

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 6, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jetmore called the special 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, Loiler, McNally, Moran, Wehner and Jetmore. Absent was Commissioner Butterworth. Also present was Mayor Ron McDaniel and Town Council Liaison Candy Buebendorf.

4. 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.

Mr. Keith Truex, Chief of the Chesterfield Fire Company expressed his opposition to holding closed door discussions regarding the Public Safety Plan, stating it was designed to be an independent study with no bias and to hold discussions in executive session gives the appearance that the Commission is hiding something from the public. He stated the document is a public document paid for by the tax payers and everyone should have the opportunity to read it and comment on its content.

Commissioner Wehner stated that he agrees with Chief Truex, stating the department heads should have the opportunity to review the document as they have a vested interest in its content.

Commissioner Allyn stated the document is a working draft that is missing content and has not been edited for grammatical errors. He agrees the department heads should have the opportunity to review and comment on the content of the document but would like this to happen after the

Commission has cleaned it up. He stated it is not the intent to keep anything from anyone but at this point the document is a very rough draft.

Ms. Robin Salvatore, 43 Lake Drive, President of the Police Union, asked that the record reflect the Union has not had an opportunity to review the latest revisions to the Promotion Policy.

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

5. Executive Session

a. To consider and act on a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussions regarding the draft Public Safety Plan submitted by Almont Associates. Discussions held during the executive session to include members of the Public Safety Commission, Mayor Ron McDaniel and Town Council Liaison, Candy Buebendorf.

Motion made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Allyn. Discussion, Commissioner McNally stated that he would prefer the Commission email comments regarding the document directly to Almont Associates instead of going into executive session. He stated there was no hard copy to print out and review and stated those who will be impacted by the document should also have the opportunity to review and comment on the document. Commissioner Allyn stated there will be hard copies provided when the final draft is prepared, but at this time the document is a working draft only. He stated he was in contact with the Mayor who asked the Town Clerk to research the FOI formalities of having this discussion in executive session. Mayor McDaniel stated the Town Clerk contacted FOI and was told that it is permissible to hold this type of discussion in executive session and although it is a grey area the Commission is in their right to do so. He does not see the harm in holding the discussion in a public forum as it is not the intent to change, alter or delete any of the content of the document. Chairman Jetmore stated he was not personally interviewed by Almont Associates and he has reviewed the working draft at home on his computer. It is not his intent to change anything in the document during the executive session, but merely to comment on its content. He stated it is not the intent to appear as if the Commission is hiding anything and agrees it is best not to release the document until the final draft is prepared. Councilor Buebendorf stated the department heads will have the opportunity to review and comment on the document once a final draft is prepared and stated this executive session is an extra step that may not be necessary.

Commissioner Moran withdrew his motion and Commissioner Allyn withdrew his second to this motion.

Commissioner Allyn requested the Commission members email their comments regarding the working draft of the Public Safety Plan from Almont Associates to the Commission secretary prior to Monday, August 13, 2012 so that they can be forwarded to Almont for consideration.

Chief Keith Truex requested a copy of the draft Public Safety Plan be distributed to the department heads so that they can review it, stating they are directly involved and should have the opportunity to comment.

Commissioner Wehner stated he agrees the document should be released to the department heads prior to releasing the document to the public as they will be directly impacted by the recommendations in the Plan and he stated there would be no harm in discussing the document in a public forum.

Mayor McDaniel stated the document needs to be cleaned up grammatically prior to distributing it to anyone and stated the department heads will have the opportunity to review the document once it is cleaned up and portions that are missing are received and included.

6. Old Business

a. To consider and act on a motion to review and approve the proposed Evaluation Policy and to forward the document to the Town Council for approval.

Motion made by Commissioner McNally, seconded by Commissioner Moran, discussion, Mayor McDaniel stated this document was prepared by members of the Police Department in cooperation with the Resident State Trooper. Lt. Bunnell reviewed the revisions made to the document since the last Public Safety Commission meeting with the Commission.

Commissioner Wehner stated the policy is a standard policy and the content of the document was mirrored after existing policies from local cities and towns. Ms. Salvatore indicated the Union does not have an issue with this policy as written.

Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried and this document will be forwarded to the Town Council for consideration.

b. To consider and act on a motion to approve the proposed Promotion Policy and to forward the document to the Town Council for approval.

Motion made by Commissioner Wehner, seconded by Commissioner Moran, discussion, Mayor McDaniel distributed copies of the latest revised version of the Promotion Policy to the Commission for review. He stated he met with Commissioners Jetmore and Moran to address the comments made at the last Public Safety Commission meeting, including the comments made regarding the oral interview process. He reviewed the changes made to the document with the Commission. Lt. Bunnell discussed the need for a policy in place in order to move forward with scheduling exams for officers. Commissioner McNally stated he would like to have more time to review the document prior to a vote. Commissioner Loiler stated he would like to postpone the vote for the approval of the policy until everyone who is involved has the opportunity to review and comment on the revisions to the document. Commissioner Allyn stated the Commission is not acting as Human Resources or Administration, it is merely making a recommendation for the Promotion Policy to the Town Council for approval. He stated a policy must be in place to move forward with the exams for the employees who are overdue. Commissioner Wehner stated the policy is not out of the ordinary and he has no objection to voting on the document at this meeting. He stated the wording looks good and once it is in place the department can move forward with advancing those who are eligible.

Voice vote, 4-2, voting in favor were Commissioners Wehner, Allyn, Moran and Jetmore, voting in opposition were Commissioners Loiler and McNally. Motion carried and the document will be forwarded to the Town Council for consideration.

7. Remarks from the Public

Mr. Randy Page, Assistant Chief of the Mohegan Fire Company commended all of the first responders in the Town of Montville for an incident he had recently at his home, stating there was great response in his time of need. He discussed the lack of communication between the Corrections Department and the Town regarding the escaped inmate this week, stating he had to learn of the incident on the television and on Facebook but was not notified by the town in any way. He discussed the use of the reverse 911 system, stating it could have been implemented to warn residents of potential dangers.

Chairman Jetmore stated the police have apprehended the suspects who were leaving the trash on the resident's lawn on Chesterfield Road. He thanked the police for a job well done and stated the issue has been resolved.

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Loiler, seconded by Councilor McNally to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 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.