

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2018 - 6:00 PM
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to order.

Chairman Moran called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Mike Butterworth, Michael Doherty, Mickey Gillette, Victor Lenda, Jr., Karen Perkins, Robert Yuchniuk, and James Moran. Also present were Lt. Leonard Bunnell, Fire Marshal Raymond Occhialini, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, and Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers.

4. Amendments to the Agenda.

Town Councilor Rogers proposed the removal of Items 11.a and 11.b from the agenda stating that action concerning them were not relative to the Commission and came under the auspices of the Montville Board of Education.

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to remove Items 11.a, School Security, armed SRO, and 11.b, Proposal to establish Community Resource Officer Volunteer (CROV) Program, to assist in School Security from the Agenda. Discussion: Commissioner Lenda opposed the removal of the items citing Items 3.1 and 3.2 under Item G, Commission Activities—Public Safety Coordination of the Public Safety Commission Policies and Procedures and Town safety concerns. He also referenced research by the State of Connecticut and available grants for the same. Commissioner Doherty said although he agreed with the policies that the Commission would be overstepping its bounds and instead should reach out to the Chair and/or Superintendent of the Board of Ed. Commissioner Butterworth stated that Commission concerns should be relayed to Town Councilor Rogers for consideration by the Town Council. **Vote by a Show of Hands: In favor: Commissioners Doherty, Gillette, and Perkins; Opposed: Commissioners Butterworth, Lenda, Moran and Yuchniuk -- 3-4; Motion to remove denied.**

5. Communications:

- Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police, Animal Control and Building Official.

Chairman Moran confirmed that all had received the monthly statistical reports. Commissioner Butterworth reported that the Building Department report must we worked out with IT.

6. Consideration and action to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2018.

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth; seconded by Commissioner Doherty to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2018. Discussion: none. **Voice Vote, 7-0. Motion carried.**

7. Remarks from the Public (Agenda items—three-minute limit).

Chairman Moran asked three times for remarks. Resident Gary Murphy addressed Agenda Item 11.a stating concern about easy accessibility and security in Town schools and his desire to hear Commissioner Lenda's proposal regarding it. Commissioner Lenda explained that he spoke with Lt. Bunnell for ideas to get a dialogue going to address the safety concern.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Fire Department Report

Per the February/March 2018 monthly report submitted electronically by Fire Marshal Occhialini, there were 222 dispatched calls for service in February 2018. The report referenced fire safety inspections (33), investigations, fire extinguisher and generator checks, training, and collection fees of \$43,832.63 for operating permits; 49 monthly inspections, Fire Safety Poster Contest at State level, current projects, and emergency management and dispatch that included grant applications and confirmations (Millstone grant for \$33,874 for 2017-2018), Millstone Drills, completion of the Emergency Operation Plan, and the installation of Text to 911 software by the State with activation around April 19, 2018. The report also referenced activities arising from two significant storms on March 2 and March 7, the request for a replacement Chesterfield Fire Truck and a general review of fire trucks, and the School Safety Plan that will be updated this summer. Fire Marshal Occhialini stated he would email the plan to the commissioners for their review.

Police Department Report

Per the February 2018 monthly statistics report submitted electronically by Lt. Bunnell, there were 1093 Calls for Service—Troop E – 168; PD – 399; Walk In – 49; and By Officer – 477. Lt. Bunnell reported on the increase of Type 1 calls requiring detective/investigative work. He also referenced the Uniform Policy that he emailed to the Commission for comments. As to staffing, background checks are being done on those applicants who passed. Lt. Bunnell also handed out a new directive requiring officers to make randomized patrol checks during school days and scheduled events adding that it would be a good idea for the Commission to create a sub-committee concerning police officers in schools. He also commented on the lobby phone at the Public Safety Building (PSD) discussed at last month's meeting. Lt. Bunnell said the phone can now be heard throughout the building. Responding to a question by Commissioner Yuchniuk, Lt. Bunnell stated that the PD does not currently have a full-time, dedicated SRO but does have a DARE officer who is available when not teaching DARE. At Town Councilor Rogers request, Lt. Bunnell will report on the number of calls responded to by the DARE officer while in the schools. He also commented on the passing of former mayor Patrick Dougherty.

Building Department Report --None

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison (*Perkins*)

Commissioner Perkins reported that she met with Fire Marshal Occhialini regarding his upcoming budget that includes a request for a full-time dispatcher that is currently in the hands of the Finance Department. Mayor McDaniel explained the procedural process for budget submission.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to discuss the Fire Marshal's budget. Discussion: Commissioner Lenda commented on the window in dispatch at the PSB discussed at last month's meeting and his meeting thereafter with Dispatcher Leonard whereby he reflected that "the job was not as easy as he thought." His communication regarding the same was forwarded by email to the Commission at his request by Lt. Bunnell. Commissioner Yuchniuk also commented about his meeting with Dispatcher Leonard. As to the Fire Marshal's upcoming budget, Commissioner Perkins and Fire Marshal Occhialini commented on the \$25,000 budget line item for equipment and maintenance (\$6,100 per fire house) stating that he has never paid for normal maintenance—items over \$500 have been paid by the Town. He requested that the \$6,100 be taken out of the firehouse budgets and put back in his budget as preventative maintenance is included in his budget. **Voice Vote, 7-0. Motion carried.**

b. Report from Animal Control Liaison (*Yuchniuk*)

Commissioner Yuchniuk reported that since the ACO is still on maternity leave, last year's budget would be replicated for the upcoming budget year and include more funds for an Assistant ACO. Mayor McDaniel stated that salaries are set by the Town Council.

