

**Town of Montville Public Safety Commission  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 24, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.  
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall**

**I. Call to Order**

Commissioner Jetmore called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**3. Roll Call**

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Elizabeth Adams, Joseph DePasquale, James Moran, and David Jetmore. Also present were Lt. Leonard Bunnell, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, and Resident State Trooper Sgt. James Smith. Town Council Liaison Laura Tanner, Fire Marshal Ray Occhialini and Commissioners Gary Allyn, Steve Loiler, and Eric Rousseau were absent.

**4. Amendments to the Agenda**

No action

**5. Communications: Copies of monthly statistics reports from the Fire Marshal, Fire Departments, Police Department, Animal Control and Building Official.**

The Fire Marshal, Building Official, and Police Department reports were submitted electronically prior to the meeting. Commissioner Jetmore commented that he received notice about the 2015-16 budget. Mayor McDaniel added that the Town Finance Committee sets the deadlines for budget and not necessarily by directive of the Town Charter. He also communicated on the passing of Animal Control Officer Chris Swanson's mother stating that the thoughts and prayers of the Commission are with her at this time.

**6. Approval of Regular Meeting minutes of August 25, 2014.**

Motion made by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Jetmore to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 25, 2014; discussion, none; voice vote 4-0; all in favor, motion carried.

**7. Remarks from the Public**

Commissioner Jetmore asked three times for remarks. There were none.

**8. Remarks from Department Heads**

Lt. Bunnell summarized his September and October Activity Reports as follows:

- Preparations have begun for the December 7, 2014, Holiday Parade and neutral aide has been sought from LAC due to officer shortage.
- Extra duty jobs on Leffingwell and Dock roads require two officers per day.
- He is working with IT person Bill O'Neil and AT&T on Capital Improvement for cameras that are showing their age.
- There are some minor items at the PSB that need to be addressed.
- He is currently working on the 2015-15 budget.

**9. Reports from Committees and Public Safety Liaisons**

Commissioner DePasquale mentioned that there has been a lot of activity regarding the feasibility study.

**10. Unfinished Business**

- a. Modify the current policy on police uniforms to include the newly purchased lime green "construction type" shirts and vest for road jobs.**

Lt. Bunnell is still working on revising the policy on police uniforms that has detained by his committee to the Ad-Hoc Feasibility Committee.

**b. Report on police applicants.**

Commissioner Jetmore reported that 15 applicants to part in interviews on September 22 -24, 2014. Eleven of those applicants advanced to interviews with Commissioners Moran and Jetmore on November 17-19, 2014. Mayor McDaniel added that final interviews are scheduled on the morning of Wednesday, November 26, weather permitting. A decision will be made by noon tomorrow, November 25<sup>th</sup> about rescheduling the final interviews to Monday, December 1. In response to Commissioner Moran's question, Lt. Bunnell stated that all of the positions are entry level.

**11. New Business**

- a. Schedule 2015 meeting dates.**

Motion made by Commissioner Jetmore; seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve the 2015 Meeting Schedule; discussion, none; voice vote, 4-0, all in favor; motion carried.

**b. Discussion on Public Safety Commission attendance.**

Commissioner Jetmore commented on attendance at Commission meetings, the need for another commissioner, and the burden placed upon Commission members concerning special meetings and the ad-hoc committee. Mayor McDaniel spoke about the difficulty of filling slots on Town Commissions. He agreed to contact Commissioner Loiler, who is deemed a thoroughly knowledgeable member of the Commission, as to his commitment to the Commission upon his graduation from the State Police Academy. Mayor McDaniel also clarified that there is no mention in the Town Charter regarding dismissal of a commissioner due to three or more absences; therefore, it would require a vote of the commissioners for removal and a final decision by the Town Council.

**12. Remarks from the Public**

Commissioner Jetmore asked three times for remarks. There were none.

**13. Remarks from the Mayor**

Mayor McDaniel commented on an item reported on earlier by Lt. Bunnell regarding the taking on of jobs with CL&P or AT&T given officer shortage. Lt. Bunnell mentioned the safety factor involved with the use of civilian flaggers and the narrow, high volume roads. Mayor McDaniel asked about the burnout factor for staff. Lt. Bunnell replied that the department does what it can to cover all situations and that no officer is mandated or pushed to the limit. Commissioner Moran asked about assistance from the CSP which Lt. Bunnell said has been requested as needed.

Mayor McDaniel also remarked about the police radios that are now defunct and asked whether there was any contingency in the Capital Improvement Plan for the same. Lt. Bunnell responded that the radios were not a part of the capital plan as there is no guarantee as to when the radios will fail. Mayor McDaniel further stated that the CSP will upgrade their radios that would cost the Town upwards of \$270,000 to replace the same for the Town. Commissioner Moran asked whether the CSP would assist the Town with the police radio upgrade. Mayor McDaniel said he hoped that the State would provide incentive for resident trooper towns.

As to regional dispatch, Mayor McDaniel commented that representatives from the Town of East Haddam will conduct a tour of the Public Safety Building tomorrow, November 25, at 7:00 p.m. He also added that the Town of East Hampton has agreed to become involved. The Mayor also reiterated the importance of regional dispatch for the Town of Montville.

**14. Remarks from the Town Council Liaison**

Town Council Liaison L. Tanner was absent from the meeting.

**15. Remarks from Commissioners**

Commissioner DePasquale spoke about commentary from the Ad-Hoc Feasibility Committee and the failure of the Commission to accept the Public Safety Report. Commissioner Jetmore commented that 169 sections of the report deals with the police; more specifically, having to do with an independent police department. Mayor McDaniel spoke historically about how the Town Charter addresses the issue of a Public Safety Plan; the contracting out of the plan; how the Commission could accept the plan without endorsing all of the recommendations; and the sub-committees that were to be formed for review of the plan by the police and fire officials. Commissioner Moran stated that Commissioner Allyn was working on the fire side of the plan while he and Commissioner Jetmore were to work on the police aspect of the plan. Commissioner DePasquale clarified for Commissioner Jetmore the job of the ad-hoc committee which is to determine whether to stay with as a RST police system or to form an independent police department. Commissioner Jetmore commented on the valid reference points that Fire Marshal Occhialini brought forth; Lt. Bunnell spoke about the points that Commissioner Rousseau was to attain from fire department officials. Commissioner DePasquale asked the Commissioners to review the report and attend future meetings on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to help provide answers to the Committee. Commissioner Jetmore stated that at the next Commission meeting on December 22 they would review acceptance of the Public Safety Report and urged commissioners to review and focus on the police department portion of the report beforehand. Commissioner recommendations should be forwarded via email.

Commissioner Jetmore also commented on the fitness and professionalism of the Town's police as seen through the eyes of his visiting relatives as opposed to other departments in the region. He asked Lt. Bunnell to prepare a presentation to middle school students on facsimile firearms given recent news on the subject.

**16. Adjournment**

Motion made by Commissioner Jetmore; seconded by Moran to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.; discussion, none; voice vote 4-0; all in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by: Gloria J. Gathers/Recording Secretary