

Town of Montville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 12, 2015
7:00 p.m. – Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order
Chairman Jaskiewicz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.
2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.
3. Roll Call
Present were Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Absent was Councilor Caron. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda – *none*
6. To Consider and Act on a motion to approve:
 - a. The Special Meeting Minutes on Monday, January 12, 2015
Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
 - b. The Regular Meeting Minutes on Monday, January 12, 2015
Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.
7. Executive Session
 - a. To Consider and Act on a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Inland Wetlands Commission and Economic Development Commission. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor McNally. Discussion: Ms. Sandra Berardy, Inland Wetlands Commission, and Mr. Walter Hewitt, Economic Development Commission, were interviewed. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Chambers for Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. Chairman Jaskiewicz resumed the meeting at 7:17 p.m. No formal votes were taken during Executive Session.
8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*
9. Communications
 - a. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of December 2014
 - b. Copy of the January budget report from Ms. Terry Hart, Finance DirectorChairman Jaskiewicz stated that a Budget Report for the Board of Education has been completed and is now available.
10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred
Mayor McDaniel stated that the final report regarding the recent ethics complaint has been received from the Attorney and letters have been mailed to all involved parties. Councilor May reported that he has been exonerated of all charges. The Mayor reported that the cost of this particular ethics complaint was approximately \$2,715.00. The total cost of all ethics complaints is close to \$7,000.00.
11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred
Mayor McDaniel commended the Public Works Crews for an excellent job plowing the roads. Extra Fire and Police details were scheduled during the blizzard and cars were towed to enforce the parking ban. The Town's snow removal budget is significantly over-budget and they will be approaching the Finance Committee for the necessary transfers. To help defray some of the costs, a Preliminary Damage Assessment Report for Region 4 has been assembled for possible qualification

for FEMA reimbursement. The reimbursement will entitle them for up to 75% reimbursement for the first 48-hours. The cost for the blizzard alone is just over \$157,000.00.

The roof collapse at Mount View Apartments has been problematic for the tenants as the result of the landlord's lack of responsiveness to their needs. Director of Senior & Social Services Kathie Doherty-Peck and himself have been working to help find alternative living arrangements at local establishments for the affected tenants. Unfortunately, because many of the tenants have pets, which are not permitted at these establishments, he has requested that they find a location and, under State Statutes, will help the tenants with any necessary funding. They will be requesting the Finance Committee for a transfer of funds as only \$500.00 is budgeted for this purpose. The landowner will recoup the funds and the Town Attorney is investigating the placement of a lien on the property. They have also been and will continue to provide the tenants with many of their basic needs, including food, clothing, hygiene products, and gas cards. Through the encouragement of the Building Official, the landowner has hired a structural engineer, who provided his initial determinations. Attempts have been made to stabilize the roof only to have it collapse further and cause other issues. To help expedite the process, workers have been removing the roof debris and creating a temporarily safe solution, without the insurance company's approval, so that the tenants can return to their units on Tuesday to gather their belongings. They also hope to have the engineer investigate the second building.

They have been working with a consultant assigned to them by Eversource, formerly CL&P, for the Clean Energy Communities Program Benchmarking. Numerous spreadsheets and data of the energy usage of all Town, School, and WPCA buildings have been compiled for inclusion in a portfolio manager for the Federally developed program. Their energy usage will continue to be monitored. They are also continuing work on the lighting-retrofitting program.

Due to access issues, they will be meeting with the State regarding the use of the Collect System. Because the State has never dealt with a Dispatch Center that dispatches to Police Departments that are not located within the Police Department, itself, new protocols will need to be developed.

The Youth Service Bureau held a Legislative Breakfast that was well attended by the area legislatures and provided a good overview of what the local Youth Service Bureaus do and their importance to the communities they serve. Rep. McCarty held office hours on February 4 and plans to hold future office hours, hopefully, at a time more advantageous for the public.

While all other meetings were cancelled due to inclement weather, a Public Hearing was held Monday evening regarding the Small Cities Grant Application, which is on this evening's agenda for approval. Due to the resulting cost for the placement of ads to publicize the event, a pro forma requirement, it was decided to hold the Public Hearing that evening. Also on this evening's agenda, a copy of Lt. Brett Mahoney's presentation of the proposed regional Animal Control Shelter to the residents of Waterford is available.

Finance Director Hart updated the Town Council regarding the bid for the Montville Fire Department's Rescue Truck, which is approximately \$156,000.00 less than anticipated. As such, the P.O. was signed and have committed to the vehicle. The project is funded through the Debt Service Program and will be a lease purchase. Because the bid came in less than expected, the cost has changed to either \$57,000.00 over a 10-year period or \$69,000.00 over an 8-year period. It is assumed that the Public Safety Commission approved the purchase, as the item, which was moved from the Capital Plan to Other Financing, was part of last year's budget.

In response to Mayor McDaniell, Chairman Jaskiewicz stated that, from his experience, a proposed policy is required to go through the Town Council for approval to be referred to the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Committee and cannot be brought directly to the Committee. The item may be added to next month's agenda to change that particular policy.

12. Reports from Standing Committees.

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Longton – *no meeting*

b. Finance – Councilor Tanner

Councilor Tanner reported that no meeting was held and budget hearings are slated to begin.

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Longton

Councilor Longton reported that, while the status of the roads is unknown until the end of the season, the area by Oxoboxo Lake, which is in very poor shape, would need to be repaired. The Maynard Road project is on hold pending budget approval. Upon approval, the project will be sent out to bid. The survey has been completed and the primary concern is the ability to provide adequate fire truck access. The proposed changes to the Transfer Station regulations are on hold pending an income report. The use of the old Social Services building for the Re-Use Room is being investigated. The Building Department provided an informal review and once a firm price for the asbestos removal is received, they will be able to better determine the remaining costs. Some of the funds were held back for the tennis courts at Camp Oakdale due to issues encountered with the re-surfacing. The culverts for the Montville Road Bridge are nearly, if not already, completed. They are currently waiting to hear back from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding an issue and will be able to continue once that is finalized. The repairs to the Senior Center will be going out to bid and should be received by the Committee's February meeting. A sound systems expert reviewed the current system and reported that it is a good system and the controls may need to be adjusted. He also suggested the possibility of adding additional cone-shaped speakers that drop down from the ceiling to help amplify the sound. The Department will be requesting the addition of one (1) full-time custodian and two (2) full-time maintainers, who can also do custodial work. Due to Union issues, independent contractors cannot be utilized.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging; Social Services; Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund – *not present*

b. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education

Due to a meeting conflict, Chairman Jaskiewicz was only able to attend the beginning of the meeting.

c. Councilor Longton: Library; Planning & Zoning Commission

The Planning & Zoning Commission discussed three items, all of which were approved:

- 1) A Special Permit application for the construction of a mixed-use project on a property located on Route 32.
- 2) A Site Plan application for the construction of an automotive repair facility with associated parking on a property located on Route 163.
- 3) A Public Hearing for a Special Permit application for the construction of a mixed-use project on a property located on Route 32.

d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority; Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee

The Headworks project is coming to a close and they are reviewing and finalizing the punch list items. The proposed water rate, which will remain the same, will be sent to the Town Council.

The Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee is starting to wrap up their interviews and will begin concentrating on writing and creating their final report and presentation. They have spoken with various law enforcement professionals and gathered a good deal of information; it has truly been a learning experience.

e. Councilor McNally: Economic Development Commission — *no report*

f. Councilor Pollard: Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board

The Youth Service Bureau (YSB) will host their annual Valentine's Day Social on Friday, February 13. Councilor Pollard encouraged everyone to contribute to their Penny Drive by dropping off their pennies and other loose change at Town Hall, Youth Services, Senior Center, and/or various businesses around Town until May 1. The YSB will be announcing a special project to honor and celebrate Black History Month this month. Due to their partnership with the Southeastern Regional Action Council, the YSB has been busy, Montville having been chosen as a target town for prevention funded programs and services through the Drug Free Communities Grant.

- g. Councilor Tanner: Parks & Recreation Commission; Public Safety Commission; Non-Profit Organizations

The Parks & Recreation Commission is seeking the Town Council's guidance and clarification regarding Fair Oaks Community Center and is interested in scheduling a joint meeting with the Town Council, possibly during an Executive Session. They are partnering with and discussing the location, type, and cost of a sign to help promote their upcoming events with the Montville Athletic Boosters.

The Public Safety Commission held a Special Meeting to discuss their budget.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a motion to waive the waiting period for appointments, Rule 14C of the Town Council Rules of Procedure, for the Inland Wetlands Commission and Economic Development Commission.

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a motion to appoint Mr. Walter Hewitt to fulfill a vacancy on the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire May 13, 2017.

Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a motion to appoint Ms. Sandra Berardy to the Inland Wetlands Commission with a term to expire on February 9, 2019.

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- d. To Consider and Act on a motion to re-appoint Mr. Gary Murphy to the Water & Sewer Commission with a term to expire January 10, 2019.

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- e. To Consider and Act on a motion to re-appoint Ms. Elizabeth Adams to the Public Safety Commission with a term to expire January 9, 2018.

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business — *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2015-05. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to add the following to the charge of the Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee: The Committee shall also provide a recommendation based upon their findings. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Councilor May stated that, given their original charge of presenting the pros and cons of an independent Police Department, the Committee felt it fitting that they also provide a recommendation and requested Chairman Jaskiewicz, at a recent meeting, to make that addition to their charge. In response to Councilor McNally, who felt that it was the Town Council's role to provide a recommendation based upon the Committee's findings, Chairman Jaskiewicz stated that the final decision will be made by the Town Council, but that the Committee requested that, after investing all of their time and energy into the matter, they would like to be able to present their opinion/recommendation to the Town Council. Councilor Tanner agreed, stating that the Town Council often relies upon the Commissions/Boards to not only provide feedback, but also make recommendations to the Town Council, who will, then, make the ultimate decision. Roll call

vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to schedule a joint meeting between the Town Council and the Public Safety Commission for _____, 2015 at _____ p.m. to discuss the Public Safety Plan by Almont Associates. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Chairman Jaskiewicz proposed the item be postponed; he plans to meet with the Chair of the Commission to discuss and clarify the purpose of the joint meeting.

Motion made by Councilor Tanner, seconded by Councilor Longton, to postpone the scheduling of the joint meeting. Roll call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2015-06. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald K. McDaniel to contract with Lisa Low & Associates for assistance in the application and administration of a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant and to execute any and all documents to implement the program. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that he is seeking the Town Council's approval to hire Lisa Low & Associates as a consultant, who will be paid through the Grant. In speaking with other Towns, he has received positive feedback on the proposed Consultant, who is well versed and has extensive experience with the Program. Once hired, the Consultant will implement the program, assist Social & Senior Services Director Doherty-Peck in approving the qualified homeowners, locate and hire the contractors, and carry out the contracts. The Town will be responsible for how the funds are spent and directly pay the contractors for the completed work. They will also work with her to investigate other grants for which the Town might be eligible, including those for senior housing projects and the community center as well as those with matching fund qualifications. The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for which they are interested in applying has a housing rehabilitation component and offers up to \$400,000.00 to municipalities with a population of fewer than 25,000. Funds may be used for health and safety improvements to qualifying low- and moderate-income homeowners for such items as lead remediation, septic repair, energy efficient upgrades, roof replacement, and electrical upgrades. Eight to ten projects may be completed per year and applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The Program offers a zero interest loan to qualifying individuals. A lien, paid by the Town, will be placed on the property and the funds are due and payable when the property transfers hands, either through one's passing or the sale of the property. The funds are, then, returned to the program and made available to other qualifying homeowners. The Consultant was selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Other towns engaged in the program include Waterford, Lebanon, and Ledyard. Roll call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2015-07. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to discuss forming a Regional Committee to investigate the pros and cons as well as a cost analysis of forming a regional animal shelter. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: Councilor McNally expressed his dismay with the Mayor regarding Montville's involvement with the proposed Regional Animal Shelter without informing or consulting with the Town Council. He added that, while he is in favor of a regional animal shelter, there are a number of issues that need to be addressed such as the utilization of the funds raised by a group of volunteers from Waterford and East Lyme. He is concerned with the Town's lack of transparency regarding the issue, which was only recently publicized in the paper in a recent article discussing a presentation provided by Waterford. He felt that the location of the animal shelter at the Prison should be further explored and that the members of the Town Council, Animal Control Officer, and members of the public should be better informed and their input considered. He

recommended a multi-town ad-hoc committee be formed to investigate its feasibility and all of the possible options prior to any final decisions being made.

In response, Mayor McDaniel stated that the issue is premature to bring to the Town Council and corrected a number of Councilor McNally's statements. He provided the background of how the issue came about and a brief history of the sequence of events that followed. The location of the proposed facility has not yet been decided and, he agreed, that, though there are some issues with the prison location, the prison property remains a possibility as they have agreed to help with the construction, maintenance, and care of the animals and would work well with their current rehabilitation program. The legalities, operations, location, and funding is currently being investigated. No funds have been spent investigating the issue. He agrees that the Town Council as well as the residents should and will be involved in the process.

Chairman Jaskiewicz agreed and was aware of the issue, but felt it was still in its conceptual stage. Councilor May also felt that the Council had been properly briefed on the issue. At Councilor McNally's request, the Mayor will contact the other towns regarding their interest in forming a multi-town committee. Mayor McDaniel stated that copies of Lt. Mahoney's presentation are available for the public.

Roll call vote, 0-6, all opposed. Voting in Favor: None. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Longton, May, McNally, Pollard, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Resolution failed.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit - none

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Pollard questioned whether the cancelled Town Council Regular Meetings can be re-scheduled to the Wednesday of that same week so as to avoid any confusion. Chairman Jaskiewicz agreed and stated that cancelled meetings are usually scheduled for that Wednesday, but due to a previously scheduled meeting, the meeting was scheduled for this evening. Mayor McDaniel added that a notice of the rescheduled date is also televised and noted on the Town website. Councilor Pollard suggested posting an announcement in the Montville Advisory, as well.

Councilor May reported that, after eight months, solar panels will be installed on his home through the SolarizeCT Program.

Councilor Tanner thanked all of the candidates who were interviewed for coming out, stating that it is nice to have new faces taking part in the Boards/Commissions. She added that it is also nice to see a few new faces in the audience. She also expressed her appreciation to Finance Director Hart for filling in for the Minutes Clerk.

Chairman Jaskiewicz reiterated that, while regularly scheduled Town Council Meetings are usually rescheduled on a Wednesday, this particular meeting was an exception due to a previously scheduled meeting. He thanked everyone for their understanding regarding this week's changes and also expressed his appreciation to Finance Director Hart for filling in for the regular Minutes Clerk.

Mayor McDaniel invited the Councilors to feel free to ask him any questions they might have, adding that he always aims to do what he feels is best for the Town.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Longton, seconded by Councilor Tanner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING IS ON FILE IN THE MONTVILLE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE