

Town of Montville
Public Works/Solid Waste Standing Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Conference Room 102

1. Call to Order
Chairperson Baker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call (Councilors Baker, Caron, Southard)
Present were Councilors Baker and Caron. Absent was Councilor Southard. Also present were Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr., and Public Works Director John Carlson.
4. Presentation
 - a. Waste Zero Project Manager regarding the SMMR2 (Sustainable Materials Management Round 2) Grant Program
Waste Zero Mark Dancy and Project Manager Tory McBrien provided a brief presentation regarding the CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) SMMR2 Reimbursement Grant Program. Project Manager McBrien has led several committees in Woodbury, Kent, Bethel, Madison, Guilford, Stonington, among others, with positive results. Nationally, tipping fees are increasing as landfills and waste energy facilities are closing, forcing states to send their waste out of state. Montville currently holds a long-term contract with SCRRRA (Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority), securing a reduced tipping fee until 2030. Connecticut currently houses four (4) waste energy facilities, all of which are aging. Owned by private equity firms, these facilities may be closed at any time. The Program is known as SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash), Pay-As-You-Throw, or Uni-Based Pricing, and charges households for garbage based on the amount disposed, rather than a flat fee, by selling bags. The program incentivizes residents to change their behavior towards waste by encouraging them to compost their food and yard waste and recycle. The bags may be sold at local grocery stores and businesses, helping to generate revenue to offset the tipping fees.

The program is divided into three (3) phases. The first phase includes organizing a Committee that includes members of the community, led by the Waste Zero Team, to develop a customized plan, including determining pricing, gaining stakeholders, and coming up with a recommendation(s) over the course of five (5) to seven (7) meetings. The second and third phases include outreach and education, program implementation,

monitoring key metrics, and planning for the future. The Town may opt out of the program at any time.

Discussion ensued regarding the process, which begins with the Town Council's acceptance of the Grant by Resolution, the Town's current system, details regarding the proposed system, speaking with other towns and visiting their respective transfer stations, its implementation, and the importance of promoting and educating the public to ensure the program's success.

5. Alterations to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Baker, to add the following items to the Agenda, under Item 9, New Business:

- a. Connecticut Tire Stewardship
- b. Town Hall Furnace
- c. Cardboard Recycling

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 2-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Baker, to approve the December 17, 2025 Public Works/Solid Waste Standing Committee Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 2-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda with a three-limit limit
Mayor Bunnell commented on item 9(c), which was previously discussed by the Committee. He encouraged the Councilors to discuss and seriously explore the possibility of working with their local resources.

8. Old Business

- a. Raymond Hill Church – *no update*
- b. Road Improvement Program: Drainage & Paving Schedule/Road Improvement Bond
 - 1) Road Schedule/Bid Status
 - 2) Maple Avenue Paving

The Public Works Director met with the Finance Director, Town Engineer, and Councilor Baker to discuss an additional bond for Road Improvement Projects.

- c. Youth Services (Montville Community Center) Bathrooms

The Project has gone out to bid; the bid opening was rescheduled to provide contractors with additional time. Eight (8) to ten (10) bidders attended the Pre-Bid Meeting, including local companies.

- d. Public Works Garage Clean-up & Breakroom
The asbestos removal is complete. The Crew will begin gutting the space and an architect will be hired to design and provide an estimate for a Capital Funding request. He also hopes to contact the Technical Schools to help complete the project.
- e. Tree Clearing
With the help of a rental truck, the Crew has taken down eight (8) trees before the Project was halted due to inclement weather.
- f. Road Clean-up Policy, a.k.a. Adopt-a-Road Program – *no update*
- g. Future Capital Projects
The Department of Land Use and Development is in the process of applying for a state grant to help fund the Town Hall Upgrades.
- h. Camp Oakdale Renovations
 - 1) Pavilion and Dog Park Master Plan
 - 2) Camp Oakdale Parking Lots
CLA Engineers, Inc., is working on the plans for the Camp Oakdale Pavilion, Dog Park, and the Parking Lots with the Parks & Recreation Commission.
 - 3) Pickleball Court Roadside Privacy Screen
The Parks & Recreation Director is obtaining an updated (reduced) estimate for the privacy screen; The Parks & Recreation Commission has approved the funds for the screen.
 - 4) Solar Trash Compactors
The Solar Trash Compactors were ordered and the deposit was sent to the vendor. The Compactors are expected to be received in approximately 13 weeks.
- i. Boat Launch/Fishing Pier
The work on the Boat Launch/Fishing Pier was temporarily halted due to inclement weather. Information regarding the project is posted on the Town website and regular progress meetings are held. Signage stating that the Boat Launch is closed until July 1 will be purchased and posted on the surrounding roads.
- j. Surplus Equipment
The Mohegan Fire Company Fire Truck is expected to be posted on the Public Surplus website by the end of the week. Additional miscellaneous items will also be posted on the site for sale.
- k. Trex Project – Collection and Bailing of Plastic Film – *no update*
- l. Transfer Station Regulations: Fees, including Commercial Roof Shingles & Punch Cards – *no update*

m. Drainage Issues:

- 1) 66 Glendale Road, Oakdale
- 2) 494 Kitemaug Road, Uncasville
- 3) 21 Gair Court

The project was halted due to inclement weather,

n. Facility Costs

The Facility Costs for the Pavilion were provided to Councilor Southard for discussion with the Parks & Recreation Commission. The status of the Facility (Pavilion) Rental Fees is unknown.

o. 030 Capital Fund Fiscal Year 25

Items for the FY2026/27 Capital Budget include police vehicles, a plow truck, and a mower. The item will be amended to read, "Capital Fund Fiscal Year 2026/27".

p. Animal Control Facility

Councilor Baker reported that the construction of the new Facility is proceeding; they are hoping to receive a temporary Certificate of Occupancy, allowing them to move the furniture into the building. Discussion ensued regarding the additional costs of the project.

q. Tipping Fees

The Tipping Fees are projected to increase by approximately 9% in FY2026/27. The Finance Director will speak with the SCRRA Liaison regarding the hauling and SCRRA fees.

r. Sidewalk Maintenance

The Public Works Director recently approached the business owners on Route 32 regarding the shoveling of snow along the sidewalk in front of their businesses.

9. New Business

a. Connecticut Tire Stewardship

SCRRA was contacted to confirm that there would no longer be a charge for tires.

b. Town Hall Furnace

Mayor Bunnell reported that the odor has been eliminated. A report from Eversource regarding the installation of the gas line, estimated cost, and funding is pending. The conversion from oil to gas is funded. An extension to remove the fiberglass oil tanks at the Town Hall and Fair Oaks Community Center, which have reached their maximum lifespan, will be requested from CT DEEP. Public Works Director Carlson recommended hiring the services of an Architect/Engineer to design the new system.

c. Cardboard Recycling

Transfer Station Employee Flo Turner reported that Rand-Whitney was open to accepting cardboard from the Town. The primary issue is ensuring that the cardboard remains uncontaminated. Discussion ensued whether it would be possible, per the Town's contract with SCRRRA, and, if possible, the need to hire a part-time employee to monitor its disposal.

10. Remarks from the Public with a three-limit limit – *none*

11. Remarks from the Councilors

Councilor Caron thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting; he looks forward to moving several items to the Town Council for review.

Councilor Baker expressed his appreciation to the Public Works Director and his team for an outstanding job clearing the roads during the winter storms, especially the most recent storm, and to the Emergency Responders for their hard work. He questioned the need to schedule a Special Meeting to discuss the make-up of the Waste Zero SMMR2 Grant Project Committee.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 2-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville