

Town of Montville
Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee
Special Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, July 7, 2015
6:30 p.m. – Montville Town Hall — Room 203

1. Call to Order

Chairman Pike called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Jeff Buebendorf, Bill Bucko, Joe dePasquale (6:32 p.m.), Robert Giffen, Victor Lenda, Tim May (6:32 p.m.), and Wills Pike. Also present was Lt. Leonard Bunnell (6:32 p.m.).

4. Presentations – *none*

5. Alterations to the Agenda

Chairman Pike proposed conducting roll call votes for the following items:

- 1) To Consider and Act on a Motion to recommend the establishment of a statutorily recognized organized Police Department.
- 2) To Consider and Act on a Motion to recommend the establishment of a statutorily recognized Dispatching Department managed by a qualified Chief of Police.

While it was felt that a formal vote of the first item is understood in relation to their charge, the second item regarding Dispatching, which is statutorily required to be under the helm of the Police Department, was questioned and discussed. Should the item be included in the final report, the specific Federal NCIC (National Crime Investigation Center) regulation should be cited. The description of the COLLECT (Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing) System, a statewide criminal justice system serving the law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and providing access to two national systems, including the NCIC, states, “Access to COLLECT is granted only to law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.” (<http://www.ct.gov/cjis/cwp/view.asp?a=4103&q=480592>) As such, the following correction was proposed:

Executive Summary, 6th paragraph, 1st sentence:

The Committee has unanimously voted to recommend the establishment of a statutorily recognized organized Police Department ~~and Dispatch managed by a qualified Chief of Police~~. The Committee notes that Montville will be required to establish a statutorily recognized organized Dispatch managed by a qualified Chief of Police.

Motion made by Chairman Pike, seconded by Mr. Buebendorf, to recommend the establishment of a statutorily recognized organized Police Department. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*

7. Unfinished Business

a. Review of the narrative to be included in Committee presentation

Mr. Giffen expressed his dismay with the draft of the report in relation to its lack of any substantiated information to support their findings. Mr. Buebendorf concurred with Mr. Giffen, stating that the draft is a good introduction, but is missing the analysis section to support their findings, which, he proposed, be included following the Executive Summary. Councilor May suggested the additional information be indicated with bullet points to provide clarity. It was felt that, with the construction of the Public Safety Building and the recent approval for additional officers, the scenario has been created, positioning the Town for the creation of an Independent Police Force.

The Committee agreed to include the *Analysis of Advantages/Disadvantages of the Resident State Trooper Program versus an Independent Police Force* as an Appendix.

The following corrections were proposed and discussed:

The addition of the following:

- Table of Contents
- Page Numbers
- Continued lines, where relevant

Signature page:

Addition of the following sentence:

This submittal is in order to assist the Town Council in making informed decisions in reference to potentially transitioning from the current Constabulary under the Connecticut Resident State Trooper (RST) Program to an Independent Police Force managed by a qualified Chief of Police.

Adjust the order of the Members to:

Chairman Wills Pike
Co-Chairman William C. Bucko
Member Jeff Buebendorf
Member Robert Giffen
Member Victor Lenda

Liaisons:

Councilor Timothy May, Town Council
Commissioner Joseph dePasquale, Public Safety Commission

Executive Summary:

2nd paragraph:

The Committee started its work in September ~~2013~~ 2014 and completed this report in ~~June~~ August 2015.

3rd paragraph:

The first act of the Committee was to establish a guiding principal: that the safety of the ~~the police officers and the general public~~ general public and the police officers is the primary concern...

7th paragraph:

~~The projected operating budgets are:~~

- ~~• Resident State Trooper ————— \$3,792,857~~
- ~~• Independent Police Force ————— \$3,728,087~~

~~With respect to the resulting advantages and/or disadvantages of the Resident State Trooper (RST) Program vs. an Independent Police Force and the recent significant increase in the cost of the RST Program, the Committee found the cost differential to be reasonable and justified.~~

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of the residents to realize that they are paying for 185% of the RST's salary as the cost is included in both their State and Town taxes.

The addition of the following:

~~With the approval by the Town Council for the hiring of two additional officers, bringing the total number of officers on the Police Force to 26, the Town would need to hire only one additional officer to fulfill the Committee's recommendation of 27 officers, excluding the Chief and Lieutenant, for the establishment of an Independent Police Department.~~

Also proposed was the following to introduce the analytical section of the report:

~~The following areas were analyzed: Leadership, Facilities, Operations, Budget, and Community Impact.~~

Mr. Lenda volunteered to work on the Operations section of the analysis section and Councilor May volunteered to work on the Community Impact section, if necessary.

Section I: Review and Interview

Studies and Reports

The following addition, either by an additional bullet point or the inclusion of a pie chart or graph:

- ~~Calls for Service Studies~~

Interviews:

The inclusion of the high points of each of the interviews along with the following correction:

- ~~Additional members~~ of the ~~Montville Constabulary Union Executive Board~~

Summary

1st paragraph:

The addition of the following sentence:

The Committee particularly found the reports generated by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association – Police Services and the Final Report of a Public Safety Plan for the Town of Montville, Connecticut to be most probative and informative and were utilized as reference.

Councilor May departed the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

And, the following correction:

4th line:

...members of the ~~Town Constabulary~~ Montville Police Force provided detailed insight...

2nd page, 1st paragraph, final sentence:

The second budget assumes the hiring of a Chief of Police midway through FYE ~~June 30, 2016~~ and the phasing out of the Resident State Trooper ~~in the FY 2017~~.

As stated in the RST Contract, it was confirmed that the Town may terminate their contract from the CT State Police “by providing thirty (30) days prior written notice of its intent to terminate the Contract.”

2nd page, 3rd paragraph:

The one-time capital expenditures are projected to be:

- Resident State Trooper \$180,000 Radios
(must be purchased by
end of 2016)
- Independent Police \$60,000* Vehicle Retention Area

*Assumes construction at Public Safety facility and storage for six cars. There are no cost savings realized by locating the vehicle retention area at the State DOT building on Route 32. ~~The Town is currently in negotiations to utilize the DOT building. The cost difference between the two locations is _____.~~

Chairman Pike noted that the cost estimate of the vehicle retention area was provided by the Town Engineer and, with Councilor May, will investigate what is included in the \$60,000.00 estimate.

Appendix A: Analysis of Advantages/Disadvantages of the RST Program versus an Independent Police Force

Budget Impact:

RST, Disadvantages, 1st item:

Cost of RST contract plus overtime **and fringe benefits**

Community Impact:

The 3rd item under the RST, Disadvantage was discussed:

“The RST may not be fully invested in the local community”

Based upon his personal experience and with all due respect to the RSTs, Mr. Lenda felt that the statement may not hold true. While an RST who does not live in the area may not be fully vested in the Town, it was felt that there is some flexibility in the statement as it includes the word “may”. In addition, the statement might also hold true for those officers who work for, but are not residents of the Town.

**Appendix B: Cost Assumptions for the Resident State Trooper
Cost Assumptions for Independent Police Force**

Replace the Cost Assumptions with the Committee-approved Budget.

Appendix C: Independent Police Force Staffing Proposal

Replace the Staffing Proposal with the Committee-approved Staffing Proposal.

It was agreed to eliminate the Master and Grades of the Officers.

The following re-numbering of the Appendixes:

- Appendix ~~B~~ **C** – Cost Assumptions for Independent Police Force
- Appendix ~~C~~ **D** – Independent Police Force Staffing Proposal
- Appendix ~~D~~ **E** – Committee Charge
- Appendix ~~E~~ **F** – Section C-408

8. Approval of the
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 9, 2015
Motion made by Mr. Giffen, seconded by Commissioner dePasquale. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
9. New Business – *none*
10. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – *none*

11. Remarks from the Committee Members

Mr. Buebendorf requested that they canvas the Committee for the next meeting date, as he will be unable to meet on Tuesday, July 21.

Chairman Pike informed Lt. Bunnell regarding the reasoning behind his exclusion from the receipt of the draft of the report.

12. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville