

Town of Montville
Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A moment of silence was held for Nick Kupec and Isabella Butzgy who passed away during a recent motor vehicle accident in Westbrook on Friday, September 5.

2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Absent was Councilors Lathrop and Sabilia. Also present was Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

Motion made by Councilor Southard, seconded by Councilor Caron, to move Item 5, Alterations to the Agenda, to precede item 4, Special Recognitions/Presentations. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

4. Alterations to the Agenda

The following item was added to the Agenda under Item 4, Special Recognitions/Presentations:

4(b) Recognize Simo and Annie Fotiadis for their Community Service

5. Special Recognitions/Presentations

a. Reading of a citation in Recognition of Girl Scout Troop 63416

Mayor Bunnell presented the members of Girl Scout Troop 63416 with a Certificate of Recognition for their outstanding community spirit and fundraising efforts to purchase an inclusive swing for children and adults with special needs. The swing was installed on July 26, 2025. The Councilors thanked and congratulated the members.

b. Recognition of Simo and Annie Faitatus for their Community Service to the Town of Montville

Mayor Bunnell recognized Simo and Annie Faitatus, Owners of Oakdale Pizza, for their outstanding community service, generosity, and enduring partnership. The Councilors thanked and congratulated the Faitatus'.

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

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2025

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Executive Session

a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing a candidate for the Conservation Commission. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: Connie Herrmann was interviewed to serve on the Conservation Commission (Alternate). Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. Vice Chairperson Caron resumed the meeting at 7:22 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit

Brian Baker, 560 Chesterfield Road, Oakdale, spoke in support of Items 16(f), regarding the Lead Transfer Station Attendant Position Description, stating that the Transfer Station is one

of the most utilized facilities in the town, and (g), regarding the purchasing of solar-powered trash compactor bins, which was presented to the Public Works/Solid Waste Standing Committee by an employee who recognized the need for a technological improvement and potential cost savings for the town.

9. Communications

- a. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman Shapiro for the month of June 2025
- b. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman Shapiro for the month of July 2025
- c. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of July 2025

10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred

The Town Attorney is reviewing an ordinance regarding all-terrain vehicle use on roadways. Once reviewed, the ordinance will be referred to the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee.

11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred

Montville Police Lt. David Radford provided a brief update on the Animal Control Facility, which is progressing well. He reported that six-year-old Lily Tope from Gales Ferry donated the profits from her summer lemonade stand for the care of the animals.

Mayor Bunnell added that the Montville Animal Welfare Initiative has also been actively raising funds for a memorial garden, wellness clinic, Pet Food Bank, grooming room equipment, and office equipment, among other items. Lt. Radford added that they are also working with the Group to design and raise funds for the building's signage.

Public Works Director John Carlson and Town Engineer Kyle Haubert, CLA Engineers, reported on the following items:

Fishing Pier/Boat Launch – The agreements with the contractor have been signed; work will begin on the fishing pier, followed by site work in the coming days.

Bridge Street – The project, conducted by McCarthy Concrete, is completed and the road is now open. The project was completed on budget and on time.

Beechwood Road Drainage and Erosion Repair – The project is expected to be completed by the end of next week.

Maple Avenue Paving Project – The lining of the old metal culverts will be conducted over the next two weeks. The sidewalk and retaining wall issues, which slowed the design work, were resolved; the project is scheduled to go out to bid next week.

Other Road Paving Projects – Bid documents have been prepared and reviewed by the Finance Director for Old Colchester, Oxoboxo Dam, and Gutterman Roads. Connecticut Boulevard might also be added to the Bid Package following the completion of work on the catch basin tops. Because there are no immediate plans to repair the water system on Connecticut Blvd., they are recommending that the road be milled and overlaid.

Community Center Bathrooms – Documents were received from the Architect and Plumbing Sub-Consultant. The re-bid documents are being finalized and will be referred to the Finance Director for review before sending the project out to be re-bid.

Camp Oakdale Maintenance Garage – The foundation has been laid. During the excavation process, a large quantity of unsuitable materials was removed, the location of the building was slightly shifted, and the area was filled. A silt fence and safety fence have been installed around the worksite.

Camp Oakdale Parking Lot – The project to seal-coat the parking lot is currently out to bid. The deadline date for bid submissions is September 17.

Other Camp Oakdale Improvements – Other improvements include the repaving of the Tennis/Pickleball Court Parking Lot and Large Pavilion Stormwater Improvements.

Town Road Standards – The revised Road Standards, which are a scaled-back version of the state’s requirements, include the required construction details for trench restoration. The provisions include a one-year warranty and review of the work by the Town Engineer.

Butlertown Road – A plan to regrade, reslope, and pave the degrading road from 305 Butlertown Road to the Waterford Town Line is in process.

Transfer Station – A recent issue regarding the Punch Card is being addressed. Amendments to the Regulations related to the acceptance of burnable/non-burnable items and the free area are being drafted and will be presented to the Town Council.

Building Official Doug Colter distributed a document outlining the Department’s revenue, labor expenses, number of permits and inspections conducted over the years, 2026 projected costs, and ongoing staffing issues. He commended the Building Department staff and expressed his appreciation to retired Building Officials Vernon Vesey and David Jensen for their continued assistance. On any given day, the Department processes 30 to 50 permits and numerous inspections. In theory, the Department should operate as an individual enterprise that does not affect the General Fund or Grand List. As such, he proposed raising the permit fees to help offset the staffing costs, as the current budgeted amount is insufficient. He also briefly spoke to the handling of blight issues.

Finance Director Julie Chapman reported that the department is now fully staffed, allowing them to complete several outstanding tasks, including the near completion of the FY24 Audit and completion of the LoCIP (Local Capital Improvement Program) State Reporting and TAR (Town Aid Roads) Reporting. They are in the preliminary stages of closing out the FY25 Budget. As of August 31, the Tax Collector has collected 55% of the Town’s projected revenue. While most line items for expenditures are on track, the line items for workers' compensation and liability, due to rising insurance costs, and fire department overtime, due to staffing challenges, are over-budget. The Department is also working on the Auditors' recommendations, including a protocol for updating vendor information, W-9 requirements, payroll training for the Accounts Payable staff, and implementing an electronic P.O. process. The Bid for the Animal Control Facility Generator will be released this week.

Mayor Bunnell reported that he continues to attend as many board, commission, and committee meetings as possible, including the monthly staff meetings and Millstone Drills. The Cook Hill Water Tank is operating with temporary power following the negotiation of the easement for the permanent power supply. The Camp Oakdale Projects (Tennis/Pickleball Parking Lots, Large Pavilion Renovations) is being funded by Urban Act Grants. He met with the Consulting Team regarding the revamping and development of Route 32 and attended the initial CIF (Community Investment Fund) Grant Steering Committee Meeting. He also attended the Board of Education’s Convocation, where he presented a Certificate of Recognition to Teacher of the Year Kerri Flanagan and Paraeducator of the Year Katie Thompson. He met with the Grant Writer for the Mohegan Tribe to review potential projects for state and federal grants. They have interviewed three (3) applicants for the Fire Marshal position and plan to interview an applicant for the Land Use and Development Director next week. He reminded everyone that the Chesterfield Fire Company will be hosting a Wetdown for their new Rescue Truck on September 21 at 2:00 p.m.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – *Item(s) are included on agenda*

b. Finance – *Item(s) are included on agenda*

The Committee is reviewing the possibility of subscribing to *Nearmap*, a detailed aerial imagery system, which will aid six (6) departments, including the Land Use and Development, Assessor, Building, and Fire Marshal.

- c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – *see Public Works Director and Town Engineer’s report (Item 11)*

Councilor Caron acknowledged Transfer Station Employee Flo Turner for proposing the solar-powered trash compactor bins to the Standing Committee. If successful, additional bins will be purchased for the town’s other facilities. The Committee also discussed the installation of a privacy screen at the pickleball courts, the Camp Oakdale parking lots upgrades, and drainage systems that are affecting residents’ properties. All of the town’s public bathrooms have been repainted and the Department is continuing to cut trees.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

- a. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Non-Profit Organizations, Social Services, Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Fund

The Senior Center hosted a very successful End of Summer BBQ event. The Center is hoping to replace its 2013 bus, which is used daily to provide rides to the town’s seniors, veterans, and disabled residents. The Department is actively seeking funding for mental health, MedRides, Food Bank, and cleaning programs — all of which were either decreased or dropped by the federal government. The Public Works Department has agreed to pick up food from the Gemma E. Moran/United Way for the Food Bank; the need for food is constant. He thanked the Police Department for their assistance house the homeless individuals in the town.

- b. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education, Planning & Zoning Commission

The Board of Education closed its FY2024/25 Budget. The new HVAC systems at Oakdale and Murphy Elementary Schools are in working condition. The Board approved a change order for the Montville High School track and field renovation for additional items. The Superintendent updated the Board on their Capital Improvement Projects and outlined her four (4) goals.

The Planning & Zoning Commission The Planning & Zoning Commission tabled a Public Hearing for a four-lot subdivision, scheduled a Public Hearing for a two-lot re-subdivision application, approved a three-lot subdivision on Fitch Hill Road, and the Department issued 40 new zoning permits and 13 Zoning Compliance Certificates. Commissioner Bill Pieniadz was nominated and elected as the Chairperson, replacing Chairperson Sara Lundy, who stepped down for personal reasons.

- c. Councilor Lathrop: Economic Development Commission, Water Pollution Control Authority – *not present; no report*

- d. Councilor Sabilia: Conservation Commission, Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board – *not present; no report*

The Conservation Commission will be meeting tomorrow evening.

- e. Councilor Southard: Farmers Market Committee, Library Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission

Farmers Market Committee – Five (5) Farmers Market events remain for the season. The upcoming events include Pirate Night (September 16), Fall Harvest Night (September 30), and Spooky Night (October 7). A Winter Market will also be held on November 15 at Tyl Middle School..

Parks & Recreation Commission – The Commissioners are drafting an Independent Contractor Agreement and reviewing their program fees. While the programs are not-for-profit, the resulting wear and tear on the facilities is being considered. This year’s Carnival netted \$18,220.00, with a record crowd on Friday. The Committee plans to consult with the Company regarding adjusting the Saturday hours. The Commissioners have begun holding their annual walk-arounds of the facilities. Once completed, a list will be generated and referred to the Public Works Department.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Irene Taylor to the Commission on Aging with a term to expire on October 12, 2028.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Councilor Caron commended and expressed his appreciation to Ms. Taylor for her ongoing support. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2025-65. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$8,876.26 (eight thousand eight hundred seventy-six dollars and twenty-six cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2025-66. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr., to extend the Agreement with James S. Butler, AICP, to provide Public Administration and Planning Services. (Mayor Bunnell).

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: The services are related to the CIF Grant for the development of the Route 32/163 Corridor. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2025-67. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that the Town of Montville may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate for a grant of \$200,000.00 for renovations to the Camp Oakdale large pavilion and recreational field upgrades; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Leonard Bunnell Sr., as Mayor of Town of Montville, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Montville and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: The Camp Oakdale Large Pavilion renovations include improvements to the drainage and, possibly, additional lighting to the facility. The scope of the project is being discussed with the Town Engineer. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2025-68. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that the Town of Montville may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate for a grant of \$175,000.00 for upgrades and paving of the Montville pickleball court parking lot; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Leonard Bunnell Sr., as Mayor of Town of Montville, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Montville and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be

necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: The project will include the drainage, curbing, sidewalk repairs, and the widening of the entrance area. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2025-69. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize the appropriation of \$35,215.00 (thirty-five thousand two hundred fifteen dollars) from the Town of Montville's LOCIP Entitlement account for the Camp Oakdale Equipment Storage Garage. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: The funds will be allocated to the fill, as previously discussed (Item 11). Mayor Bunnell noted the item is a good example of the need for a Building Committee, which would have allowed them to better prepare for such projects. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- f. **Resolution #2025-70. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to review and approve the position description for the Lead Transfer Attendant, as recommended by the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Mayor Bunnell reported that the position description has been reviewed by the Union and is long overdue. Councilor Jaskiewicz added that the position description should avoid any potential conflicts. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- g. **Resolution #2025-71. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to allocate an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00 from the NIP fund balance for the purchase of four (4) solar-powered trash compactor bins, as recommended by the Public Works/Solid Waste Standing Committee. (Councilor Caron)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: The bins will be a great addition to the town. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- h. **Resolution #2025-72. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr., to renew the lease agreement with Lifespan School Solutions, Inc., d/b/a the Bradley School – New London Regional for the use of the Town Hall Gymnasium. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: The Bradley School is aware that the facility will not be available during early voting. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- i. **Resolution #2025-73. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize the Public Works Director to update the Town of Montville Road Standard and Improvements Details manual to include new road restoration standard detail drawings and to include warranty periods for road restoration. The Town Road Opening permit shall be updated to include restoration requirements and warranty period. The

updated Town of Montville Road Standard and Improvements Details manual to become effective October 1, 2025. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Councilor Caron extended his appreciation to the Public Works Director and Town Engineer for updating the document, which was long overdue. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- j. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve an MOU with the Public Works Union Local 1303-051 to modify Section 6.0 subsection a. of the current CBA, to extend the summer hours of work to end on October 13, 2025 and begin April 6, 2026. (Mayor Bunnell)

Mayor Bunnell reported that the Union recently approached him regarding the possibility of approving an MOU, which is not yet drafted, to change the end/start date and make use of the daylight hours and begin work before the onset of the morning traffic and activities. Councilor Jaskiewicz questioned why the item was not settled during their contract negotiations. Chairman May also questioned whether the item was reviewed by the Labor Attorney. Roll Call vote, 1-4. Voting in Favor: Councilor Yuchniuk. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Southard, and May.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit

Public Works Employee Joshua Kernozek, 103 Moxley Road, Uncasville, spoke with respect to Item 16(j), stating that the resolution is to simply shift their hours. He also noted that the issue has been raised and ignored during negotiations. The Town of Salem does the same, with no issues.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Southard congratulated Simo and Annie Faitatus and Girl Scout Troop 63416 for their service to the community. The Resolution to adjust Public Works hours was a difficult one; she expressed her discomfort with approving the item without a review by the Labor Attorney.

Councilor Jaskiewicz concurred with Councilor Southard, adding that the item should have been considered during their contract negotiations. He thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting.

Councilor Caron reminded everyone not to forget about the two families as they mourn the sudden and tragic loss of their loved ones; he asked that everyone pray for them during this difficult time.

Chairperson May sent his thoughts and prayers to the two families for their loss and sadness. He did not feel that the Councilors were opposed to approving the revised work hours.

Rather, their opposition was related to the need to follow the process and consider its effect on the other Unions.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – MEETING RECORDINGS