

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Special Meeting – December 8, 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.

This meeting was informational as a quorum was no present.

1. Call to order.

Vice-Chairperson Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Vice-Chairperson Steven Stewart and Commissioners Karen Perkins and Tracy Callaghan. Absent was Chairperson Gary Murphy and Commissioners William Bauer and Mickey Gillette. A quorum was not present.

4. Special Recognitions and Presentations.

- Swearing in Ceremony of Fire Marshal John Meigel.

Mayor Bunnell announced the appointment of John Meigel, from Deputy Fire Marshal to Fire Marshal of the Town, having worked hard for the position. Fire Marshal Meigel was sworn in by Town Clerk Katie Haring, and his ceremonial pinning was done by his wife. The Fire Marshal's six children and other family members attended the presentation. The Mayor remarked on the of level work that needs to be done given Town activities and noted efforts being made to secure help for the Fire Marshal by appointment of a Deputy Fire Marshal.

5. Communications:

Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police Department, Animal Control and Building Official.

Vice-Chairperson Stewart reported that statistical reports for the months ending October 31, 2025 and November 30, 2025 were not received from Fire Company #1 Montville, Fire Company #3 Chesterfield and Fire Company #4 Oakdale. The Vice-Chairperson also reported, and it was confirmed by Commissioner Perkins that the November report was not received from Dispatch--personnel was said to be under the weather.

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

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2025. – No action
The November 24, 2025 meeting of the Commission was cancelled.

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

Vice-Chairperson Stewart asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford read into the record the Animal Control reports for the month ending October 31, 2025 and November 30, 2025. This data can be found under Agenda Item 9B. The Lieutenant also read the Police Department statistics for the same time period that can be found under Agenda Item 9C. Positive correspondence concerning police officers was read as follows:

Correspondence was read regarding a motor vehicle pursuit that initially stemmed from the highway and ultimately ended up in Town. A stop stick was used to stop the pursuit without injury and was handled by Officer Cassidy, Officer Osunniyi and Sergeant Shepherd with the assailant being taken into custody without injury.

The professionalism of Officer Todd was recognized in correspondence from a lift driver who was detained and unknowingly picked up an assailant who had been involved in a home invasion. The lift driver was a single mother of four (4) children, two (2) with special needs. The vehicle of the lift driver was stopped by Town Police, and the lift driver was ordered out of her car, handcuffed in the pouring rain, reported having guns pointed toward her. The lift driver explained her concerns to Officer Todd about possibly losing her job and tension from being handcuffed that would physically exasperate a bodily injury, as well as the fear of losing her children. Officer Todd listened to the concerns of the lift driver and kept her informed of her actions. After learning about the home invasion and eventually being released from the handcuffs, the lift driver asked that her car be searched as one of her special needs children usually sat where the assailant had and often put things in his mouth. Narcotics were found in that seat. The lift driver spoke of the calmness and compassion of Officer Todd and her gratitude to the Towns of Montville and Waterford for her safety from what she hoped was only “the wildest ride of her life.”

Correspondence was received about the actions of AACO Tina Brown and Christie Andrews and their efforts to catch and retrieve a cat who had lived with the husband’s deceased sister. For two (2) months, an alternative home or shelter was sought for the cat that did not mix well with their two (2) dogs. The AACO’s provided a trap to locate and secure the cat and put them in touch with a cat sanctuary. The AACO’s were thanked for their wonderful service for capturing and finding a home for the cat.

Lt. Radford responded to a question from Vice-Chair Stewart about the status of the ACO facility. He reported that the building is water tight, has been secured with doors, and thanks to the WPCA has been provided a temporary generator for interior work in lieu of permanent

power slotted for this week. Parking and curbing has been completed and top soil will be added to grassy areas in the spring.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Meigel read into the record the Fire Marshal Office statistics for the month ending October 2025 and November 2025, as follows:

Fire Marshal’s Office Activities	October 2025
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments	76
Reinspection of Businesses and Apartments	54
Fire Investigations	1
Incident Responses Q64—1 Structure Fire	1
Community Events	0
Emergency Management Incident	0
Emergency Management Obligations	9 hours
Burn Permits Issued	9

Fire Marshal’s Office Activities	November 2025
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments	41
Reinspection of Businesses and Apartments	16
Fire Investigations	3
Incident Responses Q64—1 Medical, 2 Fire Alarm	3
Community Events	0
Emergency Management Incident	0
Emergency Management Obligations	5 hours
Burn Permits Issued	8

Per a question from Vice-Chairperson Stewart, Fire Marshal Meigel reported that these status reports were emailed 30 minutes prior to tonight's meeting.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Commissioner Perkins reported on the Monday, November 3, 2025 quarterly meeting of the Montville Fire Relief Committee. She also read into the record the Montville Fire Activity statistics for October 2025 in addition to the Santa Runs for the Fire Companies as follows:

Montville Fire Activity—October 2025		
Total Calls:	280	

Fire Calls:	54	5 were assists out of town
Ambulance Calls:	226	3 were assists out of town 1 assist from town 11 lift assists

Volunteer Firefighter’s Relief Committee (3rd Quarter 2025)

	July – September	
Fire Companies	Stipends	Tax Abatements
Montville	7	3
Mohegan	4	0
Chesterfield	4	2
Oakdale	7	6

Note: One (1) volunteer at Chesterfield qualified for five (5) stipends; however one (1) qualifies for Oakdale.

Santa Runs – December 2025		
Fire Companies	Date	Time
Montville	Dec. 20 Dec. 21	Noon Rain Date
Mohegan	Dec. 20	2:00 PM
Chesterfield	Dec. 14	12:30 PM
Oakdale	Dec. 21	8:00 AM (Leaves Station)

Montville Fire Company (October 2025 -- November 2025)—No Reports

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

Mohegan Fire Company (October 2025)

Incidents/Calls:	In District	Out of District/In Town	Mutual Aid
EMS	66	55	2
Lift Assist	3	3	0
Fire Alarm	3	11	0
MVA	3	6	1
Brush/Outside Fire	1	1	0
Structure Fire	1	2	1
Utility Emergency	1	4	0
Service Call	1	0	0
HAZMAT	1	0	0
Chimney Fire	0	1	0
Smoke Investigation	1	0	0
Total Calls: 168	81	83	4

No Volunteers on calls in districts: 61
Ambulance Transports with no paid staff: 1
Ambulance Transports by other Departments in District: 11
Transports from other districts: 35

Mohegan Fire Company (November 2025)

Incidents/Calls:	In District	Out of District/In Town	Mutual Aid
EMS	66	47	0
Lift Assist	4	4	0
Fire Alarm	3	12	0
MVA	6	4	1 Norwich 1395
Brush/Outside Fire	1	3	0
Structure Fire	0	2	1 Foxwoods
Utility Emergency	1	1	0
CO Alarm	2	0	0
HAZMAT	2	1	0
Elevator Entrapment	2	0	0

Smoke Investigation	0	1	0
Total Calls: 164	87	75	2

No Volunteers on calls in districts:	66
Ambulance Transports with no paid staff:	4
Ambulance Transports by other Departments in District:	4
Ambulance Transports from other districts:	38

Oakdale Fire Company (September 2025 – November 2025) No Reports

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls:	
EMS Calls:	
Fire:	
Motor Vehicle Calls:	
Other Calls:	
Total Calls:	

Chesterfield Fire Company (September 2025—November 2025)—No Reports

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls:	
EMS Calls:	
Fire Calls:	
Motor Vehicle Calls:	
Other Calls:	
Total Calls:	

b. Report from Animal Control Liaison. (Callaghan)

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

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (October 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	15	52
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	1	5

# of Animals D.O.A.:	1	3
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	3
Total Complaints Investigated	87	315
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	2	9
Total Enforcement Action:	3	8
Total Other Calls for Service:	50	223

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (November 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	8	60
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	5
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	3
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	3
Total Complaints Investigated	37	352
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	3	12
Total Enforcement Action:	0	8
Total Other Calls for Service:	25	248

Town of Colchester Animal Control Report (October 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	1	19
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	2	10
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	1
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	1
Total Complaints Investigated:	14	67
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	3	7
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service	0	0

Town of Colchester Animal Control Report (November 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	4	23
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	10

# of Animals D.O.A.:	2	3
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	1
Total Complaints Investigated:	13	80
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	1	8
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service	0	0

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (October 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	0	2
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	7	17
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	1
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (November 2025)

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	1	3
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	8	25
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	1
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

Town of Bozrah Animal Control Report (October 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	11
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	0
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

Town of Bozrah Animal Control Report (November 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	14
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	0
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

Mohegan Tribe Animal Control Report (October 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	0	0
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	1	1
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

Mohegan Tribe Animal Control Report (November 2025)—No Activity

Activity	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	0	1
# 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	1
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0
Total Other Calls for Service:	0	0

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Lt. Radford read into the record the Police Department statistics for the month ending October 31, 2025 and November 30, 2025, as follows:

Police Department Activity – October 2025	Total
Total Calls for Service	1001
Citations:	
Infractions	21
Juvenile Summons	7
Misdemeanors	2
Written Warnings	65
Total Citations	95

Police Department Activity – November 2025	Total
Total Calls for Service	841
Citations:	
Infractions	24
Juvenile Summons	0
Misdemeanors	10
Written Warnings	97
Total Citations	131

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 October 2025 and November 2025 were read into the record by Vice-Chairperson Stewart, as follows:

2025-2026 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	118	80	102	161	99							
Pending Permits	71	90	62	22	38							
Inspections	151	123	143	167	142							
Active Blight	298	302	305	308	303							
Blight Abated To Date	573	575	590	594	596							
Blight--Pending	11	9	6	3	2							
Blighted Property Liens												

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Newly appointed Chesterfield Fire Chief Dave Nelson was recently elected at the annual meeting of the fire company. He reported that he lives in Oakdale and served as assistant deputy fire chief for the past 40 years and a member of the company for 41 years. Fire Chief Nelson asked for a round of applause for former Fire Chief Truex for his service to the company for 18 years. The Chief also reported that the fire company stats will come out later this week due to software and turnover issues. He will be getting the names and phone numbers of the Commission for emailing purposes. Commissioner Perkins remarked that as the fire liaison for the Commission the Chief can send his reports to her and she will forward them on.

11. 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-Chairperson Stewart asked former Fire Chief Truex for a status update on this item who reported that for the new system; the conversion from EMS to Emergency Networking will occur on January 1, 2026 for the four (4) fire companies. The January status reports will be generated in February from the new system; December reports will be processed from EMS. Networking with vendors and ongoing setup is concerning given the timeline. The Fire Chiefs and others are currently at a training session tonight and again on December 22nd. The new data system is supposed to do what EMS does and more.

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

Former Fire Chief Truex reported that Fire Chief Messer has frequently spoke with the State about setup plans for the new radio system. The State now wants to have a meeting with the vendors regarding setup although this information has been submitted already. Fire Chief Messer has been trying to make contact with Toms Plus concerning the fire side of the conversion that has a March-April timeline. Lt. Radford reported that the upgraded radio system is all-encompassed in one and that the only thing missing is programming of the channels that the State must do.

12. New Business.

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Recommend the purchase of a FARO Scanner in the amount of \$6,887.00; the Town of Montville's cost sharing with the Shoreline Traffic Accident Reconstruction Team.

Police Chief Blanchette reported on an agreement that was entered into 2 ½ years ago with the Waterford and East Lyme Police to create a shoreline START team. A meeting was had to purchase a FARO machine, a 3-dimensional scanner—a mapping machine for 2-scale measurements of crime scenes and accidents. A delay occurred due to the ongoing East Lyme Chief issue but was jumpstarted again by new East Lyme Police Chief Kevin Glenn. This equipment is priced at \$70,000 and six (6) officers will be trained for its use--two (2) officers in Town—and will access to the equipment that will be housed in East Lyme. This equipment was not budgeted for the Town, and the cost will be approximately \$7,000 that is considerably less than that of East Lyme that can be raised over a 5-year commitment period. Responding to a question from Vice-Chairperson Stewart, Police Chief Blanchette reported that the equipment can be brought to the Town to provide more eyes for accident reconstruction. The State and Norwich Police Department also have the device.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Recommend the replacement of a police cruiser totaled in an accident in the amount of \$32,200.00.

Police Chief Blanchette reported that a police cruiser was in an accident that was not the fault of the Department and was taken to a body shop to repair the bent frame. Insurance totaled the cruiser for replacement. Discussion was had with the Town Finance Department to set up a fund for private duty for which there are special funds. The administrative fee to use for replacement of the cruiser has \$14,000 in the account. The cost of the new cruiser is \$44,780

and the rest of the funds will be for lights and sirens etc. at a total cost of \$55,471. Replacement is needed and the car is on hold. The Police Chief will discuss this matter at the Town Council meeting; Mayor Bunnell added that since the Commission does not have a quorum the Town Council will be asked to move the matter forward. The Police Chief and Lieutenant Radford checked and stripped the cruiser of anything that could be saved, per a question by Commissioner Callaghan.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve the 2026 Commission Meeting Schedule as follows: January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, Wednesday May 27, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 23, December 14, and January 25. The meetings will be held in the Town Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Bunnell remarked that the Commission would need to schedule a special meeting for January 2026 until there is a quorum to approve the meeting dates or a special meeting is set prior for the same.

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

Vice-Chairperson Stewart asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

14. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell remarked to the Commission on the following:

- Seats have been roped off in Town Council Chambers to reduce occupancy as a result of the exit door exterior staircase that has deteriorated and is not safe. The cost for repair is estimated at \$20,000 and bids be sought.
- The budget year is approaching, and the Mayor has spoken to the Town Finance Director about it. To ease the process, each Town Commission or Board liaison will be asked for submittal of the CIP; a budget schedule will be set in January.
- Congratulations was extended to Police Officers recognized for the stop stick use that requires a lot of coordination and practice. Officer Todd was praised for putting someone at ease. Also noted was the saving of the cat that means a lot particularly to the person who owned it.
- The M-37 Tanker was sold for \$12,000. The buyer who owns the former drive-in theater property donated \$1,000 each to the Social Services Food Bank and the Toy Drive.
- There is interest for the M-22 Tanker that has been sitting for two (2) years.
- Three (3) applications have been received for the Deputy Fire Marshal opening and the Commission will be asked to setup dates for interviews. Discussion will be had about a schedule before or after the holidays depending upon the Commission.
- Fire Marshal Meigel is getting a lot done and the Mayor has a lot of faith in him and is appreciative of how he has stepped up. Thanks was extended for his help and with the Light Parade.
- Kudos was given to the Police, Fire Department and Fire Companies for the great security job and attention to traffic at the Town Annual Christmas Parade.

- Congratulations was given to Fire Chief Nelson for assuming the position at Chesterfield Fire Company. The same was echoed for Fire Chief Truex, who has done a lot for the Town and his presence and expertise will be missed.
- NECCOG is withdrawing for many towns seeking animal control services—Lisbon, Sprague, Griswold and Lebanon—that will be left dry in July 2026 and discussion is being had on the same.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Baker expressed thanks to all the first responders, career and volunteer, for the good job that they do while putting their lives on the line. Congratulations was extended to Fire Marshal Meigel, Fire Chief Nelson, and for Fire Chief Truex for all that he has done during his years of service. Thanks was extended concerning the positive responses for the Police Department, its Police Officers and the AACOs. Safety was asked of all thru the holidays.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Callaghan congratulated Fire Marshal Meigel and Fire Chief Truex for the safety in Chesterfield having been a resident of Oakdale for 45 years. The also remarked on having done a drive-by of the ACO Facility. Commissioner Perkins congratulated Fire Marshal Meigel, the career and volunteer firefighters, Fire Chief Nelson, and Fire Chief Truex for his answers to her questions. She also congratulated Town Council Liaison Baker for his appointment and thereafter wished everyone a great holiday. Vice-Chairperson echoed all the comments from the Commissioners including the Police Department positive correspondence and congratulated Fire Chief Nelson and Fire Chief Truex. He also expressed hope that Public Works can repair Maple Avenue, the section near the ACO Facility that is not good. Happy Holidays was extended to all and mention made for not having the first snowstorm.

17. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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.**