

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – August 25, 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, Tracy Callaghan and Karen Perkins. Commissioners William Bauer and Micky Gillette were absent. 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 July 31, 2025 were received from each department with the exception of the Montville Fire Company reports for the months of June and July 2025, as noted by Vice-Chair Stewart which Commissioner Perkins confirmed.

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

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Baker; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of June 23, 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 June 30, 2025 and July 31, 2025. Similarly, he read into the record the Police Department statistics for that same time period. This data can be found under Agenda Items 10B and 10C, respectively. The Lieutenant also reported that progress on the Animal Control Facility continues to move forward and that the addition of the Towns of Colchester and Bozrah and the Mohegan Tribe to the ACO coverage has proven to be a challenge. Colchester required a lot of attention in the beginning, but with some conversation, things have improved. The National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2025 and was very successful. Thanks was given to all who participated. Lt. Radford also reported positive correspondence as follows:

- K-9 Officer Mora, Officer Cassidy, Officer DeSimone and Officer Michaels responded to a call from a homeowner, whose husband was out of town for military duty, regarding text threats to a family member. Thanks was extended to these Officers who were helpful, patient and understanding to the family and thereafter investigated and arrested the suspect that same evening. These Officers put Mr. LeFleur's wife at ease, who was satisfied with the response.
- ACO Officer Rebelo responded to a call from a home on August 25, 2025 concerning a bat flying around a master bedroom chimney. The 76-year old homeowner had a 6-foot ladder and screwdriver in place upon Officer Rebelo's arrival and praised the Officer for his response to his call and for letting him know of his estimated time of arrival. The bat was captured and released by Officer Rebelo. The homeowner plans to send a donation to the Police Department in recognition of Officer Rebelo's actions.
- Waterford Police Chief Balestracci sent a letter of appreciation about the partial deployment of SRT Officers, K-9 Officer Witts, Sgt Pelletier and Officer Lalumiere who provided safety and security for the Waterford Day Parade on August 9, 2025. The letter expressed the value and professionalism of these individuals who provided safety for the parade participants and the attendees. The Chief also praised the valued relationship between the Towns.
- Detective Saffioti and Detective Noyes were described as kind, caring, helpful and professional during a forensic interview as emphasized in a letter praising these Officers.

Lt. Radford responded to questions from the Commission concerning the role of the Town Special Response Team ("SRT") who are ready to deploy if an incident occurs. The Team includes nine (9) officers who are able to communicate on the 800#. As to the 400-plus increase in calls for the Animal Control Officer during the 2025 fiscal year, it was attributed to an uptick of animal issues and for a job well done by ACO Rebelo. The Lieutenant also responded to a question regarding the cost to adopt a pet, \$50.

Fire Marshal Report

Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel read into the record the Fire Marshal Office statistics for the months ending June 30, 2025 and July 31, 2025, as follows:

Fire Marshal’s Office Activities	June 2025
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments	109
Reinspection of Businesses and Apartments	36
Fire Investigations	1
Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel)—1 Possible Structure Fire, 4 Medicals, 1 CO Alarm, 1 Fire Alarm, 0 MVA	7
Incident Responses Q54 (Fire Marshal Barnes)—1 Possible Structure Fire, 1 Hazmat, 1 CO Alarm	3
Burn Permits Issued	13
Emergency Management Obligations	3 hours

Fire Marshal’s Office Activities	July 2025
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments	124
Reinspection of Businesses and Apartments	18
Fire Investigations	2
Incident Responses Q64 (Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel)—3 Possible Structure Fire, 5 Medicals, 3 Fire Alarm, 2 MVA, 1 Smoke Investigation, 1 Brush Fire	15
Incident Responses Q54 (Fire Marshal Barnes)—2 Possible Structure Fire, 1 Fire Alarm, 1 Brush Fire	4
Burning Complaint Investigation	1
Smoke Detector Install, 5 total, 1 home	5
Community Events – Flap Jacks with DFM – fireworks education	
Emergency Management Incident	1
Burn Permits Issued	11
Emergency Management Obligations	28 hours

Fire Marshal Report Comments:

Deputy Fire Marshal Meigel (“DFM”) also reported on the following activities:

- August 25, 2025, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, career staff with several volunteer Town fire companies performed boat training on Mohegan M92, Montville M91 and Oakdale M94. The training also included water rescue of swimming victims in the Thames River. The successful training included: (9) Career Staff including the DFM; (12)

Montville Fire Company Volunteers; (7) Oakdale Fire Company Volunteers; (1) Mohegan Fire Company Volunteer. Thanks was given to Fire Chief Messer and Fire Chief Turner for hosting the training.

- A thank you was given to everyone who came to wish Fire Marshal Barnes a Happy Retirement in July.
- At National Night Out, the Fire Marshal Office (“FMO”) had a location for public education that included a fire extinguisher demonstration and one-on-one training with the public. It was very successful as a lot of kids experienced using a fire extinguisher for the first time.
- DFM Meigel has had several meetings with Home Depot about the upcoming Fire Safety Day, October 4th from 9:00 .m. – 12:00 noon. Thus far, seven (7) State and Town departments have assigned to come and help get the education out to the public.
- The Fire Marshal’s Office is working one-to-one with the Red Cross to help promote the smoke detector install program. Additional smoker detectors were obtained from the Red Cross when supplies ran out.

DFM Meigel also read into the record a letter of thanks from Police Chief Blanchette reporting on a July 18 incident of an elderly man with dementia who was carrying knives at his residence and switched those for a large mallet type hammer. The man also had refused to take his medication according to his wife. Chief and Sgt. Stumph initially responded to the call and were unable to secure the mallet from the gentleman. Police Chief Blanchette praised the exceptional work of Firefighters Michael Warren and Tim Condon who arrived thereafter and were able to take possession of the mallet and take the individual by ambulance to the hospital. These Firefighters were acknowledged by the Chief for their calm, compassionate approach to the gentleman and highlighted their skill and empathy that reflected the highest standard of service. The gentleman’s wife also acknowledged how kindly the Firefighters spoke to her husband.

The DFM further reported that the Fire Marshal’s Office continues to serve the citizens and stakeholders of the Town of Montville. The Department strives to continue to Educate the Public, Keep Lives Safe and Preserve Property to the best of its ability. This is a team effort as we continue to thank the Career Staff, Volunteers and the Police Department for helping the FMO’s carry out this mission. Thank you to all who are involved in this mission.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins read into the record the Montville Fire Activity statistics for June and July 2025 and the Montville Firefighters Relief Committee that met on July 30th at 3:00 p.m., as follows:

Montville Fire Activity--June 2025		
Total Calls:	312	
Fire Calls:	64	1 was assists out of town

Ambulance Calls:	248	1 was assist out of town --medical
Lift Assists for Ambulance Calls:	15	

Montville Fire Activity--July 2025		
Total Calls:	301	
Fire Calls:	56	6 were assists out of town
Ambulance Calls:	245	8 was assist out of town --medical
Lift Assists for Ambulance Calls:	23	

Volunteer Firefighter’s Relief Committee (1st Quarter 2025)

Fire Companies	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter	
	Stipends	Tax Abatements	Stipends	Tax Abatements
Montville	8	3	8	3
Mohegan	6	1	5	0
Chesterfield	3	2	4	2
Oakdale	7	7	7	7

Montville Fire Company (June 2025 and July 2025)—No Report

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

Mohegan Fire Company (June 2025)

Incidents/Calls:	In District	Out of District/In Town	Mutual Aid
EMS	121	43	1
Lift Assist	3	3	0

Fire Alarm	4	16	0
MVA	3	9	0
HAZMAT	3	3	0
Structure Fire		1	0
Vehicle Fire	1	0	0
Utility Emergency	3	1	0
CO Emergency	0	4	0
Service Call	2	0	0
Water Rescue	1	0	0
Total Calls: 222	141	80	1

No Volunteers on calls in districts: 103
Ambulance Transports with no paid staff: 7
Ambulance Transports by other Departments in District: 8

Mohegan Fire Company (July 2025)

Incidents/Calls:	In District	Out of District/In Town	Mutual Aid
EMS	79	38	2
Lift Assist	5	5	0
Fire Alarm	1	17	0
MVA	3	4	0
Brush/Outside Fire	1	0	1
Structure Fire	1	2	2
Utility Emergency	1	0	0
Service Call	1	0	0
Total Calls: 163	92	66	5

No Volunteers on calls in districts: 74
Ambulance Transports with no paid staff: 4
Ambulance Transports by other Departments in District: 2

Oakdale Fire Company (June 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls: (Dispatched & canceled en route)	19

EMS Calls: (24 EMS call excluding vehicle accident with injury; 2 Emergency medical service incident, other)	26
Motor Vehicle Calls: (3 Motor vehicle accidents with injuries)	3
Other Calls: (6 Medical assist, assist EMS crew; 5 Good intent call other; 5 False alarm or false call, other; 2 Good intent call, other; 1 Smoke or odor removal; 1 Power line done; 1 Unauthorized burning; 1 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG); 1 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction; 1 Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional)	19
Total Calls:	67

Oakdale Fire Company (July 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls: (Dispatched & canceled en route)	19
EMS Calls: (25 EMS call excluding vehicle accident with injury; 1 Emergency medical service incident, other)	26
Fire: (1 Outside rubbish fire, other; 1 Brush or brush-and-grass fire mixture)	2
Motor Vehicle Calls: (6 Motor vehicle accident with injuries; 1 motor vehicle accident with no injuries)	7
Other Calls: (4 Medical assist, assist EMS crew; 3 Smoke detector activation due to malfunction; 3 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction; 1 Unintentional transmission of alarm, other; 1 False alarm or false call, other; 1 Good intent call other; 1 Smoke scare, odor of smoke; 1 call, other; 1 Smoke or odor removal; 1 Coverage assignment, standby, moveup; 1 Water problem, other; 1 Power line done; 1 Local alarm system, malicious false alarm; 1 Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional)	19
Total Calls:	67

Chesterfield Fire Company June 2025)

Incidents:	Total
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Cancelled Calls: (Dispatched & cancelled en route)	21
EMS Calls: (EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury)	16
Fire Calls: 1 Road freight or transport vehicle fire; 1 Special outside fire, other; 1 Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined)	3
Motor Vehicle Calls: (1 MVA with no injuries)	1
Other Calls (17 Incident type not listed; 5 False alarm or false call, other; 2 Medical assist, assist EMS crew; 1 Attempted burning, illegal action, other; 1 Electrical wire, equipment problem, other)	26
Total Calls:	67

Chesterfield Fire Company July 2025)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls: (Dispatched & cancelled en route)	22
EMS Calls: (EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury)	17
Fire Calls: 1 Fire, other; 1 brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire)	2
Motor Vehicle Calls: (2 MVA with injuries; 1 MVA with no injuries)	3
Other Calls (34 Incident type not listed; 8 False alarm or false call, other; 2 Cover assignment; standby, moveup; 1 Power line down; 1 Alarm system activation, no fire – unintentional; 1 Medical assist; assist EMS crew)	47
Total Calls:	91

b. Report from Animal Control Liaison. (Callaghan)

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

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (June 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	8	106
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	2	29
# of Animals D.O.A.:	1	4
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	3
Total Complaints Investigated	100	753
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	5	35
Total Enforcement Action:	1	19
Total Other Calls for Service:	60	705

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (June 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	2	12
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated:	8	51
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	1	6
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service	0	0

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (July 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	14	14
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	3	3
# of Animals D.O.A.:	1	1
# of Animals Euthanized:	2	2
Total Complaints Investigated	87	87
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	3	3
Total Enforcement Action:	1	1
Total Other Calls for Service:	50	50

Town of Colchester Animal Control Report (July 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	10	10
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	2	2
# of Animals D.O.A.:	1	1
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	21	21
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	1	1
Total Enforcement Action:		
Total Other Calls for Service:		

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (July 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	1	1
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	9	9
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	1	1
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

Town of Bozrah Animal Control Report (July 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	1	1
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	0
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

Mohegan Tribe Animal Control Report (July 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

Commissioner Callaghan reported on having done a drive-by of the new ACO building and remarked that it looked nice.

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Lt. Radford read into the record the Police Department statistics for the months ending June 30, 2025 and July 31, 2025, as follows:

Police Department Activity – June 2025	Total
Total Calls for Service	951
Citations:	
 Infractions	49
 Juvenile Summons	2
 Misdemeanors	3
 Written Warnings	95
Total Citations	149

Police Department Activity – July 2025	Total
Total Calls for Service	1009
Citations:	
 Infractions	17
 Juvenile Summons	0
 Misdemeanors	3
 Written Warnings	101
Total Citations	121

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

The Building Department statistics for 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 July 2025 are as follows:

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

11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Chairperson Murphy remarked with thanks on the return of Fire Chief Suarez.

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.

Vice-Chair Stewart inquired about the name of the new firefighter data provider. Fire Chief Truex responded that it is Next Responder. (The Chief later corrected the provider name as being Emergency Networking, off the record to the Recording Secretary.)

b. Update to the Fire Companies' radio system.

Fire Chief Truex reported that he and Fire Chief Messer were on a status call with the State concerning its timeline on the radio system. He noted that the Town was asked to get quotes that must be approved by the State as it is their system. The process will continue to move slowly as the former State contact retired, and the new person is still familiarizing himself. Chairperson Murphy noted that the canteen has an expensive, new radio that cannot be used due to waiting on the State.

13. New Business. -- None

14. Remarks from the Public three-minute limit.

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. Lt. Radford reported that he failed to thank Vice-Chair Stewart and Commissioner Gillette for their involvement in the Part-time Assistant Animal Control interview process. Two (2) candidates were chosen to move forward and will be added to the crew upon the return of the Human Resources Official. Fire Chief Truex added that he failed to report on the radio traffic that is getting worse. He remarked that Legacy no longer works as there are problems with both the mobiles and portables. He noted that audio has failed and cannot be heard on Route 85, Chesterfield Road or Chapel Hill Road. This issued was reported by him and Fire Chief Messer to the State. Chairperson Murphy reported that the pagers are also not working at Oakdale.

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell remarked that interviews were conducted for the Fire Marshal position that is still vacant awaiting the return of the Human Resources Official for further action. Also reported was Route 32 finally getting a top course of new pavement that will be followed by line painting. The Mayor reported that on the line painting of the southern section of Route 32 whereby latex was laid down and then replaced about a week later with epoxy that is more reflective. The Mayor also noted that the double lines along Route 32 that will continue north are not bike lanes. Praise and thanks was given to all the officers referenced in the positive correspondence by Lt. Radford with the Mayor stating that the good words from the letters warrants pride. The SRT was referenced by Mayor Bunnell who stated that the team was sent out but noted that it is reciprocal--the program is a good one that is well worth the time and expense and one day the Town may need them. Staff was returned to Firefighter Company 1 with the radon having been mitigated. The main objective for the return was not just to cover half the shift but to familiarize, expose and train all staff on all equipment, certified and signed. He noted that all fire companies have different equipment and that it is the responsibility of the Fire Chiefs to assure that all personnel are trained on that equipment. Mayor Bunnell then reported that on July 15th the Sons of American Revolution recognized three (3) Town public safety staff for an Outstanding Service Award. Meetings of this organization are held across the country, and a town is selected for recognition in the categories of EMS, Fire Protection,

and Law Enforcement. The three (3) individuals chosen were Captain Fred Dewitt of Oakdale Fire Company, Firefighter Donnie Ellis (not Firefighter Moran that was corrected later in the meeting) and Retired State Trooper/School Resource Officer Dennis Collins. (A new SRO was introduced at a Board of Education ceremony held today.) The Sons of American Revolution acknowledgement recognizes the outstanding service these individuals have given back to the community and the award was presented at the last Town Council meeting. Further, Mayor Bunnell reported that the Building Official position is still vacant; the Assistant Building Official has been certified for the State as such but has not taken the test for Building Official as more steps are needed to move him up to that position. Advertising continues for the Building Official position. The Blight Officer position has increased to 19 ½ hours and Melissa Rivers is doing a great job, but more hours are needed—her position was budgeted for an increase that did not come to fruition. A second Blight Officer is being considered.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison. -- None
Town Councilor Sabilia was absent from the meeting.

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins thanked the Police Department and the Fire Companies for the jobs that they do. Vice-Chair Stewart echoed Commissioner Perkins' comment and remarked that the letters of accommodation are always appreciated, and he hopes they continue. He then wished everyone a safe and happy Labor Day. Commissioner Baker appreciated the feedback from the community concerning the positive correspondence heard this evening and congratulated those recognized. He also acknowledged the good job regarding the boat rescue training exercise on August 25th and then asked everyone to stay safe over the Labor Day weekend. Chairperson Murphy remarked that it was good to have these letters of accommodation on the bulletin boards at the fire station. He also noted that everyone—the police and fire personnel—is working hard and doing a great job.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Baker to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 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.**