

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – September 22, 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 6:01 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, William Bauer, Tracy Callaghan, Micky Gillette and Karen Perkins. A quorum was present.

4. Alterations to the Agenda -- None

5. Special Recognitions and Presentations. -- None

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 August 31, 2025 were received from each department with the exception of the one from Montville Fire Company, as noted by Vice-Chair Stewart and confirmed by Commissioner Perkins.

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

- a.** The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2025.

Motion by Vice-Chair Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2025. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 7-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

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

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Linda Tomaszek of P.O. Box 407 , Montville remarked that the Commission minutes for the August 25, 2025 meeting have not been posted.

9. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford read into the record the Animal Control reports for the month ending August 31, 2025. This data can be found under Agenda Item 10B. The Lieutenant also reported that progress on the Animal Control Facility continues to move forward.

Fire Marshal Report

Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel read into the record the Fire Marshal Office statistics for the month ending August 31, 2025, as follows:

Fire Marshal’s Office Activities	August 2025
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments	54
Reinspection of Businesses and Apartments	28
Fire Investigations	2
Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel)—1 Medical, 1 Fire Alarm,	15
Emergency Management Incident	1
Burn Permits Issued	9
Emergency Management Obligations	6 hours

Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel also reported on the upcoming Public Safety Awareness Day on October 4th from 9:00 .m. – 12:00 noon, at Home Depot. Flyers were sent out promoting the event and fire trucks and fire teams will be present. He also reported on the following Community Events—Fire Extinguisher Training at Public Works, the Town Hall, the WPCA as well as National Night Out. The Deputy Fire Marshal also responded to Chairperson Murphy as to the status of work activity in his office. He reported that he is working and prioritizing; and although he fell behind a bit he is getting things done and is focused on maintaining priorities with no lack of contact with the public and required responses. He also remarked that all responses are addressed within 24-48 hours.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins reported on having received fire company reports from Mohegan, Chesterfield and Oakdale; but not from Montville. She also read into the record the Montville Fire Activity statistics for August 2024, as follows:

Montville Fire Activity—August 2025		
Total Calls:	290	
Fire Calls:	47	6 were assists out of town
Ambulance Calls:	243	3 were assists out of town

Lift Assists for Ambulance Calls:	17	
--	-----------	--

Montville Fire Company (August)—No Report

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

Mohegan Fire Company (August 2025)

Incidents/Calls:	In District	Out of District/In Town	Mutual Aid
EMS	90	46	0
Lift Assist	3	6	0
Fire Alarm	3	11	0
MVA	6	4	0
Brush/Outside Fire		1	0
Structure Fire	1	2	0
Utility Emergency	3	0	0
Vehicle Fire	2	0	0
HAZMAT	2	1	0
Elevator Entrapment	2	0	0
Smoke Investigation	0	1	0
Total Calls: 182	110	72	0

No Volunteers on calls in districts: **84**
Ambulance Transports with no paid staff: **0**
Ambulance Transports by other Departments in District: **22**

Oakdale Fire Company (August 2025)

Incidents:	Total

Cancelled Calls: (Dispatched & canceled en route)	10
EMS Calls: (30 EMS call excluding vehicle accident with injury; 2 Emergency medical service incident, other)	32
Fire: (1 Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire; 1 Grass fire)	2
Motor Vehicle Calls: (4 Motor vehicle accidents with injuries; 3 Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped); 1 Motor vehicle accident with no injuries)	8
Other Calls: (7 Medical assist, assist EMS crew; 2 Smoke detector activation, no fire--unintentional; 2 Smoke detector activation due to malfunction; 1 Sprinkler activation no fire—unintentional; 1 False alarm or false call, other; 1 Unauthorized burning; 1 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG); 1 Good intent call, other; 1 Smoke scare; odor of smoke)	17
Total Calls:	69

Chesterfield Fire Company August 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls: (Dispatched & cancelled en route)	18
EMS Calls: (EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury)	7
Fire Calls: (1 Burn or brush-and-grass mixture fire; 1 Building fire)	2
Motor Vehicle Calls: (2 MVA with injuries; 1 MVA with no injuries)	3
Other Calls (34 Incident type not listed; 3 False alarm or false call, other; 1 Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke; 1 Cover assignment, standby, moveup)	39
Total Calls:	69

b. Report from Animal Control Liaison. (Callaghan)

The August 2025 Animal Control Activity Reports for the Towns of Montville, Colchester, Salem, Bozrah and Mohegan Tribe submitted by Police Officer/ACO Bruce Rebelo. Lt. Radford read these reports into the record under Agenda Item 9, as follows:

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (August 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	12	26
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	3
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	1
# of Animals Euthanized:	1	3
Total Complaints Investigated	63	150
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	1	4
Total Enforcement Action:	2	3
Total Other Calls for Service:	63	113

Town of Colchester Animal Control Report (August 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	6	16
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	3	5
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	1
# of Animals Euthanized:	1	1
Total Complaints Investigated:	16	37
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	1
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service	0	0

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (August 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	1	2
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	1	10
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	1
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

Town of Bozrah Animal Control Report (August 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	0	0
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	3	4
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	0
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

Mohegan Tribe Animal Control Report (August 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	0	0
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	0	0
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	0
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

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

Police Department Activity – August 2025	Total
Total Calls for Service	987
Citations:	
Infractions	32
Juvenile Summons	1
Misdemeanors	10
Written Warnings	119
Total Citations	162

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics for July 2024 – June 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	104
Pending Permits	99	102	83	88	81	95	96	85	72	87	78	81
Inspections	118	106	124	162	125	114	108	71	114	128	109	126
Active Blight	248	252	256	259	260	264	272	277	279	288	290	294
Blight Abated To Date	529	531	532	535	537	538	543	547	549	554	559	563
Blight--Pending										16	10	6
Blighted Property Liens			3	2								

The Building Department statistics for August 2025 were read into the record by Vice-Chair Stewart, as follows:

2025-2026 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	118	80										
Pending Permits	71	90										
Inspections	151	123										
Active Blight	298	302										
Blight Abated To Date	573	575										
Blight--Pending	11	9										
Blighted Property Liens												

11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- None

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 remarked on having no idea of the status of this agenda item. Fire Chief Truex reported that this past week Next Responder sent out a contract to each Fire Chief. The software should be up and running by the end of December 2025 upon completion of setup and training.

b. Update to the Fire Companies' radio system.

Fire Chief Truex reported on the status of the fire companies' radio system that requires cooperation from the State. The State staff person has cleared a lot of stuff and can start working on setup of the Town fire companies. Testing is being done on a less costly, portable radio that would be a significant cost savings, the cost of three (3) of the portables versus the price for a Kenmore or Motorola. A radio purchase at this time cannot be done as the one being tested by the State has yet to be approved. Commissioner Baker questioned the comment made at the last meeting about the failing system currently in use; according to Chief Truex the quality of reception depends on your location in Town in order to communicate with a dispatcher. Commissioner Baker expressed his concern and hope that efforts will be made by the State to move the process along given public safety factor and the need for fire and police communications in emergency situations. The Chief also noted that calls are also being made to Dispatch using cell phones again noting that the current radio system is getting worse. Lt. Radford reported that on the Department side of the radio system a "card" that had died was removed and the system was converted from the low band side and stabilized with a little better reception. The Lieutenant also reported on a meeting held today with the Fire Chiefs with information supplied that the State will be able to take care of/approve the Town radio system soon.

13. New Business. -- None

14. Remarks from the Public three-minute limit.

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel remarked on Fire Prevention Week, October 6th – October 11th and reported that this campaign will be about lithium batteries. A schedule has been made, and all district elementary schools will be visited.

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell remarked that on Thursday of this week his office will be moved to the ground floor and a couple of others will be done in the next few weeks. Also reported was continuation of the Town Fire Marshal process and his having learned that NECOG is dropping a number of towns for ACO coverage. He noted having gotten calls from other towns about the same but feels that the Town will not be able to provide accommodation given availability and space-one (1) contact was from Norwich. The Mayor also reported this past Sunday having witnessed an M-37 wet down along with several Town Council members and was glad he went. An M-37 and an old tanker will be put up for sale. Lastly, paid staff were moved back to Company 2 on Saturday morning.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Sabilia remarked on having attended the M-37 wet down, a first experience for him. He also remarked on having the opportunity to check out the truck that he thinks will be an asset to the Town.

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Baker thanked the Police Department and the Fire Companies for the work that they do. He remarked that their work is noticed and encouraged them to keep moving forward and serving the public. Commissioner Perkins thanked the Police Department and Fire Companies noting they are appreciated for everything they do for the Town. Vice-Chair Stewart remarked that he will be attending a presentation of a State Fire Service Survey at the Eastern Fire School in Willimantic--he will report back next month on the same. He concluded by charging all to be safe.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 7-0-0, 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.**