

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – April 27, 2026 -- 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.**

**1. Call to order.**

Vice-Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**3. Roll Call.**

Present were Vice-Chair Stephen Stewart and Commissioners Tracy Callaghan, Mickey Gillette, Stephen Lougee and Karen Perkins. Absent were Chairperson Gary Murphy and Commissioner William Bauer. A quorum was present.

**4. Alterations to the Agenda -- None**

**Election of Officers:**

1. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Appoint the Public Safety Commission Chairperson.

**Motion** by Commissioner Callaghan; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to nominate Gary Murphy as the Public Safety Commission Chairperson. No other nominations were called. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 5-0-0. Motion Approved.**

2. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Appoint the Public Safety Commission Vice-Chair. **Motion** by Commissioner ; seconded by Commissioner Baker to nominate Stephen Stewart as Public Safety Commission Vice-Chair. No other nominations were called. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 5-0-0. Motion Approved.**

**5. Communications:**

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

Vice-Chair Stewart reported that the statistical reports for the month ending March 31, 2026 were received from each department with the exception of the Oakdale and Montville Fire Companies.

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

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026.

**Motion** by Commissioner Lougee, seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026. Discussion: Vice-Chair Stewart noted minor name spellings that he would address with the Recording Secretary and also a correction from Town Councilor Baker. On page 17, the seventh line down of Item 16 *Town Counselor Baker is sorry to be on the Finance Committee* will change to **“is on the Finance Committee.”** **Motion to Amend** by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Lougee to confirm the correction to the minutes, as reported. Discussion: none. **Roll Call Vote:** *In favor*, Commissioners Perkins, Stewart, Lougee, Callaghan, and Gillette. *Opposed*, none. **5-0-0. All in favor. Motion Amended. Original Motion Vote as Amended: Roll Call Vote:** *In favor:* Commissioners Perkins, Stewart, Lougee, Callaghan, and Gillette. *Opposed:* none. **5-0-0, All in favor. Motion Approved as Amended.**

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

Vice-Chair 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 March 31, 2026. This data can be found under Agenda Item 10B. The Lieutenant gave an update on the new Animal Control facility reporting that the CO has been obtained and that a minor situation regarding the State Inspection is being addressed for completion of it by the end of next week. The hope is that the project will be done by the end of next week and cleared for animal occupancy in the coming weeks. Also reported was a grant received by an animal welfare group for a memorial sign and its completion by the end of May or early June. Correspondence to Chief Blanchette was read concerning Police Officer Fazzino who responded quickly to a threatening call received by St. Bernards on March 25, 2026. Officer Fazzino was complimented on his quick response to their call, and the Police Department was praised as being exemplary. The Lieutenant responded to a question concerning the grand opening of the facility that was initially going to be a soft and hard opening. The event is now being planned for a Saturday in mid-June for a formal opening when the animals will be there.

Fire Marshal Report

Due to the absence of Fire Marshal Meigel, who was on vacation, Vice-Chair Stewart read into the record the Fire Marshal Office statistics for the month ending March 31, 2026 as follows:

<b>Fire Marshal’s Office Activities</b>	<b>March 2026</b>
<b>Inspections of Businesses and Apartments</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>Reinspection of Businesses and Apartments</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Structure Fire Investigations</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Burn Permits Issued</b>	<b>23</b>

<b>Fireworks Permit</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Emergency Management Obligations</b>	<b>72 hours</b>
<b>Burn Permits Issued</b>	<b>23</b>

Further, the Fire Marshal’s report noted that Emergency Management was activated for the severe wind storm on March 16, 2026. Congratulations was given to Mitch Dole, Josh Braga and Noah Dobrowski for completing their Fire Instructor I certification. Additionally, the Fire Marshal’s office received a \$500 grant from the CT Fair Plan Act to purchase air respirators for investigations. The Fire Marshal’s office is predicting a dry brush season, and it asks that residents monitor the CT DEEP website concerning fire danger. If the website states that fire danger is high, very high or extreme, burning of any sort is prohibited. Please contact the Fire Marshal’s office with any questions.

**9 Committee and Liaison Reports:**

**a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)**

Commissioner Perkins read into the record Montville Fire Activity statistics for the month ending March 31, 2026 and the statistics from the first 2026 quarterly meeting of the Montville Volunteer Firefighter Relief Committee that met earlier this evening as follows:

<b>Montville Fire Activity—March 2026</b>		
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>293</b>	
<b>Fire Calls:</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>3 were assists out of town</b>
<b>Ambulance Calls:</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>3 were assists out of town 1 assist from out of town</b>
<b>Lift Assists for Ambulance Calls:</b>	<b>22</b>	

<b>Montville Volunteer Firefighters Relief Committee – April 27, 2026</b>		
<b>Fire Companies</b>	<b>Stipends</b>	<b>Tax Abatements</b>
<b>Montville</b>	<b>Did not submit report</b>	
<b>Mohegan</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Chesterfield</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Oakdale</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

**Montville Fire Company (March 2026)—No Report**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Canceled Calls--</b>	
<b>EMS Calls --</b>	
<b>Fire Calls—</b>	

<b>Motor Vehicles Calls--</b>	
<b>Other Calls—</b>	
<b>Total Calls:</b>	

**Mohegan Fire Company (March 2026)**

<b>Incidents/Calls:</b>	<b>In District</b>	<b>CO1</b>	<b>CO3</b>	<b>CO4</b>	<b>Mutual Aid</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1 (Tribe)</b>
<b>Lift Assist</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Fire Alarm</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>MVA</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Structure Fire</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Water Rescue</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CO Emergency</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>HAZMAT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 (Tribe)</b>
<b>Service Call</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Vehicle Fie</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Calls: 181</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>No Volunteers on calls in districts:</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Ambulance Transports with no paid staff:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Ambulance Transports by other Departments in District:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Ambulance Transports from other districts</b>	<b>33</b>

**Oakdale Fire Company (March 2026) No Report\***

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cancelled Calls:</b>	
<b>EMS Calls:</b>	
<b>Fire:</b>	
<b>Motor Vehicle Calls:</b>	
<b>Other Calls:</b>	
<b>Total Calls:</b>	

\*Commissioner Perkins reported that she just received the Oakdale Fire Company monthly report and would forward it on to the Commission.

**Chesterfield Fire Company (March 2026)**

<b>Incidents:</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Fire Calls: (4.6%)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>No Emergency Calls: (21.5%)</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Public Service Calls: (13.8%)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Hazardous Situation Calls: (4.6%)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Medical Calls: (55.4%)</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Total Calls: (100%)</b>	<b>65</b>

**b. Report from Animal Control Liaison. (Callaghan)**

The March 2026 statistics for 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 these reports into the record under Agenda Item 9, as follows:

**Town of Montville Animal Control Report (March 2026)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD FY</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>89</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>529</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total Enforcement Action:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Other Calls for Service:</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>460</b>

**Town of Colchester Animal Control Report (March 2026)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD FY</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total Enforcement Action:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Other Calls for Service</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Town of Salem Animal Control Report (March 2026)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD FY</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Enforcement Action:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Other Calls for Service:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Town of Bozrah Animal Control Report (March 2026)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD FY</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Enforcement Action:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Other Calls for Service:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Mohegan Tribe Animal Control Report (March 2026)**

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

**c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)**

Commissioner Gillette read into the record the Police Department statistics for the month ending March 31, 2026, as follows:

<b>Police Department Activity – March 2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>938</b>
<b>Citations:</b>	
<b>Infractions</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Juvenile Summons</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>Misdemeanors</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Written Warnings</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Total Citations</b>	<b>144</b>

**d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)**

The Building Department statistics for March 2026 were read into the record by Vice-Chair Stewart, as follows:

<b>2025-2026 Building Department Report</b>												
	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>Permits Issued</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>109</b>			
<b>Pending Permits</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>90</b>			
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>104</b>			
<b>Active Blight</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>318</b>			
<b>Blight Abated To Date</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>609</b>			
<b>Blight--Pending</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>			
<b>Blighted Property Liens</b>												

**10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.**

Mayor Bunnell remarked that he had hoped to have a report today concerning the data system, but some fire chiefs are out of town. Work will continue on this project until it is finalized.

**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.

Mayor Bunnell remarked that he hoped to have a report today concerning the data system, but some fire chiefs are out of town on business. Acknowledging the length of time this item has been on the agenda, work will continue on this project until it is finalized.

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

Mayor Bunnell acknowledged the work of Chief Messer on this item and the existing \$350,000 currently had. Funding of \$800,000 is need to complete the project with request made to the State for additional funding. The goal is to move the project forward with available funds.

**12. New Business.** -- None

**13. Remarks from the Public *three-minute limit.*** -- None

**14. Remarks from the Mayor.**

Mayor Bunnell commented on the upcoming budget particularly the 8.57% increase to the General Government Budget that does not reflect new programs or other additions. Instead, it reflects the underfunding of line items (overtime and insurance) and unforeseen costs associated with snow removal by Public Works. The overall mill rate will be raised by 3.1% by making cuts to line items without alternatively effecting staffing and services. The mill rate was reduced in 2023, raised 1 mill in 2024, and no increase in 2025. Talks were had with all Town departments including the Board of Education and its budget reduction of \$300,000. Decision making is now under the purview of the Town Council. Firefighter Delmastro was congratulated for final STEP training. The Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> with fireworks at dusk at the old drive-in culmination of 250 anniversary of the U.S. On July 8<sup>th</sup> per the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence a reading of this document will take place at the Town Hall. A Fife and Drum Corp will be present in addition to food trucks. The Committee for the same is headed up by Angela Hess and Andrea Petrozza. In June 1836 a tour was conducted by General Lafayette of the U.S. as it existed. He went from New London to Norwich and the midpoint for the General's tour was jailhouse curb that will be marked as a midpoint of his trail in commemoration.

**15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.**

Town Councilor Baker remarked on meeting with the Town departments and speaking with them regarding their budget requests for FY2026-2027 at the Finance Meetings. The Board of Education budget will be heard at public hearing on Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.; the public hearing for the General Government Budget will be held on Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Both will take place at the high school auditorium. Attendance at the public hearings was mentioned and it was noted that comments from the audience would be welcomed. Congratulations were extended to Officer Fazzino and to the three (3) firefighters who earned their Firefighter I Certification. All public safety responders were asked to stay safe and were acknowledged for doing a good job.

**16. Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Perkins thanked the three (3) firefighters for obtaining their certification and all the firefighters for the jobs that they do. Vice-Chair Stewart echoed the comments about Officer Fazzino that put St. Bernards in a good light. He also remarked about looking at holding classes at the high school for EMT certification and hopefully at some point a Firefighter I class. Everyone was wished a safe Memorial Day and of the upcoming parade. It was also noted that the next Commission meeting would be held on the Wednesday following Memorial Day.

**17. Adjournment.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

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.**