

**Town of Montville
Town Council and Public Safety Building Committee
Special Joint Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2010
7:00 PM – Town Hall – Council Chambers**

Preceding the start of the meeting, it was the consensus that the meeting location be moved from Room 203 to Council Chambers.

1. Call to Order – Chairperson Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call – Present from the Town Council were Councilors Beetham, Buebendorf, Caron, Hillman, Jacobson, McFee and Murphy. Present from the Public Safety Building Committee were Commissioners Bucko, Bunnell, Collins, Ida, Jetmore, Leonard, Lewis and Platt, Jr. Also present were Mayor Jaskiewicz, Finance Director Terry Fafard, and Town Planner Marcia Vlaun.
4. Executive Session – None.
5. Remarks from the Public

Mr. Gregory Avner, 704 Raymond Hill Road, stated that he does not support the proposed location for the Public Safety Building, and suggested it be located closer to the schools; i.e., the Fair Oaks location; and he suggested that it be located somewhere away from the prison, which is a State facility.

Mr. Bill Dwyer, 4 Connecticut Blvd., thanked all of the Council and Commission members that worked hard during the budget process. He stated that he does not feel that now is the time to spend the money on a new police department; and he made alternate spending suggestions such as town-wide trash pick-up, paying off current bonds before acquiring new ones.

Mr. Bob Manfredi, Jensen's Hillcrest, stated that he agrees that the facility needs to be upgraded, and suggested renovating the current facility and creating smaller sub-stations, one possibly located at the Fair Oaks facility. Mr. Manfredi made a Freedom of Information Act request that he be provided with the current number of lawsuits pending, and the time frame and financial impact should the Town lose each of those lawsuits.

6. Communications – None.
7. New Business

A. Motion by Councilor Caron, Second by Councilor Hillman to discuss the status of the Public Safety Building Project. **Discussion:** Chairwoman Jacobson stated that the discussion should follow the Points of Discussion document, distributed at the beginning of the meeting. A) Overview of the process followed by the Public Safety Building Committee to reach this point, per the Charge of the Town Council. Mr. Jack Platt, Chairman of the Public Safety Building Committee, stated that since the last joint meeting in May they have hired the architect, Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc., to work on the design, and have chosen a location and a design that the Committee feels will work most advantageous for the Town. They have also created a sub-committee to work specifically on the Tower project, to be built on the property with the Public Safety Commission, which would yield a monthly income for rental charges. B) Presentation by Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc., New Britain, CT. Mr. David King and Mr. Jim Sperry gave a summary of the proposed project details, as detailed in the report entitled “Proposed Town of Montville Public Safety Complex”, submitted by the Planning Department, dated August 5, 2010; and filed with these minutes. Items of interest included: the project and proposed structures are environmentally friendly, aka Green; the proposed site is owned by the Town; and water, sewer, natural gas and fiber optic cable is already installed on this property. Councilor Murphy inquired if the State has given a deadline for the existing police station to be vacated; Sgt. Michael Collins stated that they have not yet received an answer from the State, but it is going to be very soon. C) Remarks/Discussion with Town Planner Marcia Vlaun. Ms. Vlaun stated that the Planning and Zoning Department did a thorough evaluation of all of the available properties in Town, and recommends that the proposed property on Route 32 is the best choice for this project; and that this project has been reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission. The Committee is currently on time and under budget; and they expect that there will be Grants applied for and hopefully funds received, which will reduce the bottom line. Ms. Vlaun stated that although grant funds will be applied for and may be

received, the Council must resolve to bond for the full estimated cost of the project and cannot count on any grant funding. Also, she confirmed with the Town Attorney that because this project exceeds the 5% tax levy amount, this matter will go directly to Referendum and not a Town Meeting. Ms. Vlaun requested that the Town Council charge the Planning and Zoning Department to conduct a CGS 8-24 review at the next regular meeting on Monday, August 9th. D) Remarks/Discussion of funding for project with Finance Director Terry Fafard. Ms. Fafard summarized the information contained in the document entitled “Bonds Issued 7/1/11”, distributed by Ms. Fafard and included with these minutes for reference. Ms. Fafard noted that interest rates are currently low, and now is a good time to secure bonding. Councilor Murphy inquired as to how much the Town would collect for rental of the proposed tower, and Lt. Bunnell stated that approximately \$1,200.00 - \$2,000.00 could be expected as monthly rental income. Councilor Murphy noted that the fire departments currently rent from an outside tower, and this monthly expense will go away if they can use the Town-owned tower. Lt. Bunnell and Sgt. Collins explained that with this new facility, the department will be able to host training sessions; which will generate cost savings in not having to pay our officers to travel to outside training venues. Also, hosting training sessions will generate economic development for our local businesses since officers from other Towns will be attending. Councilor Beetham stated that he agrees with the site and the necessity of the project, but would like to see it scaled down; he feels that the timing is poor and the size of the building is poor. A request was made for the architects to provide an estimate of operating costs; including, but not limited to electricity, insurance, heating/cooling, maintenance and staff, and telephone; Mr. King agreed to prepare the estimate and provide such to the Town Council for review. Councilor Murphy stated we should concentrate on applying and receiving Grants, and putting special emphasis on the plans for a dispatch center. Sgt. Collins spoke regarding regionalization, and noted that should the Town regionalize, additional funds would be received through the E911 funding program; and that all Towns must regionalize, each region composed of three (3) Towns, by the year 2016 in order to keep receiving this E911 funding. E) Discussion per consensus to set a Special Meeting of the Town Council to consider a resolution to place the bonding question on the November election ballot. The consensus of Town Council members was to schedule a special meeting regarding this matter for Tuesday, August 31, 2010, at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers.

8. Remarks from the Public

Mr. Bob Manfredi, Jensen’s Hillcrest, stated that he feels that \$6,000,000.00 is not enough money to fund this project, and suggested an increased estimate.

Mr. Gregory Avner, 704 Raymond Hill Road, inquired if the proposed project is “Green” by today’s standards, and possibly eligible for environmental grants; Mr. King responded yes that the proposal meets the standards, and may be eligible for grant funding during the construction stage. Councilor Buebendorf inquired if solar energy has been considered to reduce operational costs, and Mr. King stated that he would look into that and provide estimates.

Sgt. Michael Collins stated that the money currently spent on monthly rental of the existing police department can offset the operational costs of the new facility.

9. Remarks from Councilors

All Councilors thank the members of the Public Safety Building Committee for their hard work in getting to this point in the project. Councilors McFee and Caron expressed their support for the project. Councilor Buebendorf thanked the public for attending and speaking on this matter. Councilor Beetham stated that he feels that it is bad timing for this project.

10. Adjournment – **Motion** made by Councilor Buebendorf, Second by Councilor Beetham to adjourn the meeting. **Voice Vote:** In Favor; Councilors Beetham, Buebendorf, Caron, Hillman, Jacobson, McFee and Murphy. Opposed; None. **Motion Carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sandra Anderson CPS
Minutes Clerk
Montville Town Council