

**Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes of Monday, April 25, 2011
Town Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jetmore called the regular meeting of the Montville Public Safety Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

4. Amendments to the Agenda – none.

5. Communications – none.

6. Approval of the March 28, 2011 regular meeting minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Loiler, seconded by Commissioner McNally to approve the meeting minutes of March 28, 2011. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Executive Session – none.

8. Remarks from the Public

Chairman Jetmore asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Commission.

9. Remarks from Department Heads

Ray Occhialini, Fire Marshal discussed his monthly statistics report with the Commission. For the month of March the first due calls for the fire departments were Chesterfield with eighteen, Montville with ninety three, Mohegan with sixty eight and Oakdale with thirty eight. Five of the calls were out of town for two hundred and twenty two. The majority of the calls were EMS calls including vehicle with injury at one hundred and sixty five calls, or seventy four percent of the total calls. There were unauthorized burning calls during the month and six motor vehicles accidents. The first three months of the year there were six hundred and sixty eight calls and this is approximately the same number as last year. The dispatch center answered five thousand

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one hundred and thirteen administrative ingoing and outgoing calls in the months of January, February and March. One thousand five hundred and sixty nine of the calls were 911 calls. There was one structure fire caused by a resident burning leaves that caused damage to the wood furnace, the side of the house and a plastic shed. There were two car fires reported last month. He discussed the Connecticut Ever Alert Program, stating if the town was to do a 911 emergency call out to the residents of Montville, the Uncasville zip code has four thousand ninety five people with land lines and the Oakdale zip code has two thousand seven hundred and forty, but only one hundred and thirty five people chose to sign up for alerts in Uncasville and ninety people signed up in Oakdale. He put together a slide for the cable television show on channel 20 to drum up interest in the alert system. Commissioner Allyn inquired regarding the school's notification system and asked how many people they contact and if the fire marshal's office could access the school's system in case of emergency and Mr. Occhialini stated it can not be done as it is a different system. For three thousand dollars the town could invest in the Ever Bridge system to send out alerts.

Sgt. Collins, Resident State Trooper stated Lt. Bunnell is on vacation until the middle of May. The DWI grant money has been utilized since March 17th and to date have stopped three hundred and fifty motorist and handed out three hundred and thirty eight motor vehicle violations and made five DWI arrests. This grant is up and running and has been successful. There have been extra police officers on duty on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights utilizing the grant money and the additional manpower act as back up to the officers that are already out on the job. Most of the concentration has been on the Route 32 area as this area is where most of the accidents occur. He discussed two grants, the first one for a school grant that is a fifty/fifty grant meaning the town will have to match the money for safety equipment for the schools. The Montville Middle School wants to put cameras in the school for a long time but do not have the funding to do so, so he will get a list from the Board of Education as to what equipment they will need and he will submit the grant to try to get the Federal Government to pick up fifty percent of that cost. He discussed the COPS Grant, stating the police department will apply for this grant that will pay one hundred percent of one police officer's salary and benefits for three years, and the only obligation the town has is they must maintain that police officer for an additional year after the grant is over. He stated the grants can be applied for and in the event they are not needed or the town changes their mind they can turn the grant down. He discussed events to take place in the month of May; the mock crash will take place on Tuesday, May 17th for the students at the high school, this event takes place every other year and includes a fake car crash in the middle of the roadway and the students get to see the actors with their fake injuries being transported by fire and EMS; officers conducting field sobriety tests; Pappy's Run is scheduled for Sunday, May 29th, the paperwork is in order and he discussed the billing procedures per the State of Connecticut, the person holding the event is responsible for paying the bill for the State Troopers and the Montville officers that work the event. He gave the event overtime coordinator's name to the State Police and they will determine if the bill will be paid and if it can not be paid the event will not move forward. He discussed the Neighborhood Watch Program, stating it is starting back up again and he will reach out to all the active

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programs involved in the Neighborhood Watch and he hopes to implement a larger program this year by inviting all the neighborhoods to a meeting in the High School auditorium and have one large meeting at the end of the year to get everyone together, introduce themselves and get to know one another. The program is a success due to the residents meeting one another and getting to know each other and helping each other out. Burglaries in town are still ongoing but not at the frequency they were before the Neighborhood Watch program took off. He discussed a drug give back program at the Youth Center between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on April 30th. This is a program for anyone who has medications in their medicine cabinets and does not know how to dispose of them. The drugs will be collected at the Youth Center, they will be taken to a secure area at the Police Barracks and then the DEA comes out to pick them up for disposal. The program was a success in the past at the Senior Center and the importance of the program is to keep people from dumping the drugs down the drain and it is a good opportunity to dispose of unwanted medications. He discussed the Elks Officer of the Year award, stating it will be given out on May 11th and the officer chosen this year is Officer Addison Saffiati and he invited anyone who would like to attend the event to purchase tickets and attend the event. The event starts at 7:00 p.m. at the New London Elks Club. Officer Saffiati has made sixty seven DWI arrests last year and many drug arrests. He has signed up three confidential informants in town and he is the number one man to work with in town regarding drug activity in the Town of Montville. He stated the men and women of the Montville Police Department do a great job, they work hard and produce results. Each month the Town of Montville leads the three big towns, Montville, East Lyme and Ledyard in DWI and criminal arrests. He discussed increased patrol in areas where there is more pedestrian traffic now that the weather is nicer. The speed trailer goes out every day and is an educational tool but requires police presence to enforce the laws.

Chris Martel, Animal Control Officer, stated twenty two animals were impounded in the month of March, six of them were redeemed by their owners, twelve were placed as pets in new homes and one was dead on arrival. She investigated fifty nine complaints, there were three animal bites reported and overall she had a busy month. She submitted the Municipal Animal Control Officers Report to the Commission for review. She submitted a request to forward to the Town Council regarding Animal Control fees to be set by Municipalities along with the descriptions for each.

Chief Keith Truex, Chesterfield Fire Company, gave his report for March, 2011. During the month of March the Chesterfield Fire Company responded to sixteen ambulance calls, four fire calls, 4 motor vehicle accidents and two EMS assist calls. He stated four two hour training sessions were conducted on March 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2011. There were four fundraisers held at the fire house on March 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2011. Two members received their Connecticut EMT certification and three members received their Connecticut MRT certification. He discussed the hire of the career firefighter at the Chesterfield Fire Company, stating the money is in the budget for a hire but it is being utilized to pay overtime salary than hiring someone and he feels the town is getting less

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for their money this way and it doesn't make sense. He understands there are Union issues, but hopes they can be worked through with a resolution to the problem.

Chairman Jetmore stated in the future if it is easier for the Department Heads to drop off or email their reports to the Commission they do not have to attend the meeting if it is an inconvenience. The secretary of the Commission asked that the departments get their reports in no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting so that they can be copied and included in the Commission packet.

Chief Joseph Giangrasso, Mohegan Fire Company discussed the March 2011 report with the Commission. Total calls from the month town wide was one hundred and twenty eight, total Mohegan calls were seventy six, total calls broken down were; fire calls, twenty nine, EMS, forty six, mutual aid, eleven, paid staff responses were forty two. Station assignments broken down were forty three ambulance calls, eight mutual aid calls, three R1 responses in district and one ambulance stand by and one mutual aid engine call; one mutual aid fire alarm, four motor vehicle accidents, two motor vehicle fires, two HAZMAT incidents, one pole fire with wires down, nine brush fires or outside fire and one structural fire. Apparatus responses for M-200 responded sixty one times, M-21 eight times, M-23 six times, M-24 ten times, M-26 forty one times, M-27 five times. The boat did not move. Equipment usage, ten HAZMAT absorbent pads, five pounds of speedy dry, five hundred fifty feet of booster hose, fifty feet of inch and three quarter line, one hundred and fifty feet of two and one half inch line, four hundred feet of five inch hose and approximately two thousand forty gallons of water. Every Thursday with the exception of the first Thursday of the month the Mohegan Fire Company conducts training. On March 10, 2011 there was EMS training for back boarding and splinting, and there were fifteen members in attendance for two hours with a total of thirty man hours, on March 17, 2011 there was regular monthly training, weapons of mass destruction and there were twenty one members in attendance for a total of forty two man hours. On March 24, 2011 there was a probationary and extra training class including hydraulic tools, rope system and patient packaging with fifteen members in attendance for an hour and one half for twenty two and one half man hours. On March 31, 2011 there was mandatory sexual harassment training with twenty three members in attendance for one hour for twenty three man hours. There were a total of four trainings in the month of March for fifty six members total attendance with one hundred and twenty two man hours.

Chief Ron Turner, Montville Fire Company distributed his report for the Commission to review. During the month of March, 2011, Montville first due was ninety one calls, forty five times Montville went to Mohegan, five times to Chesterfield, fourteen to Oakdale and one time to the Mohegan Tribe for a total of one hundred and fifty six times something moved out of the fire house. He discussed a grant the firehouse was awarded from FEMA in the amount of ninety nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars for SEVA (air packs) replacements. The money will replace twenty air packs and a spare bottle.

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Mayor Jaskiewicz congratulated Chief Turner for a good job securing the grant.

10. Reports from Committees and Public Safety Liaisons

Commissioner Allyn stated the Capital Improvement Sub-Committee has not started to meet as of yet.

11. Unfinished Business

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

Motion made by Commissioner McNally, seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to approve the Public Safety Rules and Procedures document as prepared and to forward the document to the Town Council for final approval. Discussion, Chairman Jetmore stated he looked the document over and it is a well prepared document. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried. Chairman Jetmore thanked Commissioner Allyn for all the work he did preparing the document over the past months.

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

Chairman Jetmore stated there will be a meeting on Thursday at 6:00 p.m., everything is moving along and is on schedule. There were two responses relative to the tower and the Building Committee Sub-Committee is working on the proposals and they will report back.

Commissioner Allyn discussed the joint Regional Dispatch Center and asked Mr. Occhialini what the plan is for the Dispatch Center's move if the building is done before the Regional concept is complete. Mr. Occhialini stated the dispatch center is going to be built and if there are no customers at that point and time they are going to move. He discussed the tower and there is one good vendor that he will discuss at the meeting who states they can have the tower done by December. He is waiting for the building to be finalized and the tower issues have been resolved.

c. Update/Discussion regarding the hire of a firefighter for the Town of Montville.

Commissioner Allyn stated he worked on the procedure/process for hire with the Human Resource Director but since that time he has been informed the document has typographical errors that need addressing, there is a process in place, a process with steps that were agreed upon and he will look at the last draft of the document to determine if it has all the correct information. Mr. Occhialini stated on page it reads "Connecticut Level I Firefighter or two years experience", by contract the Town hires firefighter certified II's there is no firefighter level 2 and it wasn't and/or, either you are certified or your not, two

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years experience is not going to cut it. In the document there are approximately eight other typographical errors. Commissioner Allyn will look into this and report back with his findings at the next meeting.

Mayor Jaskiewicz indicated there are five qualified applicants and one that is not really totally qualified, with a total of six all together and the twenty ninth is the last day for submission of applications for the position.

d. Discussion regarding status of funding for the Public Safety Plan for the Town of Montville.

Chairman Jetmore indicated the Mayor put the money for the Plan in the budget. The public hearings are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday of this week, from there the budgets are forwarded to the Finance Committee and they will set up a hearing and go from there. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated he put the money in because he believes the town should have a Study. Chairman Jetmore thanked the Mayor for his support with the Plan.

e. Discussion regarding appointing a steering committee to work on the Public Safety Plan.

Chairman Jetmore stated the Commission should hold off on appointing anyone to the committee until it is determined if the money for the Plan is approved by the Town Council.

f. Discussion regarding the lease/purchase of an M-41 fire truck.

Commissioner Butterworth stated he has met with distributors and is working on how to set things up and they should be here next month to give a presentation.

12. New Business

Chairman Jetmore indicated there is no New Business for discussion.

13. Remarks from the Public

Joe Giangrasso, 4 Park Avenue Ext. inquired regarding the fire hydrant tie in at Mohegan. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated the WPCA has sent it out to bid and they need to award the project. Commissioner McNally stated the bids are in and the WPCA will award it in the near future.

Chairman Jetmore asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Commission.

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14. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor Jaskiewicz discussed the wall that gave in on Route 32 and the proposal of the State to fix the wall in June and expect to finish the project in November. The plan is to keep one lane open and they are competent the road will hold up until it is fixed. The maintenance department will keep an eye on the project. He discussed how the State will maintain traffic with a one lane road during construction. In August the Mohegan Pequot Bridge is going to be repaired and expansion joints will be added, making this area one lane as construction is on going. He will meet with the State to get more information as the date gets closer and they have a pre-construction meeting. He discussed the new Resident State Trooper contract regarding overtime for special events. He suggested the Commission look at the make up of the Public Safety Commission, stating there may be too many of one party on the Commission. He thanked Commissioner Allyn for his efforts working on the hiring process with the Human Resource Director and he thanked the Commissioners for pushing forward with this as it is a good thing for the town. He discussed the possibility of implementing a hiring process for the police in the future but stated it is a different procedure. He apologized to the Fire Marshal for the delay in hiring a firefighter but hopes the next hiring process will go smoother once there is a solid procedure in place.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf

Councilor Buebendorf apologized for being late, stating she was in another meeting in Town Hall. She encouraged the Commission members to attend the public hearings for the budget to support the Public Safety Plan and if they are unable to attend the meeting she encouraged them to email or send a letter to the Council stating they really do need to hear input from the Commission. She thanked the firefighters and the police officers who work in the Town of Montville and put their lives on the line for everyone each and every day. She thanked them for their service to everyone.

Chairman Jetmore encouraged the Department Heads to work with the Commission secretary to come up with a plan to make reporting each month easy on everyone by either emailing or dropping off the reports on the Wednesday prior to the monthly meeting.

16. Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Moran did not have anything to report.

Commissioner Allyn stated he will be setting up a date to get together to work on the Capital Improvement Plan for Public Safety. He will send out a document to all the Chiefs through the Commission secretary. The document is an inventory document on the fire apparatus with all of the pertinent information asking to fill in the blanks and send it back.

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Commissioner McNally stated the work has begun on the booster pump station on Maple Avenue, it is a pre-fabricated building and in a couple of months he hopes all the hydrants will be up and running along Bridge Street and Route 163.

Commissioner Butterworth did not have anything to report.

Commissioner Loiler discussed a story he read about Officer Greg Jacobson, a local police officer who had a larceny case involving youthful offenders, and he stated it is nice to see local men and women in the community doing a great job.

Chairman Jetmore thanked the department heads for submitting their reports and attending the meeting and he thanked the commission secretary for all the fine work she does with coordinating the monthly meetings, stating he appreciates it.

17. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Loiler, seconded by Commissioner McNally to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville.