

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting – May 28, 2025 -- 6:00 PM

Town Council Chambers – Montville Town Hall

RECEIVED
MONTVILLE, CT

2025 JUN 20 PM 3:30

MEETING MINUTES

Christy Faring
TOWN CLERK

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 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Chairperson Murphy and Commissioners Brian Baker, Tracy Callaghan and Karen Perkins. Vice-Chair Stephen Stewart and Commissioners William Bauer and Micky Gillette were absent. A quorum was present.

4. Alterations to the Agenda -- None

5. Special Recognitions and Presentations.

a Badge Pinning Ceremony—Firefighters Christopher Dennis and Dan Sawyer
Fire Marshal Barnes introduced Firefighters Christopher Dennis and Dan Sawyer and gave background on their firefighting careers. Firefighter Dennis began his journey in 2016 as a 16-year old Junior Firefighter with the Pine Rock Volunteer Fire Department and since then has remained active and a dedicated member, rising through the ranks and proudly serving as Lieutenant for the past two years. His professional firefighting career began with Sikorsky Aircraft Fire Department and he currently serves as an EMT with both Echo Hose Ambulance and AMR Bridgeport. In addition to his hands-on experience, Firefighter Dennis has committed to furthering his education—he holds an Associate's Degree in Fire Science and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a concentration in Mental Health Counseling. His certifications include Firefighter II, EMT, Fire Service Instructor I, Emergency Medical Services Instructor, Ice Water Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Aircraft Rescue Firefighter. Firefighter Dennis credits his mother, Nerissa, as his greatest supporter throughout his journey. She will honor him by pinning his badge.

Firefighter Sawyer joined North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company in October 2002 as a 16-year old Junior Firefighter. He stayed an active volunteer until his first career employment with the Submarine Base Fire Department in Groton in February 2006 where he worked until

he moved across the river to the New London Fire Department in March 2008 and worked as a firefighter until a promotion to Lieutenant in December 2015. Firefighter Sawyer chose early retirement in January 2025 from New London and currently works part-time for North Stonington Fire Company since September 2020 when the company started weekly coverage for the Town as well as teaching at Eastern Connecticut Fire School in Willimantic since 2020. Firefighter Sawyer is certified as Fire 2, EMT, Fire Instructor 1, Fire Officer 1, Pump Operator, Rescue Tech Core, Rescue Tech Ropes, Trench, Confined Space, Vehicle and Machinery Extrication, Incident Safety Officer, Haz-Mat Technician with various other hands-on and seminar-based trainings. Firefighter Sawyer is currently 38 and lives in North Stonington with his wife of 13 years, Jessica; and his two sons, Cody 10, and Cole 8. His sons will pin his badge with help from mom, Jessica.

Fire Marshal Barnes reported that Firefighter Sawyer will begin work on the east side of town A-shift; Firefighter Dennis will report to the west side of town A-shift. *The meeting was paused at 7:11 p.m. for pictures and resumed at 7:22 p.m.* Mayor Bunnell commented on being a part of the interview process for Firefighters Dennis and Sawyer noting that the Town is fortunate, blessed to attract these individuals stating they both come with a huge amount of experience. He welcomed them to the Town family and asked them to stay safe. Chairperson Murphy thanked Firefighters Dennis and Sawyer stating he was glad to have met them during the interview process that was really good.

6. Communications:

Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police Department, Animal Control and Building Official.

Chairperson Murphy reported that all of the statistic reports for the month ending April 30, 2025 were received from each department.

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

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Callaghan; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2025. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

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

Chairperson Murphy 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 April 30, 2025. This data can be found under Agenda Items 10.B and 10.C, respectively. The Lieutenant also reported that the Animal Control Facility has met some hurdles; but the contractor is continuing to move forward with building the facility. The

Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant ended April 30th. In the one-month period, there were 305 contacts. Lastly, K-9 Gunner had a medical issue and had to be humanely euthanized on May 5th. The Windham County Kennel Club contacted the Lieutenant and will be donating \$10,000 towards purchase of a new K-9 for Officer Mora. Officer Mora has since received another K-9 named Rogue and they will begin the Academy in the fall.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Barnes read into the record the Fire Marshal Statistics for the month ending April 30, 2025, submitted as follows:

Fire Marshal's Office Activities	April 2025
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments	51
New Business Inspection	1
Fire Investigations	3
Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel)—1 Brush Fire, 7 Medicals, 5 Fire Alarms, 1 MVA	14
Incident Responses Q54 (Fire Marshal Barnes)—1 Brush Fire, 1 MVA	2
Burn Permits Issued	4
Fireworks Permit	1
Blasting Permit	1
Emergency Management Obligations	4 hours

The Fire Marshal responded to Commissioner Perkins regarding the fireworks and blasting permits—the fireworks was for the Carnival and the blasting for Routes 32 and 168, a PNH project.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins read into the record the Montville Fire Activity statistics for April 2025 as follows:

Montville Fire Activity (April 2025)		
Total Calls:	283	
Fire Calls:	58	Out of the 58, 3 assists out of town
Ambulance Calls:	225	Out of the 225, 1 assists out of town; 1 FROM out of town
Lift Assists for Ambulance Calls:	26	

Montville Fire Company (April 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Canceled Calls--(dispatched and cancelled en route)	19
EMS Calls -- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury)	69
Fire Calls—(3 outside rubbish fire, other; 2 brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire; 1 off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire; 1 dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire)	7
Motor Vehicles Calls--(MVA with injuries)	4
Other Calls—(6 alarm system activation, no fire—unintentional; 1 removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator; 1 smoke or odor removal; 1 power line down; 1 hazardous condition, other; 1 carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO; 1 unauthorized burning; smoke detector activation, no fire—unintentional)	13
Total Calls:	112

Mohegan Fire Company (April 2025)

Incidents/Calls:	In District	Out of District/In Town	Mutual Aid
EMS	61	51	0
Lift Assist	6	10	0
Fire Alarm	2	16	1
MVA	1	5	0
Brush/Grass/Wet Down	0	2	0
Elevator Entrapment	1	0	0
CO Emergency	1	2	0
Outside Fire	0	2	0
Haz-Mat Incident	1	1	0
Utility Emergency	0	1	0
Vehicle Fire	0	1	0
Service Call	2	0	0
Total Calls: 218	75	91	1

Oakdale Fire Company (April 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls: (dispatched & canceled en route)	16
EMS Calls: (41 EMS call excluding vehicle accident with injury)	38
Fire Calls: (2 brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire; 1 mobile property (vehicle) fire, other; 1 dumpster or outside trash receptacle fire; 1 outside storage fire)	5
Motor Vehicles Call: (4 MVA with injuries; 2 MVA with no injuries)	6
Other Calls: (5 unauthorized burning; 3 false alarm or false call, other; 3 medical assist, assist EMS crew; 3 alarm system activation, no fire—unintentional; 1 carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO; smoke detector activation, no fire—unintentional; 1 gasoline or other flammable liquid spill; 1 service call, other)	18
Total Calls:	83

Chesterfield Fire Company (April 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls: (dispatched & cancelled en route)	20
EMS Calls: (EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury)	14
Fire Calls: (1 fire, other; 1 outside rubbish, trash or waste fire; 1 brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire)	3
Motor Vehicle: (MVA accident with injuries)	4
Other Calls (29 incident type not listed; 6 false alarm or false call, other; 2 medical assist, assist EMS crew; 1 assist police or other governmental agency; 1 unauthorized burning; 1 smoke detector activation, no fire—unintentional;)1 arcing, shorted electrical equipment; 1 gasoline or other flammable liquid spill; 1 cover assignment, standby, moveup)	43
Total Calls:	84

b. Report from Animal Control Liaison. (Callaghan)

The April 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 (April 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	6	93
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	2	27
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	3
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	3
Total Complaints Investigated	75	587
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	7	27
Total Enforcement Action:	4	17
Total Other Calls for Service:	64	585

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (April 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	4	9
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated:	9	39
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 April 30, 2025 as follows:

Police Department Activity – April 2025	Total
Total Calls for Service	1492
Citations:	
Infractions	114
Juvenile Summons	0

Misdemeanors	7
Written Warnings	482
Total Citations	603

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics for April 2025 are 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	80		
Pending Permits	99	102	83	88	81	95	96	85	72	87		
Inspections	118	106	124	162	125	114	108	71	114	128		
Active Blight	248	252	256	259	260	264	272	277	279	288		
Blight Abated To Date	529	531	532	535	537	538	543	547	549	554		
Blight--Pending										16		
Blighted Property Liens			3	2								

11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex reported that he will be traveling to Louisiana to inspect and drive back the new Rescue Truck M-37 accompanied by John Tackling. Dave Nelson will help with inspection of the truck but he will be taking a flight there. The Fire Chiefs went to DIC and spoke with a couple of companies. Oakdale Fire Chief Messer will be networking at the fire company on June 25th concerning more flexible customization at a cost that is substantially less. ESO and emergency reporting will be discussed online on June 3rd as the representative did not have answers to questions. The meeting will be held with the engineer and then follow-up communication with the salesperson. The meeting will be open and the product is expected to be live by the first of next year. The Chief also reported that anyone locally can use the program—Plainfield uses it and Scotland is using it for both.

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.

This Agenda item is still pending.

13. New Business.

- a. Update to the Fire Companies' Radio System.

Oakdale Fire Chief Messer reported he will be in contact concerning the same this week as the procedural process was asked to be moved along. The point of contact is currently out of state and those who use the system have said it takes two (2) years working with the State to reach conclusion. Chairperson Murphy noted he has been at the canteen for 17 years and it was said that the system moved slowly but must be done correctly in order to mesh with the State.

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

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell remarked that on the Town Council Agenda for its meeting tomorrow May 29th there will be discussion for the leasing agreement for the M-37. He noted that the financial bank used wanted to change the agreement. An agreement with M & T will also finalize.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison. -- None

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Callaghan congratulated the two (2) new Town firefighters. Commissioner Baker also congratulated the new firefighters noting they are an asset to the Town. He also thanked all Public Safety personnel for doing a good job and asked them to stay safe. Commissioner Perkins expressed good luck to the new K-9 Rogue. She also expressed thanks to the Town Public Safety for a call made on Mother's Day stating she was relieved to see a familiar face. Chairperson Murphy expressed condolences for the loss of K-9 Gunner as a canine becomes a best friend and further noted that he hoped K-9 Rogue will work out well and on the speed at which he was obtained. He also congratulated the new Town firefighters.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Callaghan; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 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.**