

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – June 23, 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 6:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

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

4. Alterations to the Agenda -- None

5. Special Recognitions and Presentations.

a Swearing In Ceremony – Montville Police Recruit Xavier Frias

Police Chief Blanchette introduced Montville Police Recruit Xavier Frias stating that he was born in Puerto Rico and spent his early years growing up in New York City. In middle school, he moved to Waterbury CT where he currently resides. After an intensive hiring process, Xavier was selected to become the newest Montville Police Officer and will be attending the Eastern Regional Police Academy in early August. Police Recruit Frias wrote a short missive at the request of Police Chief Blanchette about his goals and aspirations to properly introduce him to the Montville Community. This was his response:

“Family is super important to me. They’ve always been there pushing me to stay focused, showing me love and teaching me to never give up. No matter what’s going on, I know I can count on them. Going to church is another big part of my life. It gives me peace and helps me stay grounded. It’s where I reflect, find strength and stay connected to my values. Music is also something I love, especially playing the guitar. It helps me relax and express my feelings in a way that words sometimes can’t. I’ve worked as a security guard for a big part of my life. I take pride in helping people feel safe and doing what’s right. Ever since I was a kid, I’ve been interested in law enforcement, and my dream is still to become a police officer and serve my community. I’ve also always like speaking from the heart. Whether I’m trying to inspire someone, share something personal or just say something real, I believe words have power

when they come from a good place. Right now, I am focused on becoming the best version of myself. Life's had its ups and downs where I felt like giving up and quitting but every experience has made me stronger and more determined to keep pushing forward."

Thereafter, Police Chief Blanchette presented Police Recruit Frias Solon to Mayor Bunnell, Chairman Murphy, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Public Safety Commission and Residents of Montville. Town Clerk Katie Haring took the Oath of Office of Police Recruit Frias who thereafter presented his family—his grandparents, his brother, his two (2) sisters, his parents, and his two (2) cousins. Mayor Bunnell remarked that he was honored to be a part of Police Recruit Frias' career path and personal growth charging him with never giving up and being safe on the job. Chairperson Murphy reported having offered to Police Recruit Frias to stay at the Oakdale Fire Company bunk room to avoid having to travel for two (2) hours to get to work.

The meeting paused recording at 6:07 p.m. to allow for pictures; the meeting resumed at 6:15 p.m.

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 statistical reports for the month ending June 30, 2025 were received from each department with exception of the Montville Fire Company as noted by Vice-Chair Stewart.

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

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

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2025. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 5-0-0, 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 reports for the month ending May 31, 2025. This data can be found under Agenda Item 10B. The Lieutenant also reported that the Animal Control Facility continues to move forward with a projection for completion in late fall. Effective July 1, 2025, the Department is adding the towns of Colchester, Bozrah and the Mohegan Tribe to its ACO coverage. The High Risk Rural Roads Speed Enforcement Grant ended May 31st. In a three-month period, 669 contacts were made, which was very successful. Lastly, Lt. Radford read positive correspondence from the Raymond Library concerning K-9 Officer Fazzino and K-9 Gage who attended its recent Book Sale. Adults and children loved K-9 Gage and the engagement by Police Department that was an outstanding part of the Library

book sales. Vice-Chair Stewart asked whether same agreement applies to the new towns for ACO coverage. Lt. Radford reported that the agreement with the new towns will assist with routine ACO coverage; routine calls for roaming dogs. Calls have been low for Salem and Colchester for the last month. As to the Mohegan Tribe, it had its own system but will now call the Town ACO effective July 1st concerning dogs on any tribal property, per a question posed by Commissioner Perkins. Lt. Radford also responded to Commissioner Baker concerning the Department radio system that is running at 100% but details of the contract are still being worked on according to Mayor Bunnell.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Barnes was absent from the meeting but submitted the Fire Marshal Statistics for the month ending May 31, 2025, as follows:

Fire Marshal’s Office Activities	May 2025
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments	126
Fire Investigations	0
Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel)—1 Possible Structure Fire, 3 Medicals, 1 Fire Alarm, 1 MVA	6
Incident Responses Q54 (Fire Marshal Barnes)—1 Possible Structure Fire	1
Burn Permits Issued	11
Emergency Management Obligations	3 hours

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

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

Montville Fire Activity--May 2025		
Total Calls:	295	
Fire Calls:	45	Out of the 45, 2 assists out of town
Ambulance Calls:	250	Out of the 250, 2 assists out of town (medical)
Lift Assists for Ambulance Calls:	21	

Commissioner Perkins reported on the new Chesterfield M-37 Rescue Truck in the parking lot outside. She remarked on the Company member showing her the truck and explaining details about it prior to this meeting.

Montville Fire Company (May 2025)—No Report

Incidents:	Total
Canceled Calls--	
EMS Calls --	
Fire Calls—	
Motor Vehicles Calls--	
Other Calls—	
Total Calls:	

Mohegan Fire Company (May 2025)

Incidents/Calls:	In District	Out of District/In Town	Mutual Aid
EMS	90	60	0
Lift Assist	5	5	0
Fire Alarm	5	5	0
MVA	3	7	0
Brush/Grass/Wet Down	1	1	0
Structure Fire	2	1	0
Outside Fire	2	1	0
Utility Emergency	1	2	0
Standby	1	1	1
Service Call	1	0	0
Total Calls: 195	111	83	1

Oakdale Fire Company (May 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls: (Dispatched & canceled en route)	18
EMS Calls: (EMS call excluding vehicle accident with injury)	31
Fire Calls: (Building fire)	1
Motor Vehicles Call: (4 MVA with injuries; 1 MVA with no injuries)	5
Other Calls: (6 Medical assist, assist EMS crew; 5 Good intent call other; 1 Excessive heat; scorch burns with no	17

ignition; 1 Power line done; 1 false alarm or false call, other; 1 Carbon Monoxide incident; 1 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG; 1 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	
Total Calls:	72

Chesterfield Fire Company May 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls: (Dispatched & cancelled en route)	20
EMS Calls: (EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury)	19
Motor Vehicle: (1 MVA with no injuries; 1 MVA accident with injuries)	2
Other Calls (34 Incident type not listed; 2 False alarm or false call, other; 1 Unauthorized burning; 1 Hazmat, release investigation w/no Hazmat; 1 Cover assignment, standby, moveup; 1 Medical assist, assist EMS crew;	40
Total Calls:	81

b. Report from Animal Control Liaison. (Callaghan)

The May 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 (May 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	5	98
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	27
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	3
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	3
Total Complaints Investigated	66	653
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	3	30
Total Enforcement Action:	1	18
Total Other Calls for Service:	60	645

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (May 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY

# of Animals Impounded:	1	10
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	1	1
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated:	4	43
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	5
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service	0	0

A statistical report of Salem Call mileage (starting and ending) for the month of May 2025 was also included.

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Commissioner Gillette read into the record the Police Department statistics for the month ending May 31, 2025 as follows:

Police Department Activity – May 2025	Total
Total Calls for Service	1281
Citations:	
Infractions	51
Juvenile Summons	1
Misdemeanors	6
Written Warnings	35
Total Citations	412

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics for May 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	126	
Pending Permits	99	102	83	88	81	95	96	85	72	87	78	
Inspections	118	106	124	162	125	114	108	71	114	128	109	
Active Blight	248	252	256	259	260	264	272	277	279	288	290	
Blight Abated To Date	529	531	532	535	537	538	543	547	549	554	559	

Blight--Pending										16	10	
Blighted Property Liens			3	2								

11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex reported having taken delivery of the newly acquired M-37 Rescue Truck that went into service 1 ½ weeks ago and is outside for all to look at. He thanked the Commission for its help in obtaining the truck that has already been put to good use being present at the Carnival that went well. The Chief clarified that lift assists reported were strictly the same, as questioned by Commissioner Perkins. Chairperson Murphy thanked Chief Truex and wished him good luck with the truck.

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.

Chairperson Murphy reported that no meeting had been scheduled as of yet and recognized that all want it to be done as soon as possible. Chief Truex reported that a meeting is scheduled for June 25th at Oakdale Fire Company at 5:00 p.m. The vendor is Emergency Networking. Chairperson Murphy asked that this information be sent via text or email to all.

- b. Update to the Fire Companies’ radio system.

Commissioner Baker confirmed with Mayor Bunnell that funds are in the budget to keep the project on track, a 3-year financial commitment.

13. New Business. -- None

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

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell remarked on consideration that continues about the last applicant interview before a decision is made. Three (3) of the four (4) Fire Chiefs were present for the interview. A decision was also reported on about dimensions being finalized along with a few other things regarding the plan for Cornerstone Lane, the location of the new Animal Control facility. The Mayor also congratulated Officer Fazzino about the positive letter read earlier this evening by Lt. Radford. He spoke of having seen a lot of promising community policing that looks well for the Police Department and the Town but also speaks well of the officer and administration. He is also encouraged about the upcoming meeting with Emergency Networking concerning fire companies’ radios; something that everyone can use. The Mayor also spoke of a recent fire drill where tankers moved water at 4,000 gallons per minute and of the teamwork of the Town and other towns working together. Chairperson Murphy added that “the Town knows how to move water” as its tankers get calls from all over southern Connecticut; funds well

spent. Lastly, the Mayor commented again on the nice swearing in ceremony again wishing Police Recruit Frias well with thanks to all the Public Safety personnel and the Commission.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison. -- None

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Baker congratulated Police Officer Fazzino concerning the positive correspondence read into the record by Police Lt. Radford. He also thanked the entire Public Safety team, firefighters and police for continuing to do a fantastic job. Commissioner Perkins thanked Police Chief Blanchette concerning his report on Police Recruit Frias and to the firefighter team that drove the new Chesterfield M-37 Rescue Truck back to Connecticut. As well, she thanked Police Recruit Frias on his new assignment with the Town of Montville. Lastly, she reported that the Farmers Market asked that the Town electronic signs display its 2025 season dates and hours, July 1st to August 17 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Perkins also noted its Community Night on July 1st. Vice-Chair Stewart congratulated Police Recruit Frias and remarked he was looking forward to seeing him on the road. He then thanked all Public Safety members and asked all to have a safe, Happy July 4th. Chairperson Murphy echoed the comments of everyone and about being a part of Police Recruit Frias' interview process noting him having come from New York City and currently living in Waterbury; specifically, dealing with the adversities with living in problem cities. He also spoke of the Police Recruit having passed the lie detector and interview process noting that he was glad he took the offer to stay at the Oakdale Fire Company, a place where he can study and hangout instead of traveling two (2) hours.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 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.**