

Town of Montville
Public Safety Commission
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Uncasville, Connecticut 06382

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**Town of Montville
Public Safety Commission –Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 23, 2009 -7:00 p.m.
Town Hall - Town Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order – Chairman Jetmore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call – Present were Commissioners Butterworth, Baxter, Jetmore, Scott and Wehner. Absent were Commissioners Allyn and Wojcik. Also present was Town Council Liaison Ed Radgowski.
4. Motion made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Baxter to approve the January 26, 2009 regular meeting minutes. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.
5. Communications

Chairman Jetmore distributed correspondence from Stephen Socha, Mohegan Fire Company regarding a Federal Grant for the purchase of an older Brush Truck; a letter from R. David Paulison of FEMA notifying Mr. Socha the FEMA grant has been awarded to the Mohegan Fire Company; a letter to the Public Safety Commission from Officer Salvatore, President of the Police Union Local 2504 regarding the Montville Police Department rules and regulations policies and procedures manual; and a letter from Lt. Bunnell of the Montville Police Department regarding allegations of unsafe traffic conditions on Crescent Street.

Motion made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Baxter to add to the agenda item 10 (b) as follows: Discussion regarding a recommendation to the Town Council to reimburse the Mohegan Fire Company \$6,250.00 for its share of the grant funding. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to add to the agenda item 9 (a) Discussion regarding unsafe traffic conditions on Crescent Street. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Remarks from the Public – none.

7. Remarks from Department Heads

Lt. Bunnell, Montville Police Department discussed a lock down drill scheduled at Oakdale School on Wednesday, at 9:15 a.m. He encouraged the Commission members to attend to see how the drill is conducted.

8. Reports from Committees – none.

a. Reports from Public Safety Commission Liaisons – none.

9. Old Business

a. Discussion regarding unsafe traffic conditions on Crescent Street.

Lt. Bunnell addressed the Crescent Street issue, stating the Public Safety Commission requested he look into allegations of unsafe traffic conditions. This matter had come to the attention of the Commission as a result of a petition signed by nine residents from Crescent Street, Blumenthal Drive and McCulley Place. An officer was sent out to investigate this matter and this investigation resulted in numerous interviews as well as a study of normal flow of traffic. The officer concluded that making changes to either end of Crescent Street would create unnecessary risks due in part that neither end of Crescent Street is a proper “T” intersection. Any changes in the way of making the street a one way street in either direction would cause vehicles to turn against traffic and both intersections have reduced line of sight when turning against traffic because of the “Y” intersection at both ends of the street. A creation of a dead end street on either end would cause a line of sight problem. The residents are in favor of motor vehicle enforcement over changes to the flow of traffic or direction of traffic. The department is purchasing a radar trailer to be delivered in the month of March. He hopes this new device will help with police visibility and enforcement of traffic rules and this problem will be resolved.

Commissioner Wehner inquired regarding the cost the installation of video cameras in the radar trailer. Lt. Bunnell stated he will look into the cost.

10. New Business

a. To consider and act on a motion to review the Police, Fire, Animal Control and Building Department budgets.

Department Heads of the various agencies under the Public Safety Commission were present to discuss their budgets with the Commission, but they expressed concern regarding why they need to be reviewed by the Public Safety Commission when the Mayor has already reviewed, cut and approved all of the budgets. They feel it is unnecessary to go through the process again because the budgets have been finalized and the Commission is wasting its time and efforts.

Motion made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Baxter to remove item 10 (a) from the agenda. Discussion: Commissioner Scott expressed his concerns regarding the Mayor's lack of respect for the Commission and Charter in regards to the budgets. He indicated the Charter is clear, stating the Public Safety Commission budgets are to be reviewed and approved by the Public Safety Commission first. He stated the Mayor was out of line by bypassing the Commission in this way and to waste the time of the people who were asked to attend the meeting as well as the members of the Commission. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor, motion carried. Item removed.

b. Discussion regarding a recommendation from the Public Safety Commission to the Town Council to reimburse the Mohegan Fire Company \$6,250.00 for its share of the grant funding.

Commissioner Scott stated the Mohegan Fire Company was awarded a FY2008 Assistance to Firefighters Federal Grant for the replacement of a 1966 Unimog Brush Truck. The project total awarded was \$125,000, 95% of this money came from the Federal Government and the Fire Company is responsible for 5% totaling \$6,250. The Fire Company received a total of \$118,750. Past practice of the Town has been to reimburse the Fire Company their share of the grant funding. He requested a letter be sent to the Town Council requesting the reimbursement of the \$6,250 because the money received from the grant is money that did not have to come out of the Capital Fund and is a direct savings to the Town.

Motion made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Baxter to send a letter to the Town Council requesting approval of reimbursement to the Mohegan Fire Company in the amount of \$6,250. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Scott encouraged the other fire companies to come forward and to submit their requests for reimbursement of their share of grant money, stating the fire companies are on a tight budget and should not be held responsible for their share of grant money as it is a huge savings to the town when they are received.

11. Remarks from the Public

Ray Occhialini, Fire Marshal, discussed the budgets, stating he received a letter from the Finance Director on December 4, 2008 requesting all budgets be submitted by January 14, 2009. He announced the new firefighter has started work.

12. Remarks from Mayor Jaskiewicz

Mayor Jaskiewicz was not present for comment.

13. Remarks from Town Council Liaison Ed Radgowski – none.

14. Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Scott stated he does not know why the Commission wastes its time each month. He stated the Charter states the budgets are to be approved by the Public Safety Commission and this policy has been clearly disregarded and ignored by the Mayor.

Commissioner Baxter acknowledged the great work done by all of the public safety personnel in Town on a regular basis. He stated all the volunteers are saving the town money and they are a great asset to the Town. He expressed concern regarding the exemption of the Public Safety Commission from the budget process.

Commissioner Wehner discussed the lock down drill, stating he plans to attend the drill.

Commissioner Butterworth did not have any comments.

Commissioner Jetmore apologized to the Commission members and to the Department Heads for the inconvenience of having to attend the meeting and thanked them for all they do.

15. Adjournment – Motion made by Commissioner Baxter, seconded by Commissioner Baxter to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Voice vote: 5-0, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Montville Public Safety Commission