

Town of Montville
Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairperson May called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Brian Baker, Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Rachael Novak, Nicholas Sabilia, and Kate Southard. Absent was Councilor Rachael Novak. Also present was Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

4. Special Recognitions/Presentations

- a. Presentation by WasteZero Project Manager Kristen Brown and Tory McBrien-Vranken, regarding the SMMR2 (sustainable Materials Management Round 2) Grant Program and Award.

Councilor Baker stated that this evening's presentation by WasteZero, who will be the Town's Contract Manager for the project, is part of the grant process for the SMMR2 (Sustainable Materials Management Round 2) Grant.

WasteZero President Mark Dancy (in lieu of Project Manager Kristen Brown) and Connecticut Program Coordinator Tory McBrien-Vranken provided a brief presentation of the Program. WasteZero President Dancy thanked everyone for taking the time to listen to their presentation regarding the waste crisis, which is a regional and national issue. Nationally, there has been a significant reduction in landfills and no new waste energy facilities have been constructed since 2016. Due to the difficulties in constructing new infrastructure and disposal facilities in the northeast, there are currently no landfills and four (4) waste energy facilities for residential disposal in the State of Connecticut. In Massachusetts, there are three (3) landfills remaining, which are expected to cease operation by 2031, and three (3) waste energy facilities. Rhode Island has one (1) facility, which is expected to cease operations in 2035. As a result, household waste is being transported to other states, including New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Alabama, resulting in significant transportation costs and rising tipping fees. CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) has organized a grant program for municipalities to explore other options that would ultimately reduce waste. During the Program's last round, five (5) transfer stations engaged in the program, reducing approximately 40% to 50% of waste. There is no cost or obligation to the participating towns. The reimbursement grant is divided into three phases: Phase I of the Project involves the formation of a committee that discusses and researches the various options, consults with area towns, and determines which initiative(s) best fit the town. The committee will then forward its recommendations to the Town Council, which will review and approve its institution. Phases II and III involve outreach and education, implementation, and future planning. This evening's resolution will enable the Town to move forward with Phase I of the Project.

Mayor Bunnell provided a recap of WasteZero President Dancy's presentation, stating that the resolution would allow the Town to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review its options in an effort to reduce the amount of waste transported out of state and its associated costs and determine which option would best fit the Town and its needs.

Councilor Baker estimated that the process would involve at least four to six months of discussion and review. He informed the public that, per the Town's current policy, the Town is potentially transporting over 870,000 various-sized bags of household garbage per

year. Additionally, the tipping fees are determined by the weight, not the size, of the garbage. Last year, the Town's disposal cost was approximately \$530,000.00. This year, with the tipping fee increase, the cost will rise to approximately \$570,000.00 to \$580,000.00 for the same amount of waste. He stated the importance of planning for the future and reducing or, at the very least, stabilizing the fees. The resolution on this evening's agenda is to accept the grant and create an Ad Hoc Committee.

Chairperson May stated that the Town has been reviewing its waste stream for at least the past fifteen (15) years. The program will provide a good opportunity to review and determine the feasibility of the available options and move forward. He thanked the WasteZero representatives for providing the presentation..

4. Alterations to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Sabilia, to remove the following item from the Agenda, under Item 16, New Business:

16(d) THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the funds necessary to implement the tentative agreement with the Montville Fire Fighters Local 3386 IAFF, for the term July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §7-474(b), by authorizing Mayor Leonard G. Bunnell Sr. to execute documents consistent with the terms of a tentative agreement.
(Mayor Bunnell)

Discussion: Chairperson May stated that the agreement is not ready for approval at this time. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2026

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Southard, to approve the Town Council February 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

7. Executive Session

a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy and/or negotiations with respect to Fire Fighter Contract talk.

Discussions to include members of the Town Council, Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr., and Town Attorney Michael Satti and Attorney Elizabeth Hillmon.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 7:16 p.m. Chairman May resumed the meeting at 8:10 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*

9. Communications

a. Copy of a letter from Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr., to The Lafayette Trail, Inc., regarding the Commemoration of Revolutionary War Hero General Lafayette

Mayor Bunnell stated that The Lafayette Trail, a non-profit organization, is revisiting General Lafayette's route through the country in 1824, as ordered by then-President James Monroe. A trail marker will be erected in the vicinity of the location on Lawton Trail at Haughton Cove, designating their meeting place with the contingents from Norwich and New London who escorted the General.

b. Copy of a Technical Assistance Planning Grant Funding Award Letter from the Department of Housing

10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred – *none*
11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred

WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority) Administrator Ronald McDaniel spoke with respect to Item 16(b), regarding the Greenskies Clean Energy solar credit, stating that the resolution would authorize the WPCA to receive \$7,500.00 per year for a solar field being developed in the Town of Colchester. As part of the bid process, the Town is required to have site control resulting in the sublease agreement. The agreement incurs no responsibilities for the Town and has been reviewed by the Town Attorney.

Montville Police Department Chief Wilfred Blanchette, III, reported that Officer Xavier Frias Solino graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy in February and is now in the Field Training Program. He invited the Councilors to attend a graduation ceremony on March 26, at 6:00 p.m., for those officers graduating from the Citizens Police Academy. They have begun the hiring process for a new Officer to replace an Officer who accepted a position with a Federal Law Enforcement Agency. Following the signing of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Town and AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) Local 1303, several part-time dispatchers have expressed their interest in working per diem for the Town; hiring for those positions will begin this month.

Finance Director Julie Chapman reported that the Grand List, W-2s, 1099s, and ACA (Affordable Care Act) forms have been completed and filed. The 2023, 2024, and 2025 files were also filed after it was discovered that they had not yet been submitted, and the ACA forms were transitioned to online filing. The Department also claimed the Town's unclaimed property on the CT Big List, notified the Board of Education (BOE) regarding their unclaimed property, and is in the process of closing out the Town's state grants, dating back to 2017. During their recent meeting, the Finance Committee reviewed the Town's budget, focusing on the Town's revenues, the revenue earned from implementation of the Tax Fee Policy, and overall revenues collected to date for the fiscal year. The Committee plans to schedule meetings with the Department Heads to discuss their proposed FY2026/27 budgets. She and the Mayor have been meeting with the Department Heads regarding their proposed FY2026/27 Capital and Operating budget requests and the Insurance Advisors to review their current claims and determine their insurance premiums for the coming fiscal year in preparation for the Mayor's proposed budget.

In response to Councilor Caron regarding the Housing Authority Funds, Finance Director Chapman stated that, as a courtesy, Senior & Social Services Director Kathie Doherty-Peck will be reaching out to the management company regarding the outstanding funds. He also requested the amounts included in the special revenue fund accounts for the Senior & Social Services, Parks and Recreation, Youth Center, and Police Departments. Mayor Bunnell added that a payment plan will be established with the Housing Authority's new management company to recoup the funds owed.

Land Use & Development Director Dennis Goderre Land Use & Development Director Dennis Goderre reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission is continuing to address the zoning regulation amendments to align with the recent passage of the Housing Bill and general updates pertaining to landscaping and lighting. They are also continuing to explore TIF (Tax Increment Financing) District opportunities in hopes of presenting updates and suggestions in May. The Commission is also reviewing its application fees and will be sending its recommendations to the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee for review and approval. The Town was awarded a \$125,000.00 Department of Housing Grant to develop the Housing Plan. Work on the fishing pier recommenced with a kick-off meeting with the Contractor and CLA Engineers. A bi-monthly meeting will be held to review the project's progress, which is on schedule. The public is invited to a Route 163/32

Revive and Review Consultants presentation on March 26 in the Town Council Chambers. The purpose of the presentation, which will include the proposed plan and recommendations, is to receive feedback. The SCCOG (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments) will be hosting a workshop to discuss the Housing Bill.

Public Works Director John Carlson reported that the Camp Oakdale Storage Facility, which has been on hold due to inclement weather, will continue with the grading, installation of bollards, concrete padding, and electrical work. The Crew will soon be concentrating on sweeping the Town's roads. A Value Engineering Meeting was held regarding the Fair Oaks Bathrooms Project; a meeting with the contractor will be held to discuss the proposed adjustments. The overage in the snowplowing budget has increased to approximately \$116,600.00, excluding the most recent icy morning and rainstorm. Other overages include truck repairs, equipment maintenance and repairs, snow plowing supplies, Town Hall, and Police Department. He is also planning to purchase 500 tons of salt to prepare for the next winter season. The Department has received several calls about damaged mailboxes resulting from the snowplows. Due to the severity of the storms, he assisted the crew, some of whom had limited experience plowing snow. He commended the crew for their hard work and efforts in handling the snow, which proved very challenging.

Councilors Caron and May commended the Crew for their handling of the snow.

Fire Marshal John Meigel reported that the Department conducted 142 total inspections, 5 fire investigations, and 2 smoke detector replacements for the month of February. He commended New Deputy Fire Marshal Travis Roberts, who is helping them make improvements to the Department and the Emergency Operations Center. The Millstone Nuclear Grant application was submitted and they will be completing and submitting the application for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), which just opened. They attended a tabletop meeting and briefing with Millstone and Region 4. The staffing at the firehouses was increased during the recent storms. Region 4 Coordinator Mike Caplet, who is moving to another position, will be replaced by Channel 3 Meteorologist Josh Cingranelli. Three (3) Career Firefighters were sent to Fire Instructor I classes. The Town is now fully staffed with the recent hiring of Firefighter Colin Delmastro.

Montville Police Department Lt. David Radford, II, provided an update on the Animal Control Facility. The fire and burglar alarms were installed, the remaining retrofitted cages were received and will be installed this week, and the punch list items are continuing to be addressed. They are hoping to schedule the state inspection in the next few weeks. Upon approval, they will begin moving in while planning for the soft opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The official Open House will follow the completion of the landscaping. The Montville Animal Welfare Initiative (MAWI) procured a \$10,000.00 grant to fund a memorial garden and has selected Landscape Designer Greenscapes, Inc. for the project. The project will begin in the spring and will be completed by the end of June. The garden will be located in front of the Facility and include a water feature, benches, and a rainbow bridge. The initial phase primarily includes the hardscaping and minimal plantings. The garden may require light watering, which will primarily be handled by volunteers. Chairperson May recommended involving the Garden Club for their possible assistance.

Mayor Bunnell thanked the Lieutenant for all of his hard work and attention to the project. He reported that he is continuing to attend the various board and commission meetings. The ACO (Animal Control Officer) Agreement was renewed with the Town of Salem, with a 2.5% increase. He attended a series of meetings and events, including the Lodge of Elks Celebration honoring Elk of the Year John Satti, Citizen of the Year Jeanne Sigel, and Officer of the Year Blyth Henry; Cub Scouts Pack 67 Blue and Gold and Arrow of Light Ceremonies to Troops 67 and 93, and; the Department of Corrections Community Safety Meeting at the Corrigan Correctional Center. He announced the retirements of Building Department Administrative Assistant Carmen Kneeland after 30 years of service, and Public Works Employee and Senior

Services Bus Driver Kenny Hillhouse after 22 years of service. Interviews were held for the Building Department Administrative Assistant position.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – *item(s) are included on agenda*
- b. Finance – *see item 11, Finance Director’s report*
- c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal
 Councilor Baker reported that the Fair Oaks Restroom Renovation project, which received five (5) bids, was awarded to Orlando Annulli & Sons, Inc., and a meeting was held to discuss the plans. The Public Works Director and Town Engineer are finalizing the road improvement projects in preparation for the spring bids. The Town Hall fire escape replacement proposals continue to be in process. The FY2026/27 Public Works Capital Improvement Plan was also reviewed and discussed, as well as the overages in the current budget due to the recent winter snowstorms. While the state has reported shortages for snow removal materials, the Director has successfully procured the necessary materials to replenish their supplies. He thanked the Public Works Director and Staff for their hard work and dedication in keeping the roads clear and safe during the winter’s snow events.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

- a. Councilor Baker: Public Safety Commission
 Councilor Baker reported on the following Calls for Service:

	January		February	
	Total Calls	Avg. Per Day	Total Calls	Avg. Per Day
Fire Department	264	8.51	276	9.85
Police Department	908	29.2	950	33.9

- b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Non-Profit Organizations, Social Services
 The Social Services Food Pantry is currently doing well, thanks to a generous donation by the Mohegan Tribe. Applications for the Energy Assistance Program continue to be accepted.

Commission on Aging – The Mohegan Tribe also donated \$6,000.00 for the purchase of furniture for the Senior Center lobby and card playing and TV rooms. The Commission has drafted a letter of support, which was submitted for the record, for elderly housing to the Town. A new Senior Center bus driver was hired and two (2) Public Works employees are being trained to be available, as needed. The Center welcomed new members and will be offering new classes in the spring; the Dollar Lunches continue to grow in popularity.
- b. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Planning & Zoning Commission
 The Commission held a Special Meeting in February to discuss Zoning Regulation amendments, TIF Districts, and the Housing Grant. The Commission will be holding a Special, as well as Regular, Meeting this month.
- c. Councilor Novak: Economic Development Commission, Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Fund – *not present; no report*
- d. Councilor Sabilia: Conservation Commission, Water Pollution Control Authority, Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board
 The Conservation Commission will be meeting tomorrow evening.
 As previously presented, an item is included on the Agenda for the WPCA regarding the Greenskies Clean Energy sublease agreement. The Authority continues to actively seek energy savings initiatives. Two (2) manholes on Route 32 need repair and will be addressed in the very near future.
 The Youth Services Bureau is hosting a “You Good Bro?” Mental Health Check-in this week and a Penny Drive, which includes the collection of donations of Chapstick, socks,

and \$5 Dunkin' gift cards, for the homeless community. Registrations for the 2026 Summer Center will also open on Monday, May 4.

- e. Councilor Southard: Board of Education, Farmers Market Committee, Library Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission

Board of Education – Board of Education – The Superintendent is working with LEARN, a Regional Educational Service Center, to streamline and strengthen the job description and outline their human resources responsibilities. She congratulated the Girls' Indoor Track Team, who captured their third consecutive ECC (East Coast Conference) Championship. Their current BOE budget is on track. As of June 2025, the BOE's Non-Lapsing Account held a balance of \$706,871.00, \$333,909.00 of which was approved by the BOE to fund projects for Murphy Elementary School and Montville High School, among other items. The BOE also discussed the proposed Capital Plan, with some members proposing to utilize a portion of their Non-Lapsing Account for some of the items. Due to the building's existing infrastructure, the Palmer Academy HVAC Project will not be moving forward.

Parks & Recreation Commission – The Garden Club provided a presentation to the Commission regarding their interest in providing plantings by the Camp Oakdale Large Pavilion Outhouse. The proposed FY2026/27 budget was reviewed and approved, with very minimal increases. The Commission's submission for a \$1.5 million CIF (Community Investment Fund) Grant for many of its Capital projects was approved to be sent to the Bond Commission (over \$3 million was originally requested). Because the Summer Camp has been losing funds in recent years, the Commission agreed to raise the weekly fee by \$5.00.

The Farmers Market Committee planned the theme nights and approved the vendors for this year's season.

The Carnival Committee is continuing to reach out to food trucks and is seeking sponsors for the various activities. The Saturday hours were also adjusted to 3:00 to 10:00 p.m.

The Library's spring and summer hours will begin in April. The Library's Palette of Talent Show featuring the works of Artist Ted Genard is on display. A section of the Library has been created where residents of all ages are invited to create Easter cards for the Apple Rehab residents.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Nancy Rodriguez to the Farmers Market Committee with a term to expire on March 9, 2029.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Carmelo Rodriguez to the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire on March 9, 2030.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Deonn Bunnell to fill a vacancy on the Commission on Aging with a term to expire on November 9, 2027.
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Mathieu Beaupre from the Parks & Recreation Commission, effective immediately.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Councilor Southard expressed her regrets and thanked Commissioner Beaupre, who served on the Commission for ten years, for his service. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
- e. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Catherine Hinojosa to the Conservation Commission with a term to expire on April 9, 2028.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Sabilia. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
- f. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Meracus Hernandez to the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire on April 9, 2030.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
- g. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint William A. Wrobel to the Gardner Lake Authority with a term to expire on April 14, 2029.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
- h. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint William Carlos, Jr., to the Youth Advisory Board with a term to expire on April 14, 2028.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
- i. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Brianne Messer to the Youth Advisory Board with a term to expire on April 14, 2028.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
- j. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Stephen E. Lougee to the Public Safety Commission with a term to expire on April 9, 2029.
Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Sabilia. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
- k. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Angela Sherbanee to the Housing Authority with a term to expire on April 30, 2031.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
- l. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Joe Socha from the Board of Education, effective immediately.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- m. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Bonnie Bacon to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education, with a term to expire on November 8, 2027.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None.

Roll Call vote, 5-0-1, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: None. Abstention(s): Councilor May. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2026-12. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$1,505.61 (one thousand five hundred and five dollars and sixty-one cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion:

None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2026-13. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Leonard Bunnell to execute a sublease agreement with Greenskies Clean Energy LLC for a solar credit for the WPCA. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Sabilia. Discussion: Mayor Bunnell stated that the Agreement was included in the Agenda Packet. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2026-14. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Leonard Bunnell to execute the Animal Control Services Agreement with The Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: Mayor Bunnell stated that the Agreement is also included in the Agenda Packet. Councilor Baker expressed his appreciation to the Mayor for negotiating and adding the percentage increases for the following years. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the funds necessary to implement the tentative agreement with the Montville Fire Fighters Local 3386 IAFF, for the term July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §7-474(b), by authorizing Mayor Leonard G. Bunnell Sr. to execute documents consistent with the terms of a tentative agreement. (Mayor Bunnell)

Item removed from the Agenda.

- e. **Resolution #2026-15. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that the Town of Montville may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Housing any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Leonard G. Bunnell Sr., as Mayor of Town of Montville, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Montville and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- f. **Resolution #2026-16. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to consider and act on a motion to introduce and set the date for a public hearing for an ordinance titled “Ordinance Establishing a Permanent Building Committee” on Monday, April 13, 2026, 6:30 p.m. The Public Hearing will be held at Montville Town Hall in the Town Council Chambers. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Sabilia. Discussion: Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that the Ordinance was approved by the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- g. **Resolution #2026-17. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that the Town of Montville may enter into a sole source agreement with Goman + York, a planning and real estate advisory firm, for the preparation of the Town of Montville’s Housing Plan as required by Public Act 25-1, new zoning and subdivision regulations and related economic development and planning consulting services, thus maintaining Goman + York’s continuity from prior advisory services to the Town of Montville; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Leonard G. Bunnell Sr., as Mayor of Town of Montville, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Montville and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- h. **Resolution #2026-18. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize the Town to enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate for a grant in the amount of \$161,032.00 for the Sustainable Materials Management Round 2 (SMMR2) Grant Program from DEEP and utilize WasteZero as the program manager. The Town authorizes and directs Mayor Leonard G. Bunnell Sr., to execute and deliver all documents on behalf of the Town and to perform all acts which he deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents. (Councilor Baker)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- i. **Resolution #2026-19. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to establish the composition of an Ad-Hoc Sustainable Materials Management Committee as follows: one (1) member of the Town Council, one (1) member of the Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal Standing Committee, Public Works Director, Transfer Station Foreperson and one (1) member from the public at-large to be appointed by the Town Council. Non-voting members shall include the Mayor and Finance Director. The mission of the Ad-Hoc Committee is to investigate the feasibility and possible implementation of a Sustainable Materials Management Program for the Town of Montville with the goal of stabilizing or reducing current and future disposal costs. (Councilor Baker)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit

Helene Walls-Bouchard, Lochdale Drive, Oakdale, expressed her dismay with the Public Works Director and Department for their handling of the damage to her mailbox and curbing, which has been replaced several times over the years. She stated that she submitted an e-mail to the Mayor's office, without a response, leading to her visit to the Public Works Office with the pieces of the mailbox and curbing. As a member of law enforcement, she stated her safety concerns with the employees' incorrect and dangerous plowing practices. The employees, she felt, were not properly trained and offered to arrange a training session in Northern Maine, where she previously resided.

Timothy Congdon, President, Montville Firefighters, thanked the Mayor for his partnership in the negotiations. He informed the Councilors that the state is holding active discussions regarding fire service, including the retention and recruitment of career and volunteer firefighters. He encouraged the Councilors to visit <https://www.cga.ct.gov> and review the upcoming bills. He also proposed hosting a forum that includes the Councilors and firefighters to discuss ways to incentivize the volunteer firefighters and avoid potential firefighter burnout, noting that the budgets of surrounding towns include proposals for additional career firefighters while the Montville continues to remain short-staffed.

Michael Warren, Full-Time Firefighter, a 27-year firefighter, stated that they "are rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic" and recommended the hiring of a paid Fire Chief, creating a unified department, and "steer away from the iceberg."

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Baker thanked everyone for attending the meeting and providing their remarks, which will be heeded.

Councilor Sabilia concurred, thanking everyone for their time and for caring about the Town.

Councilor Southard also concurred, thanking everyone for their ideas, which will be considered.

Councilor Jaskiewicz also thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and providing their comments. He also expressed his appreciation for the firefighters and all of the Town's agencies.

Councilor Caron also thanked the firefighters for their comments and the public for attending this evening's meeting.

Chairperson May stated that, while they are appreciative of Mr. Congdon and Mr. Warren's comments and suggestions, it would be more appropriate to discuss such matters with the Public Safety Commission, which would then present their recommendations to the Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell expressed his sincere appreciation of the paid and volunteer firefighters/EMTs, Police Department, Public Works Department, Dispatchers, and the Fire Marshal's Office for investing their time, hard work, and efforts during the winter snowstorms, making their Town safe for all. He will investigate the issue on Lochdale Drive, adding that the Public Works Department experienced a turnover of drivers, and damages are expected due to the learning curve on handling such large and heavy snowstorms.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Southard. to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE
LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – MEETING RECORDINGS**