Motion by Commissioner Yuchniuk; seconded by Commissioner Lenda accept the Animal Control budget, as presented. Discussion: none. **Voice Vote, 7-0. Motion carried.**

c. Report from Police Department Liaison (*Lenda*)

Commissioner Lenda thanked IT official Bill O'Neil for facilitating the fix for the PSB lobby phone that he discussed earlier. He then reviewed the Captain and Uniform Policies and suggestions for each.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison (*Butterworth*)

Commissioner Butterworth reported on the Building Department activities citing 11 issued permits and 31 plan reviews in addition to other data.

10. Unfinished Business.

a. Consideration and action concerning the Uniform Policy (*Tabled*)

Commissioner Lenda stated that although the item has been tabled, Commissioners are asked to review and comment on the proposed changes to the policy.

b. Consideration and action of draft proposal for Department Head Title – Captain. Commissioner Lenda reported on the revised Captain’s policy as discussed at the last Commission meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Yuchniuk; seconded by Commissioner Lenda to accept the revised proposal for Department Head Title—Captain, as presented. **Vote by Show of Hands — In Favor, Commissioners Doherty, Lenda, Moran, Perkins, and Yuchniuk -- Opposed: Commissioners Butterworth and Gillette. Vote: 5-2. Motion carried.**

c. 2018-2019 Montville Police Budget

Commissioner Lenda reported that the budget was approved and sent to Mayor McDaniel. This item will be removed from the agenda.

11. New Business.

a. School Security, armed SRO.

Chairman Moran began by referencing Item 3.2 under Item G, Commission Activities—Public Safety Coordination of the Public Safety Commission Policies and Procedures. Commissioner Lenda handed out current Board of Education policy regarding School Safety and Security, a letter from Governor Malloy regarding grants to enhance CT school security with a breakdown of the School Security Grant Program of CT schools. Commissioner Lenda also referenced a CT General Statute 11.60 that refers to Sandy Hook and other information concerning school safety and security. A sub-committee to review the same was formed and includes Commissioners Butterworth, Gillette, and Lenda.

b. Proposal to establish Community Resource Officer Volunteer (CROV) Program, to assist in School Security.

Commissioner Lenda referenced the Almont Report, the feasibility study that came out a few years ago to assist the PD. He spoke about having a volunteer retired PD or a way to cost effectively provide school security. Armed security and training was also referenced.

c. Discussion regarding Chesterfield Firehouse M32 replacement.

Fire Chief Truex reported on the condition of the current engine tanker that holds 1,000 gallons of water but is more than 25 years old and should be replaced. Since there are not a lot of hydrants in Town, he proposed the purchase of a 3,000 gallon vacuum tanker with a maximum sized, diesel engine. He also said the Oakdale Firehouse would be getting a 2,000 gallon tanker soon. Chief Truex spoke about the specification of the tanker per his discussions with a contractor stating the spec was a long-term one for 10 years down the road. Per discussion, Chief Truex responded to questions concerning the cost of a vacuum tanker versus an engine tanker, available grants for the purchase, and how the tanker would be used. Referencing the economic climate of the State and the Town and the need of 3,000 gallon tanker versus a 2,000 gallon tanker, Town Councilor Rogers asked Chief Truex to research

the cost of a 2,000 gallon vacuum tanker. This item will be kept on the agenda for further discussion.

12. Remarks from the Public (non-agenda items—three-minute limit).

Chairman Moran asked three times for comments. Chief Truex commented that the request in Fire Marshal Occhialini's budget for a second paid firefighter is for the Chesterfield Firehouse but noted that it needs a third paid firefighter as do the other three (3) departments have. Resident Gary Murphy thanked the Commission for promoting discussion on school safety. He also spoke against a 3,000 gallon tanker at Chesterfield Firehouse citing its size and the difficulty of driving it particularly downhill. He added that Oakdale altered their tanker size from 3,000 gallons to 2,500 gallons. Lt. Bunnell commented that fire safety is a huge concern and that the dispatch issue needs to be resolved.

13. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel remarked that the Board of Education sat in on discussion regarding the School Safety Plan, which is confidential. He also pondered the Town budget and whether the Town can afford the need for more public safety referencing struggling small towns and funds promised by the State. Mayor McDaniel also commented about the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for fire apparatus that was set up for \$200,000 per year in 2000 when he was on the Town Council, a move to avoid bonding.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Rogers commented on his support for a full-time, armed SRO for school safety and suggested current Dare Officer Morehead for the position. He also thanked the fire and police departments for their efforts during the recent storms. As well, he expressed his condolences to the Dougherty family.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Doherty commented that dispatch and school safety are priorities. Commissioner Butterworth echoed the same and remarked on having spoken with the Board of Education concerning the hiring of retired military or police officers for school safety.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Butterworth to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote; 7-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers
Minutes/Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

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