20,000 (was reduced slightly due to other paving road bonds)
- BOE Capital by \$657,200

Chairman May explained that they were ready to do the Community Center bathrooms and that the plans were done last year but when they went out to bid, the prices increased significantly. There is money to do them and they will get done but just not this year. The money from the Mohegan Tribe is still there. Finance Director said that additional Revenue was added to the Budget. Finance Director also said that \$34,000 was added for Solar Lease Revenue from panels at the Transfer Station; Investment Revenue was increased by \$150,000 based on past performance.

Chairman discussed Solar Revenue and Mayor chimed in to say reduced electric rates. The town benefited from the yearly lease. There are other Solar fields in town that the Town Council voted on where we should be getting Energy credits and can possibly be assigned to Municipality buildings. We need to find out if that is being done. There's one by Tyl Middle School, Horse Farm on Fitch Hill Road-when the town applied for it, the town was the beneficiary.

Finance Director went on to say that with all of those changes, it brings the MIL Rate to 28.87 or an increase of 1.10. General Fund Operating Budget \$25,558,189.00, BOE \$46,879,620.00 and Capital Improvement \$745,639.00 for a total Budget of: \$73,183,448.00.

Chairman May inquired whether Munis shows any excess funds in the accounts. He went on to say how (1) we didn't receive any relief from the State regarding the disabled Veterans Tax Exemption Program, (although he is highly in favor of the program), (2) the State did not compensate the Towns regarding the MSRP Motor Vehicle Tax, and (3) the employee contract negotiations for wage increases in the Town and the Board of Ed were some of the things the town was dealing with. Compared to other towns in the 3-5% range, Montville's Budget increase was not that bad.

Mayor Bunnell commented saying it's unfortunate that we have to increase anything. He noted that it's the signs of the times and when you take a look at other things happening in other Municipalities throughout the state, we should count our blessings. He said the Finance Director is doing an outstanding job with the numbers as well as the Treasurer, Patrick Wall.

Chairman May commented on how he and Wills Pike and John Spang were able to set a goal to bring staff back and they view this as a priority. He also mentioned that after speaking with the Superintendent, she said that compared with other towns the Board of Ed did pretty good this year.

Chairman May made a motion to send this to the Town Council to be voted on and Councilor Jaskiewicz seconded it. All in favor.

Chairman May made a recommendation to take \$30,000 from LoCIP for painting, repairs, and parking for the Senior Center. All in favor.

Councilor Jaskiewicz asked that another \$1,000 be taken from the General Fund to fund the Memorial Day Parade for 2025-2026 bringing the total to \$5,000. Chairman May made a motion to take \$1,000 from the General Fund to the Parade Fund to cover expenses for the parade. He also said that they will need to provide the Finance Department with the receipts. All in favor.

Chairman May discussed Carnival services and he wanted to be sure that the town isn't paying out of pocket for Carnival in-kind services if it is making a profit. If the profit is set aside for future use, that's fine. But levying taxes against something we don't have to is better for the town. Mayor Bunnell assured the Council that every single department that is involved with the Carnival has everything is figured in, in their Budgets.

Mayor Bunnell mentioned that the Generator is a 50KW three-phase. Details regarding the generator are being worked out.

- 9. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – Linda Tomaszek PO Box 407** inquired about the controversy regarding the Memorial Day Parade; one year the VFW did it and the next year, the American Legion did it. Councilor Jaskiewicz said that they have tried to work with them and he knows that the Mayor has tried too. Chairman May said that they've had some issues a couple of years back and if that's still the case, that's unfortunate. He said that it's their parade and he's hopeful they can work it out. The Council and Mayor would be happy to help if there's anything they can do to help.

- 10. Remarks from the Councilors and Mayor –** Councilor Jaskiewicz apologized for missing some meetings but says he's back on track. He praised Chairman May for doing such a commendable job this year by putting so much work into this for the best interests of the town. Chairman May explained how this is his third year as Chairman and he's learned so much, especially in finance with the help of Finance Director Julie Chapman and the Treasurer Patrick Wall. He praised her remarkable ability to discover discrepancies and pull this budget together. Chairman also thanked the Mayor's Assistant for stepping up and taking the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes so that the Finance Director can concentrate on her job.

11. Adjournment 6:45pm