

Town of Montville  
**Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee**  
**Special Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, April 14, 2015**  
6:30 p.m. – Montville Town Hall — Room 203

1. Call to Order  
Chairman Pike called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. after establishing a quorum.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call  
Present were Bill Bucko, Joe dePasquale (6:40 p.m.), Robert Giffen, Victor Lenda, and Wills Pike.  
Absent were Jeff Buebendorf and Tim May. Also present were Lt. Leonard Bunnell.
4. Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda – *none*
6. Approval of the
  - a. Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 31, 2015  
Motion made by Mr. Giffen, seconded by Mr. Bucko. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
  - b. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*
  - c. Unfinished Business
    - a. Review of previous independent Police Department studies and reports
      - 1) Presentation of Findings

**Chairman Pike & Vice-Chairman Bucko – Layout of the Presentation**

Discussion ensued regarding the presentation of any dissenting opinions of the report. A statement at the bottom of the page indicating those member(s) who do not agree with what is being presented and an addendum may be added to the report stating each member(s) opinion(s) and reason(s) for dissent.

It was agreed that the overview of their meetings be included as an addendum to the report. An Executive Summary explaining the Committee's duties, the process that ensued, and the results will be included. The pros and cons and their recommendation will be included in the main body of their report.

The following addition was proposed to the Progress Summary Brief:

Page 8, January 6, 2015, CT State Police District Commander Major Michael Darcy

- Costs for the RST Program are dictated by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and any funds received through the Program does not go to the State Police, but are placed into the State's General Fund.

**Mr. Buebendorf & Mr. Giffen – Present day vs. Proposed Budgets**

While the Finance Committee supports the addition of three (3) additional Police Officers, as requested, the Mayor’s proposed budget includes the addition of one (1) Officer. The Town Council will be reviewing both proposals. It was clarified that the total number of budgeted Officers includes the Lieutenant and two Detectives. As such, there are currently 20 Patrol Officers. Depending upon the results of the final budget, the number of additional officers necessary may also change.

Based on current Dispatching costs for the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services, the budget will increase approximately \$300,000.00.

An assumption of a 2% annual step increase was made upon the actual pay grades, which were provided by Lt. Bunnell and Sgt. Smith. Conceivably, an increase in staffing should decrease the amount of overtime. The issue of overtime will need to be re-negotiated during the contract negotiations next year. Lt. Bunnell added that the Mayor has made some strides in reducing the amount of hours recorded in the books, thereby reducing the amount of time off and the number of overtime hours necessary to cover that time off.

Mr. Giffen will forward their proposed budget to the Finance Director for review and to ensure the accuracy of the information. Chairman Pike will follow-up with her. He will also inquire as to the definition of line item 66 for “Maint-Police Comp.”

Mr. Giffen requested a breakdown of all of the RSTs who have been brought in to oversee the Police Department over the last ten (10) years to help emphasize the importance of continuity that they would, presumably, receive with a Chief of Police. Mr. Lenda stated the importance of each town being able to dictate not only who, but also for how long the RST would remain with the Town.

The Lieutenant did not foresee the need for additional vehicles for the near future even with the additional staffing. In conjunction, the elimination of allowing Officers to take home their vehicles will also need to be re-negotiated. A Custodian/ Maintenance person for the Public Safety Building would be included in the Public Works budget, rather than the Police Department’s budget.

**Councilor May – Non-recurring Costs & PowerPoint Presentation**

Discussion ensued regarding the non-recurring costs as submitted by Councilor May and the following revisions were proposed:

Deletions:

**Staffing:** The deletion of the Chief of Police and administrative staffing as well as the RST were proposed as both are included within the budget portion of the report.

Additions:

**Impound Lot:** Lt. Bunnell will speak to Facilities Director Don Bourdeau to obtain an estimate for the fencing and with IT Director Bill O'Neill for an estimate for the surveillance system to be installed at the DOT Garage. It was noted that the lot should also be well lit.

**Mr. DePasquale & Mr. Lenda – Staffing & Calls for Service**

Mr. Lenda reported that he has spoken with State Police Lt. Michael Thomas to obtain the actual figures of how often the State Police handle the Town's calls. While Lt. Thomas agreed that the actual figure would be difficult to determine, he stated that he would make an attempt at determining an approximate figure for the Committee.

It was noted that uncertainty remains regarding the actual RST costs, depending upon the passing of the Governor's budget.

The Committee agreed to hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. In preparation for the meeting, Chairman Pike and Mr. Bucko will review the Summary Report, honing into those details to be included in their final PowerPoint presentation and compile a list of the advantages and disadvantages, in accordance to their charge. They will send the information to the Committee prior to their next meeting for review and discussion. It is hoped that the Committee will be able to make a final decision regarding their recommendation at their next meeting.

9. New Business – *none*
10. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – *none*
11. Remarks from the Committee Members  
Commissioner dePasquale stated that he will be out of town and unable to attend their next meeting. As such, it was requested he submit his thoughts and opinion(s) prior to their next meeting. He added that funds would be more readily available for an Independent Police Department, including (1) the ability to apply for and receive grants and (2) the ability for the Department to assign people to various task forces, both of which will generate revenue.
12. Adjournment  
Motion made by Commissioner dePasquale, seconded by Mr. Giffen, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville