

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes of Monday, March 28, 2011
Town Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jetmore asked Vice Chairman McNally to run the meeting as he is having difficulty speaking due to an illness.

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Allyn, Butterworth, Jetmore, McNally, Moran and Wehner. Absent was Commissioner Loiler. Also present was Mayor Jaskiewicz and Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner McNally, seconded by Commissioner Moran to move agenda item 8 (a) Executive Session after agenda item 6 (b) to accommodate the labor attorney. Discussions, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, agenda amended.

5. Communications

Vice Chairman McNally read a letter addressed to the Public Safety Commission from the Administrator of the Water Pollution Control Authority, Brian Lynch dated March 17, 2011 regarding the need to look into expanding the water service to help with fire suppression in the Town of Montville. The letter requests a meeting to discuss the direction the WPCA is approaching not only with fire suppression, but with the expansion of water within the town itself.

6. Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve the meeting minutes of the February 28, 2011 regular meeting and the March 23, 2011 special meeting. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting minutes approved.

8. Executive Session

Motion made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Jetmore to enter into Executive Session with the members of the Public Safety Commission, Mayor Jaskiewicz, Labor Attorney Eileen Duggan and Town Council liaison, Candy Buebendorf for the purpose of discussions regarding strategies and/or negotiations with respect to the

collective bargaining with the firefighters bargaining unit. This action is taken without prejudice to the Council's rights to discuss these matters in private, and pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 1-200-2. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried and invited parties left Chambers for executive session at 7:02 p.m., returning at 8:04 p.m. Acting Chairman McNally resumed the regular meeting and stated no formal votes were taken during the executive session.

7. Remarks from the Public

Jon Leonard, 24 Chestnut Hill Road, spoke regarding item 12 (b), asking why the Commission bothers to spend fifty thousand on a Study they know they are not going to listen to. Agenda item 12 (e) to consider and act on a sub-committee to work with the Human Resource specialist, he suggested taking the Human Resource specialist out of it because all she has made is a mess, and he discussed the need to run a heavy rescue to accidents that are with entrapment or roll overs or serious mechanisms because they have run into problems where some of the rescue trucks have gone and the crew actually needed the equipment on the heavy rescues the town has.

Gary Murphy, 6 Carolina Drive, stated in regards to the fire trucks for the Oakdale Fire Department he is staying out of any discussions regarding the purchase of the two fire trucks because of his position on the Town Council. The Deputy Chief of the Department will be answering all questions and taking care of any questions anyone may have regarding this issue.

Bryce Wilkins, 21 Sparrow Court, the Deputy Chief of the Oakdale Fire Department spoke regarding item 12 (c) the replacement of fire apparatus. He discussed the M-41 engine, stating the engine currently in use is twenty years old and to date has been very reliable but recently they are experiencing problems with it and he is looking into moving forward to replace it before something significant happens. He understands the fiscal responsibility on their part and they are looking into an engine that is functional as well as something that will provide service for the next twenty five years. They are looking for a like to like swap out of the engine.

Acting Chairman McNally asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Commission regarding items on the agenda.

9. Remarks from Department Heads

Ray Occhialini, Fire Marshal, discussed the report for last month, stating last month the dispatcher center dispatched two hundred and thirty one fire calls, and of those calls, one hundred and sixty were ambulance calls. Chesterfield had fourteen first due calls, Montville had ninety nine, Mohegan had seventy eight and Oakdale had thirty seven. There were three out of town calls for the month. He thanked the Police Department for their help over the past couple of weeks with reckless burning incidents where four juveniles have been arrested. Regarding emergency management, he is working with

Millstone, he has a meeting in Colchester on Wednesday to update the plans and looking at the Millstone plans. The drill for this cycle is September 21st. He has been working on the snow storm reimbursement from January 11th and 12th. He is waiting for a meeting with the FEMA representative to go over the paperwork to make sure it is completed properly to get the reimbursement money. He discussed inspections and fires over the past month. He stated he attended a meeting with Mr. Jon Leonard in West Hartford concerning the Statewide Regional Dispatch Study. He received the survey today and will complete it and get it back to the State and the State will have their study done by August. Commissioner Butterworth inquired if the two hundred and thirteen thousand dollar reimbursement from last March's storms has been received and Mayor Jaskiewicz stated it is. Mr. Occhialini discussed the process for State reimbursement of money and why it took over a year to get the reimbursement. The reimbursement is seventy five percent of what the town spends on cleanup and repairs due to a storm.

Lt. Bunnell, Montville Police Department distributed copies of the statistics for 2011 and stated it has been quite busy. He updated the training of the new hires, stating there is one in the Academy and two graduated the Academy and they are into their second phase of field training and all are doing a great job. The mock crash is scheduled for May and there will be a meeting in preparation of the mock crash. The event is sponsored by the Drama Club, with assistance from Yale's Junk Yard, Public Works, the Fire Department, EMS, Youth Services, and the school faculty. The mock crash will be held in front of the school between Fair Oaks and the High School on Chesterfield Road. It is worth watching, the effort that goes into the event is incredible. He discussed the Building Committee, stating the design and development phase has been completed and they are preparing to go out to bid and everything is on track. The tower RFP will go out with a deadline of April. He is setting up an increase of motor vehicle enforcement, and the Police Department received a grant in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars for DWI enforcement.

10. Reports from Committees and Public Safety Liaisons – none.

11. Unfinished Business

a. To consider and act on a motion to review and approve the Public Safety Rules and Procedures document.

Commissioner Allyn stated everyone has the document and he was hoping to get feedback in order to finalize the document, and based on discussions during executive session, he would like to hold off of the vote until next month in order to resolve any outstanding issues, including the review process for the oral examination that the Commission holds. It was used last week at the interviews and there were some issues dealing with the scoring matrix and the process has been revised with some rational and he distributed a copy to each member for review.

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner McNally to postpone this item for discussion until next month. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Update/Discussion regarding construction of the Public Safety Building complex.

Lt. Bunnell discussed this topic during his report to the Commission.

12. New Business

a. To consider and act on a motion to send a recommendation for hire to the Mayor for the position of firefighter.

Motion made by Commissioner Wehner, seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to vacate the current hiring process and initiate a new process once an actual process has been defined. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

b. To consider and act on a motion to send a letter to the Mayor and the Town Council requesting a transfer of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the Capital Non-recurring account to fund a Public Safety Study for the Town of Montville.

Vice Chairperson McNally stated the reason this item is on the agenda is because it has been talked about for several now and the Town Charter requires the Public Safety Commission to maintain a plan and there currently is no plan in place and funding has been cut many times but there may potentially be money available to fund the Study at this time.

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Moran, discussion;

Commissioner Butterworth stated the fifty thousand dollars would be better spent on fire trucks and police cruisers, because the town is not going to spend the money to follow the recommendations of the Plan. In the long run a plan would save the town money but initially it costs money and no one wants to spend the money upfront, especially not in these economic times. If the Town Council does not vote to follow the recommendations and to bond the money or get grants to do what needs to be done he does not think the town should waste the money.

Commissioner Wehner stated the town needs to do the right thing and have a plan in place. In the past there have been money problems that have forced the plan to be put on hold, but he believes the town needs a plan in place and to follow the plan as recommended. He does not want to live on past practice and wants to be optimistic that things will change and the process should move forward.

Commissioner Allyn stated the Commission often beats up the Town Council and some of the Commissions because they do not follow the Charter and the Study is a part of the Charter this Commission has an impact on. He discussed the town's intent to purchase fire trucks, police cars, a public safety complex and a regional dispatch center, stating the town has no plan. The Charter says the Commission needs a Plan, and whether it is done in house or by an independent company it needs to be done. The fifty thousand dollars is a nominal fee based on what the town is about to spend in the next couple of years.

Mayor Jaskiewicz stated the Town should have a Plan in place.

Town Council Liaison Candy Buebendorf inquired regarding the amount of time it takes to conduct a study. Commissioner Allyn stated it takes approximately six months and will require an RFP. Ms. Buebendorf recommended the Commission include the request for the money in the 2011-2012 budget because it is so close to the new fiscal year and by the time the Town Council hears this and the RFP goes out it will be close to the new fiscal year and could be a part of the budget discussions at that time.

Chairman Jetmore stated if the Commission decides to go ahead with this plan, members of the Commission must be willing to go to the Town Council to discuss the need for the plan.

Vice Chairman McNally stated the Plan is long overdue and the Commission needs to move forward. Fire suppression needs need to be addressed as well as many other issues that will come up in the next couple of years.

Motion made by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Commissioner McNally to send a letter to the Town Council and to the Mayor requesting fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in the 2011-2012 budget year for the Public Safety Study for the Town of Montville. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

Commissioner Allyn requested this item stay on the agenda for future discussion because there is a need for a steering committee and a committee of stake holders that will be involved in the process, this is not just a public safety committee plan, it is a Public Safety Plan for the Town of Montville and stakeholders that are sitting out there should have the right to sit on the committee. Next months discussions should include the size of the steering committee and invite stake holders to be part of the process.

c. To consider and act on a motion to discuss and vote on a recommendation for the replacement of the M-41 and M-17 fire trucks and to send a letter to the Council regarding the decision made by the Commission.

Vice Chairman McNally stated he attended the Finance Committee meeting where a discussion was held regarding the five and ten year plan for fire truck replacement, and the purchase of police cruisers purchased this year. The Finance Committee is looking

into a lease/purchase of the fire trucks because the funding to purchase one is not available at this time.

Motion made by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Commissioner Jetmore, discussion;

Commissioner Allyn stated there are four pumper trucks that will be twenty five years old in 2015 because they were purchased at the same time. Oakdale is going to replace M-41 and M-42 was replaced in 1996. He stated the M-41 will be traded in on a new truck. Deputy Chief Wilkins of the Oakdale Fire Department discussed the replacement and lease/purchase of fire trucks in the future. He stated the present M-41 is twenty years old and has a one thousand gallon tank with a six man cab. He would like to add a Class A foam tank to the new engine, for Class A house fires allows greater knock down and uses less water. He is suggesting a stock truck that will cost the town less money but is adequate to do the job it is intended for. The cost of a no frills fire engine is around four hundred and ninety thousand dollars. He would like to get all the specs and rough prices in place and have the opportunity to put together a presentation and go from there. He would like to purchase a quality truck that will serve the town for the next twenty five years, but does not need all the bells and whistles, just something to fight fires adequately. He discussed the maintenance issues he is currently having with the M-41 truck.

Vice Chairperson McNally stated the Finance Committee is looking for a recommendation from the Commission regarding whether or not the Commission is in favor of replacing either one of these trucks at this point.

Motion made by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Commissioner Moran to send a letter to the Finance Commission and the Town Council recommending the replacement of truck M-41 when the time comes to do. Discussion, none, Voice vote, 5-0-1 (Commissioner Butterworth abstained from the vote because he is a member of the Oakdale Fire Company).

d. To consider and act on a motion to form a sub-committee to work with the Fire Chiefs of the Town of Montville to update the ten year Capital Plan.

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Moran to appoint Commissioner Butterworth and Commissioner Loiler to the sub-committee to work with the Fire Chiefs on the ten year Capital Plan. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried. Appointments made.

e. To consider and act on a motion to form a sub-committee to work with the Human Resources specialist regarding hiring procedures and testing for Police and Firefighter hires.

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Moran.

Motion made by Commissioner Wehner, seconded by Commissioner McNally to appoint Commissioner Allyn and Commissioner Jetmore to the sub-committee. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

13. Remarks from the Public

Vice Chairman McNally inquired three times if there was anyone who would like to come forward to address the Commission.

14. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor Jaskiewicz discussed the mock crash event, stating the kids do a great job simulating an accident. He encouraged anyone with the opportunity to observe it to do so. He thanked the Public Safety Committee for working on the process for the hiring of the firefighter, it is a good effort and although it is something that should have been resolved a long time ago, he is looking forward to moving forward. He thanked them for all their hard work and stated it is in everyone's best interest to do what is best for the town and to find the most qualified candidate for the job.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf

Councilor Buebendorf discussed the mock crash done every other year at the school where she teaches and she stated she speaks with the kids after the event and it has a profound influence on them, it is a great program. She discussed having department heads who can not attend the monthly Public Safety meeting submit monthly reports to the Commission, the Animal Control officer, the Building Inspector, and the Fire Chiefs, because this Commission is in charge of those departments and they typically don't hear from them until budget time and it would be nice to get an update monthly like the Fire Marshal and Police Department does.

16. Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Wehner stated the Commission made a lot of progress at this meeting and stated this is a learning process but are currently pointed in the right direction and should continue to push for the Public Safety Plan and to encourage more interaction from the Department Heads at future meetings.

Commissioner Jetmore thanked Commissioner McNally for filling in for him.

17. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Moran to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

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Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville