

**Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes of Monday, October 24, 2011
Town Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Allyn, Butterworth, Loiler, Moran, McNally, Wehner and Jetmore. 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 remove agenda item 11(c) as the matter has been resolved. Discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Communications

a. Monthly statistics reports from the Fire Departments, Police Department, Animal Control and Building Official.

6. Approval of the Minutes of;

- a. the September 26, 2011 regular meeting and;
- b. the September 26, 2011 special meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Moran, to approve the regular meeting minutes as submitted, discussion, Chairman Jetmore requested Mr. Bucko's name be spelled correctly, voice vote, 6-0-1 (Chairman Jetmore abstained) and the meeting minutes approved as amended.

Motion made by Commissioner Butterworth, seconded by Commissioner Loiler to approve the special meeting minutes as submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0-1 (Chairman Jetmore abstained) and the special meeting minutes were approved.

7. Executive Session – none.

8. Remarks from the Public

Mr. Jon Leonard discussed agenda item 12 (f) and suggested the purchase of BHS receivers to use with the town's repeaters.

9. Remarks from Department Heads

Ray Occhialini, Fire Marshal, discussed the September and October statistics report with the Commission. He reviewed the number of calls and activity over the month. He discussed a structure fire at 291 Oxoboxo Road at an abandoned building, and stated it was a total loss and because there was no electricity to the dwelling and it has been vacant for such a long period of time the fire is considered suspicious and there is a reward for anyone with information leading to an arrest in the case. He discussed agenda item 12 (f) and discussed the problems with the current system. He discussed upgrades, options and the need for repeaters to cover the dead zones in town.

Lt. Bunnell, Montville Police Department discussed the statistics report for the month of September. Officer Condash is currently in his last phase on training and will complete his training in the middle of November. A discussion was held regarding the DARE program and Lt. Bunnell stated he wants to be clear that it is the intent to continue the program. The part time person was sworn and he has been in the State of Virginia at a DARE certification program at no cost to the town. The town's DARE committee has made a donation to the program to offset lodging costs for the part time employee while he is being certified in Virginia. He stated he hopes to have the program up and running in December. He reminded the Commission that on Thursday there is an awards ceremony at the High School and he encouraged members of the Public Safety Commission to attend. Sixty one awards will be handed out to the men and women of the Police Department. He discussed agenda item 12 (f) and stated the town has been fortunate that the Fire Marshal has been out looking for and applying for grants for items needed in the fire service and stated the town needs to upgrade the system in order to be able to communicate in times of duress. He suggested the town look at communications and move forward with the request to upgrade the system in the best interest of public safety. He asked the Commission to support the proposal and encouraged Councilor Buebendorf to bring the request to the Town Council for approval.

Sgt. Gelinas, Resident State Trooper was present to discuss recent activity in town. He stated it was a busy month and discussed a home invasion in Montville and a burglary that is tied together with other towns. He stated all the cases are being actively investigated and there were two arrests relating to the home invasion in Ledyard and more arrests are anticipated.

Mayor thanked Sgt. Gelinas for the update, stating some residents were concerned and had questions regarding the home invasions.

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

11. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion regarding progress to the Public Safety Building.

Mayor Jaskiewicz stated the footings for the building are in and the concrete being prepped and will be poured in the near future. He stated the Public Safety Building Committee will not meet this month in order to allow the members to attend the awards ceremony at the High School.

b. Discussion regarding the Public Safety Plan.

Commissioner Allyn stated the RFP went to the Finance Director and will open on November 4th. Chairman Jetmore thanked Commissioner Allyn for all the time he dedicated to implementing the Plan.

12. New Business

a. To consider and act on a motion to appoint a member of the Public Safety Commission to the Firefighters Relief Committee.

Mayor Jaskiewicz stated this committee meets once a year. Commissioner Loiler volunteered to be a member of the Committee representing the Public Safety Commission. Mayor Jaskiewicz suggested a memo be sent to the Finance Director indicating his appointment to the Committee.

b. Discussion regarding staffing at the Chesterfield Fire Company.

Chief Truex stated there is money in the budget to hire one full time paid firefighter at the Chesterfield Fire Company five days a week for ten hours a day, and the money is currently being used to pay overtime to current firefighters to cover shifts. He explained he is not asking for an additional appropriation, he is asking for the full time permanent career firefighter that has already been funded in the budget. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated there are issues, and he has discussed this issue with the Union. Ray Occhialini stated now would be the opportune time to get this person in place because the last firefighter hired by the town does not take the benefits offered by the town and there is a benefit package available to the potential employee at the Chesterfield Fire House. He stated because the last hire waived the benefit package it is essentially a bonus package and would not cost the town extra money. He recommends the town pursue the new hire and negotiate the hire with Union. Commissioner Butterworth discussed issues with the Union and concerns they have if there is a new hire.

c. Discussion regarding the firefighter hiring process.

Commissioner Allyn stated the process for the hire of a firefighter for the town has been established and suggested adding language to help clarify duties of the part timers regarding the need to meet requirements and make it easier to get on the hiring lists. He will sit with the Fire Marshal to discuss this matter further.

d. Discussion regarding a training program for paid firefighters.

Commissioner Butterworth stated there is currently no written document regarding how many hours the firefighters are to work and no policy in place regarding how they will be trained. Ray Occhialini stated there are policies in place and stated all new employees are given an employee handbook and a book of policies as well as the Town Council policies when the individual is hired, they are also sent to an orientation in all the fire stations to get town wide classified certification. Commissioner Butterworth stated the firefighters are not happy with the training they receive.

e. Discussion regarding establishing a committee to standardize response procedures within the fire service.

Ray Occhialini discussed the current procedures and he suggested setting up a meeting to put the scenarios together and work out a policy and put it in writing, the current policies and procedures are from 1990 and it is in need of being updated. Currently there are four independent response procedures for the four different fire companies and they need to be addressed, put in writing and adopted. He suggested forming a committee to discuss this matter and come up with a resolution between now and the end of the year. Chairman Jetmore volunteered to be the liaison from the Public Safety Commission. Ray Occhialini volunteered to put preliminary information together and contact those who wish to be involved.

f. Discussion regarding funding for repeaters for the fire service.

Ray discussed the five year plan and money available to upgrade the system. He will look into grants because there is currently not enough funding in his budget to purchase the repeaters for the Town.

13. 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.

14. Remarks from the Mayor

Chairman Jetmore thanked Mayor Jaskiewicz for his service to the Town of Montville and stated he appreciates everything he has done for public safety and the Public Safety Commission over the years.

Mayor Jaskiewicz stated he may have had disagreements with the Commission over the years but the discussions were healthy discussions and he encouraged the Commission to move forward in the right direction and stated they are doing a good job.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf

Councilor Buebenodrf commended the Commission for forming the committee and she stated she will try to add a discussion regarding the repeaters on the next Town Council agenda in November but she is not sure how much the new Council will accomplish at its first meeting. She stated she hopes to be back as the liaison to the Public Safety Commission after the election.

16. Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Moran asked about the repeaters and Mr. Occhialini stated the repeaters would be of great help for communication in the areas of town that does not currently have this ability.

Commissioner Allyn thanked Mr. Occhialini for all his insight and comments, and explained agenda items b, c, d, and f are action items that will get worked on in the future, the timing is perfect and he will meet with all agencies to make sure the process flows nicely.

Commissioner McNally thanked Mayor Jaskiewicz and Councilor Buebendorf for all their service to the Public Safety Commission and stated they have been great to work with.

Commissioner Wehner stated he has enjoyed working with Mayor Jaskiewicz over the years and stated he has learned a lot about how to get things done. He stated it has been a positive situation and is happy to have had the chance to work with him.

Commissioner Butterworth thanked Mayor Jaskiewicz for his service to the town.

Commissioner Loiler thanked Mayor Jaskiewicz for his service to the town and stated he is looking forward to Thursday's ceremonies.

Chairman Jetmore thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for all their hard work and dedication to the commission.

17. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Loiler, seconded by Commissioner McNally to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville