

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes of Monday, September 27, 2010
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall
7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Allyn, Butterworth, Jetmore, Loiler, McNally, Moran and Wehner. Also present was Mayor Jaskiewicz, Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf, Fire Marshal, Ray Occhialini and Lt Bunnell of the Montville Police Department.

4. Items to be Added/Deleted from the Agenda.

Chairman Jetmore stated agenda item 15 needs to be deleted from the agenda due to FOI restrictions, explaining the item is too vague and needs to be more specific. Motion made by Commissioner Loiler, seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to remove agenda item 15 from the agenda. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Communications

The recording secretary read into the record a letter addressed to the Commission from the Finance Department dated September 24, 2010 regarding 2010/2016 Capital Improvement Plan requests.

6. Approval of the Minutes

1. Approval of the July 26, 2010 regular meeting minutes. Motion made by Commissioner McNally, seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to approve the meeting minutes of July 26, 2010. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.
2. Approval of the August 23, 2010 regular meeting minutes. Motion made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner McNally to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 23, 2010. Discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda

Lt. Bunnell, urged the Commission to consider item 11(a) and stated he is in favor of it. He hopes the Commission will look upon it favorably as well. He was under the impression that the firefighters were on a call back system but as it turns out they are not. There have been two very serious fires recently that clearly spelled out the need for a procedure. He stated other towns have a call back procedure and the people who administrate the town are going to say that this is just another expense and they are right but public safety is an expensive venture and he hopes there is some way to resolve this issue and come up with something that is workable for everyone.

8. Remarks from Department Heads

Fire Marshall, Ray Occhialini started by addressing agenda item 11(a) and stated people are called back. During the fires everyone was called back. All of the paid firefighters were called back and come from all parts of the state. Pre-staging is done during storms and there is always adequate staffing. Over the past week he procured a generator from the Nuclear Safety Fund with a \$2,500 grant to put at the Cook Drive radio site. When the power goes out the radio repeaters for police and fire, public works, sewer alarms have battery backup for a short period of time. The generator is an AKW generator. The WPCA has offered to pay to have the electrical and pad and propane installed for it. It uses one gallon an hour with 120 hours of standby power, alleviating any future problems at the water tower site on Cook Drive. At the last meeting there was a discussion regarding the dispatch center. On October 13, 2010 the town has a meeting with the union to get the rest of the CAD squared away. The first annual town wide training at Camp Oakdale was held on Sunday and there were quite a few people who participated in the training. There is a training exercise on Tuesday evening at Chesterfield sponsored by the narcotics task force. Last Friday morning the dispatch center received a call for a woman who was having a baby in her car. The dispatcher did a great job on the EMD and the baby was delivered safely. There are two people working at the dispatch center during the hours of 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday depending on the availability. The heads up calls have been helping out tremendously. The town website now displays the town fire logs next to the police logs. The information will be updated every two weeks. On Tuesday his office will participate in a webinar with the CAD vendor. He is participating in a demo with the computerized dispatch system. This has the capability to send out auto calls to the fire department pagers by text message. Last Monday there was a critique of the Oakdale Plaza fire at the Oakdale Fire House. It was poorly attended by Montville, Chesterfield and Mohegan Fire houses. All of the other out of town mutual aid companies attended and it was a two hour critique and they got a lot of good information out of it. He discussed his statistics for the month of August. It has been a very busy month overall. He showed the Commission pictures of the Oakdale Plaza fire engulfed in flames eight minutes into the call. There would have been nothing the fire companies could have done if they got there any sooner. Chairman Jetmore thanked Mr. Occhialini for a job well done.

Lt. Bunnell commended the dispatchers for a great job assisting the woman having the baby on Route 2A. The officers and troopers who responded did a great job assuring the

woman they were capable of helping her and she was not alone. He discussed new hires, one new officer graduated on the 22nd and he started his field training, two officers entered the academy two weeks ago and are doing a good job. He asked the Commission to keep the dispatcher issue on the agenda so that it can be updated on a monthly basis and documented. The extra dispatcher has proven to be well worth it. It does need to be fine tuned but he is happy with the effort being put into how the logs are being entered into the system. The police log is up and running and the general public is now going to be able to see reports online. This will enlighten the public regarding what is going on in the town. The Building Committee is preparing for the November 2, 2010 referendum and there are four dates set up with the four fire companies for informational meetings. He hopes all of the Commissioners do what they can to get this information out to the public to increase the attendance at these meetings. October 4th there is a meeting at the Chesterfield fire house, Oct 6th is at Oakdale fire house, Oct 12th is at Mohegan fire house and Oct 13th is at Montville fire house. He hopes to get a good turnout and this will be a great opportunity for the public to ask questions and to look at a power point presentation from the architect. These meetings are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on each night. He did not have a statistics report for the Commission this month.

9. Reports from Committees and Public Safety Commission Liaisons

Chairman Jetmore discussed the Building Committee meetings and requested that anyone who is available to attend the informational sessions to do so.

Commissioner Butterworth stated he will be in contact the Animal Control officer in the near future.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Update/discussion regarding contact with appointed liaisons.

Chairman Jetmore urged the Commissioners to contact their individual liaisons and to make sure they know that they are available for assistance or to answer any questions they may have.

b. Discussion regarding Public Safety Liaison roles and responsibilities.

c. Discussion regarding amendments to the Public Safety Policy and Procedures

d. Discussion regarding annual budget policy.

Chairman Jetmore stated Commissioner Allyn has been working on agenda items b,c and d.

Commissioner Allyn distributed a copy of the Mission Statement to be incorporated into the Policies and Procedures document. The verbiage came from the Charter and reflects

what the Charter designates the Commission to do. He urged the Commission to review the document and to get back to him with feedback and possible changes prior to incorporating the document into the Policies and Procedures. He discussed progress to date and stated he is working on the roles and responsibilities job statement regarding what the job requirements are for each different position and adding in the departments covered by the Commission. He encouraged input from the Commissioners.

11. New Business

a. Call back procedures for paid firefighters.

Commissioner Butterworth stated he spoke with three of the four fire chiefs and there is no formal procedure in place at this time for calling back paid firefighters. He spoke with some of the paid firefighters and they stated they do not know if any formal procedure. It is on the whim of what is happening at the moment. Everyone he spoke with is in favor of a formal written process for call back and second alarm. He discussed the recent fires and some of the problems experience throughout the fire alarm. A procedure would help out tremendously. He stated there are very few volunteers available and the town depends on the paid firefighters. Discussions were held regarding the need for volunteers and whose responsibility it is to call back fire fighters. Discussions were held regarding alternative methods for call backs and whose responsibility it is to come up with a policy for call backs to paid firefighters. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated he will send a letter to the Commission requesting they work on this policy. Councilor Buebendorf suggested the Commission set up a sub-committee to look into the implementation of a policy. Commissioner Allyn stated the days of volunteers are over and the town is in need of a plan. Commissioner Wehner stated he finds it difficult to comprehend there is a road block in the chain of command and there is no clear determination as to who makes the calls. There needs to be a very clear chain of command. Chairman Jetmore stated the chief is supposed to take charge and that is not happening. Commissioner Allyn stated the chiefs are unclear as to what they can and can not do. Clarification is needed and cost should not be a factor at all. When it comes to looking at public safety there are some things where cost should not be a factor and this is one of them, he does not want to see people at risk because of cost factors. Mayor Jaskiewicz will write a letter to the Commission asking the Commission to work out a procedure with the cooperation of the Fire Marshal, the fire chiefs, police and other professionals that would like to get involved. Fire Marshal Occhialini suggested the Union president be involved in any procedures implemented by the Public Safety Commission.

b. Discussion regarding water supply and recent fires.

Mayor Jaskiewicz stated there are many fire hydrants in the town that are not used for fire suppression. He wrote letters to SCWA, Kitemaug, Oakdale Heights and all the water departments requesting they identify their hydrants so the people of the town understand that some of the fire hydrants are not designed for fire suppression. When the municipal water is put in there will be fire hydrants but many of these areas have a community well

at this time. He is looking at the overall picture and discussed the costs of implementing fire suppression in all the communities where they do not have municipal water. Pump trucks are currently sent out to all calls to suppress fires. Two departments go out to each call and there was a quarter of a million gallons of water available at the last large fire in town. He stated a study needs to be done to figure out the costs of municipal water in all areas of town in the future.

12. Remarks from the Public

Jon Leonard, 24 Chestnut Hill Road, stated Chief Turner put together a list of twenty tankers all in a line to make it easier for a dispatcher to call out mutual aid. The night of the fire, the dispatcher on duty had to go to the New London County Mutual Aid book and pick tankers to go nine deep because the Oakdale run cards were insufficient and they have been since the CAD system has been online. The fire chiefs have not cooperated with dispatch for updates to the cards. The paid firemen phone numbers are kept up to date, but the problem is there is no time to get the calls out and wait for a call back from them with everything going on during an emergency. He hopes the webinar regarding the text message program will help out. He explained there is only one dispatcher on each shift on weekends and both of the recent fires have happened on weekends, leaving a lot of work for one person to handle.

Fire Marshal Occhialini stated he has been working with Bryce Wilkins from Oakdale Fire House on an ISO insurance service office tanker flow drill for a drill scheduled for spring to get the insurance rates down for the town. Commissioner Allyn stated he can use the Oakdale Plaza fire as a drill as long as a critique was done on the working fire and get credit for it.

Chairman Jetmore asked three times if there were any additional remarks from the public and there were none.

13. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor Jaskiewicz thanked the fire departments for all their hard work during the recent fires. He thanked the police department and dispatchers as well. The Oxoboxo Bridge is moving along, they are pouring the foundations on Tuesday and the box culverts should be going in by next Monday.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison Candy Buebendorf.

Councilor Buebendorf thanked all of the services that have been available to all of the major incidences over the past months, they are a credit to the town.

15. Remarks from the Commissioners

Commissioner Allyn discussed the Global Connect system and offered to get information to the Fire Marshal if they want to try it.

Commissioner Moran inquired regarding the Public Safety Building Committee meetings and if there is money budgeted for media notification.

Commissioner McNally suggested the Commission send letters to the people involved, police department, dispatch, fire departments thanking them for their service. Chairman Jetmore authorized Commissioner McNally to send the letters out on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Wehner discussed issues that need to be addressed and hopes to establish a chain of command to open interaction between departments. He suggested looking into the hire of a public safety director in the future to bring all the entities together. Not all the departments have the same plans or philosophies and in the long run the town will pay the price for this if something is not done. He thinks it is time to start making the town more efficient.

Commissioner Butterworth discussed call statistics, stating in the past years there have been six to seven calls per day on average. In the past four months the average is 8.175 calls per day for the town. In 1982 the average for medical calls was twelve calls per month, now there are thirty. The town needs to find and answer in response to the need for help. He discussed incentives for ambulance calls to keep people on the job. Firehouses with incentives have people on a waiting list to join.

Commissioner Loiler hopes to work in a positive manner on all the issues before the Commission and be productive to get to the bottom of the issues.

Chairman Jetmore congratulated Mr. Leonard and his team for a job well done and thanked everyone for attending and participating in the proceedings.

16. Removed from the agenda.

17. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Loiler to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville