

Town of Montville
Town Council
Public Hearing Minutes
Board of Education Budget
Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Montville High School Auditorium

1. Call to Order
Chairman May called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
Present were Councilors Brian Baker, Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Rachael Novak, Nicholas Sabilia, and Kate Southard. Also present was Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.
4. Public Hearing

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that public hearings will be held at Montville High School Auditorium, 800 Old Colchester Road Oakdale, CT on April 29, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. on the Board of Education Budget and on April 30, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. on the General Government Budget for the Town of Montville for the fiscal year from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Revenue Summary 2026-2027

Description	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 MAYOR PROP
PROPERTY TAXES	46,659,739	49,358,442	55,602,727
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	18,283,099	17,510,202	18,888,375
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	1,363,200	1,403,000	1,408,401
INVESTMET INCOME	977,081	950,000	350,000
RESERVES	2,800,000	2,800,000	-
OTHER LOCAL	1,298,354	1,162,800	1,126,100
TOTAL REVENUES	71,381,473	73,184,444	77,375,603

Expenditure Summary 2026-2027

Description	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 MAYOR PROP
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	10,100,066	10,329,709	11,215,014
PUBLIC SAFETY	6,714,358	6,251,657	7,069,925
PUBLIC WORKS	4,332,552	4,269,138	4,458,820
HEALTH AND WELFARE	849,088	855,409	877,718
PARKS AND RECREATION	334,658	363,041	352,770
NON-PROFIT	94,800	100,300	95,800
CAPITAL	1,819,101	745,635	873,316
DEBT SERVICE	3,131,240	3,389,935	4,077,624
EDUCATION	45,435,974	46,879,620	48,354,616
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	72,811,837	73,184,444	77,375,603

Detailed copies of the budget by department are available at the office of the Town Clerk or online at www.montville-ct.org.
Dated at Montville, Connecticut, this 22nd day of April 2026.

Leonard Bunnell Sr.
Mayor

Tim May
Town Council Chairman

Chairman May invited Superintendent of Schools Vumback to speak on the proposed FY026/27 Board of Education (BOE) Budget.

Superintendent Vumback thanked everyone for attending this evening's Public Hearing and presented the proposed BOE Budget. The BOE-approved budget constitutes a 3.79% increase, which is offset by funding received through the state's ECS (Education Cost Sharing) and Excess Cost Sharing Grants. The increase includes no new programming and is a rollover budget designed to maintain their current level of services. The Mayor's proposed budget reduces the increase to 3.15%. The budget merely maintains the status quo, which is insufficient in today's rapidly changing environment. Surrounding communities' BOEs are

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proposing significantly higher increases, including Stonington, Griswold, North Stonington, Waterford, Killingly, and Colchester. Reductions to the previous fiscal year's budget resulted in the reduction of four-and-a-half (4-1/2) certified positions and four (4) non-certified positions, heavily impacting the students' education. The majority of the BOE budget is driven by fixed costs. She urged them not to reduce the BOE budget, which will force them to make additional staffing reductions. She requested that the communication lines remain open, allowing them to plan responsibly. Our students are our greatest resource and the strongest return on our investment. She urged them to support, invest, and believe in their students, ensuring that they are prepared for their future.

Chairman May stated that numerous external forces affect the General Government and BOE budgets, including electricity and fuel costs, as well as revenue reductions resulting from state and federal budgets. He invited the members of the public to speak on the Mayor's FY2026/27 Proposed Budget.

Carol Burgess, 28 New Hampshire Lane, Oakdale, BOE Chairperson, strongly urged the Town Council to support the BOE-approved budget, stating that the proposed budget recognizes the current fiscal climate and includes the flat funding of several items. The Schools, in reality, require more funding than is being requested to offer programs similar to those offered by the surrounding schools.

Wills Pike, 71 Pheasant Run, Oakdale, who was involved with the recent contract negotiations, stated that the teachers are neither the highest nor the lowest paid, statewide. He also commented that the Superintendent has a unique skillset that is highly sought after and important to maintain. He stated that, in addition to flat funding several line items, the BOE reduced its Capital Budget by nearly \$1 million and utilized its non-lapsing fund. He stated that their responsibility as a community was to raise their children to become productive members of society, full of self-esteem and feeling good about life; it is important to provide a good education to those who will pave the road to their future..

5. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron, to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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