

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Town Council

Special Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, February 16, 2016
6:00 p.m. – Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order
Chairman Jaskiewicz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military
3. Roll Call
Present were Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Mayor Ronald McDaniel was also present.
4. Remarks from the Public relating to items on the agenda with a three-minute limit
Lt. Leonard Bunnell, 5 Little John Drive stated that he had not seen the agenda but presumed that the purpose of the meeting was to set the dates for Referendum that he said was” the right thing to do.” He also mentioned an Open House at the Public Safety Building (PSB) scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2016, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 5, 2016, from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lt. Bunnell said that the Open House would give the public the opportunity to tour the PSB to see what has been accomplished. He further stated that the reason we are here tonight is to consider the increased cost for the Resident State Trooper Program (RST) as opposed to an independent police department (IPD) that would provide 24-hour greeters for the public in addition to a “help phone” instead of an auto teller for incoming calls.

Carol Richardson, 164 Fellows Road, stated that she has been resident of the town for 35 odd years and that she supports an IPD as it would address concerns about things that are going on in area between the two casinos and also allow the IPD to conduct its own investigations as do other surrounding towns. She further stated, “Let’s not wait until something happens.”

Howard R. Beetham, Jr., 60 Riverview Road, stated that he was glad that the proposal for an IPD was going to Referendum so the Town’s people can vote. He further stated that “it is not the right time” for an IPD and that the Town should look to the local police or the RST for its needs. He added that the Town is losing its tax base and its residents, currently 17,800, stating that the Town has not grown from 1971 to present. Further, the police force has been the recipient of funds for its service. He commented about the General Electric corporate office that will be relocating from Connecticut. He urged the Town residents to vote “yes” to overturn the proposed IDP.

Linda Jean, 1583 Route 162, Unit #8, Oakdale, spoke about the increased taxes that are a burden to a lot of residents in the Town. She said that because of the two casinos in the area she supports the proposed IDP.

Robert Manfredi, 9 Heatherbrook Road, spoke about the number of residents who cannot pay their taxes, according to the Town’s annual report.

Victor Lenda, 128 Kitemaug Road, stated that he was concerned about the cost of past investigations conducted by the Town police. He provided statistical data comparing the years from 2012 to 2013 for fire/robbery calls, burglaries, auto thefts, et al, noting that although the Town population has remained stable the crime rate has increased. He added that RST Program does not have the staff to send to support towns. Further, the Tribal PD are charged with exclusively handling tribal matters only. He stated that the Town of Montville can save money with an IPD that would require an increase over current staffing of two (2) people. He further added that the RST Program costs the Town \$220,000 and that cost is increasing.

5. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2016-11. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to hold a Special Town Meeting on February 24, 2016, for the citizenry to receive, hear, and consider the override of Ordinance No. ORD 2016-01, “Ordinance Establishing the Montville Police Department,” said special town meeting to be conducted in accordance with the proposed Notice of Special Town Meeting, Town of Montville, a copy of which is attached hereto. (J. Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner; seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Councilor May asked what would happen on February 24. Chairman Jaskiewicz commented that the ordinance as stated in the motion would be considered. Roll Call vote, 7-0; all in favor. Voting in favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution adopted.

- b. **Resolution #2016-12. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to remove Item 2 from the Agenda of the Call of the Special Town Meeting of February 24, 2016, and to submit Item 2 to a referendum vote to take place on March 8, 2016, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. (E.S.T) at Fair Oaks School, 836 Old Colchester Road, Oakdale. (J. Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner; seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Chairman Jaskiewicz reiterated the date and time of the referendum as per the resolution. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution adopted.

- c. **Resolution #2016-13. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to Direct the Town Clerk to prepare and disseminate an explanatory text in accordance with Connecticut §7-369b pertaining to the question to be voted on at the referendum to be scheduled pursuant to Item 5(b) above. (J. Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Tanner; seconded by Councilor Longton. Discussion: Chairman Jaskiewicz stated that the explanatory text would explain how the vote is considered. Councilor Rogulski said that an explanation of the text is very good. Roll Call vote, 7-0; all in favor. Voting in favor: Councilors Caron, Longton, May, Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution adopted.

6. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit.

Robert Manfredi, 9 Heatherbrook Road, gave a recap on statistical data from the period 2007 – 2015 commenting on the decline of the Town’s student population, taken from Town records from the school district Central Office showing 1001 less students. He stated that it was time to consolidate the students into the best schools within the district in order to decrease costs.

Howard Beetham, 60 Riverview Road, asked for clarification that the time for the March 8th referendum was from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., not 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Victor Lenda, 128 Kitemaug Road, clarified for Councilor Rogulski that the statistical data that he commented on earlier were from the year 2013, but that he now has the figures from 2014. He stated that from 2008 to present there has been an increase in criminal incidents within the Town.

7. Remarks from Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Pollard thanked everyone who attended the meeting this evening.

Councilor Longton concurred with Councilor Pollard and stated that the vote at referendum would put the decision for an IPD “in the hands of the people.”

Councilor Caron stated that the decision for an IPD “would be made by citizens of the Town.”

Councilor May stated that it is “a good opportunity for the citizens to vote.”

Councilor Tanner echoed the sentiments of her fellow councilors and said that she is “looking forward to the 8th.”

Chairman Jaskiewicz apologized for speaking earlier on behalf of the Town Council. He stated, “March 8th is up to you—it’s not going to get cheaper.”

Mayor McDaniel thanked everyone for coming to tonight’s meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron; seconded by Councilor Longton to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Discussion, none. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers

Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

(Interim for Agnes Miyuki)

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