

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – July 23, 2018 - 6:00 PM
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to order.

Chairman Yuchniuk called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Pledge of allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Mike Butterworth, Mickey Gillette, Jon Leonard, Victor Lenda, Jr., James Moran, Karen Perkins and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present was Lt. Leonard Bunnell, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, Acting Fire Chief Paul Barnes, and Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers.

New Commission member John Leonard was introduced.

4. Amendments to the Agenda. -- *None*

5. Communications:

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

Chairman Yuchniuk confirmed that all had received the monthly reports. Mayor McDaniel commented that Commissioner Leonard had been added to the distribution list for the reports.

6. Consideration and action to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2018.

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth; seconded by Commissioner Lenda to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2018. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three times for remarks. There were none.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Per the June 2018 monthly statistics and activity reports submitted electronically by Lt. Bunnell, there were 1085 Calls for Service—Troop E – 215; PD – 359; Walk In – 58; and By Officer – 453.

Lt. Bunnell reported on staffing stating that as of July 28, 2018, an officer will be lost to Stonington, his position will be open in September, and there are currently six (6) openings with two (2) officers on light duty. He said second interviews will be conducted on

Wednesday. Lt. Bunnell also reported two (2) seats will be available at the Academy in October and another two (2) seats in December.

Fire Department Report – The report was distributed to the Commissioners.

Building Department Report

2017-2018 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	141	122	107	136	96	81	66	59	70	123	133	127
Open Permits	290 9	298 3	299 4	298 1	300 1	298 0	299 1	299 9	297 6	3049	3095	3078
Inspections	132	148	144	152	91	107	76	78	89	109	128	83
Plan Reviews	28	22	11	23	8	14	11	12	10	23	32	17
CO's	6	5	9	9	6	4	3	7	2	11	7	6
Violations	2	4	6	7	3	1	1	4	1	0	1	1
Unsafe Notices	0	1	0	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	4	0
Blight Identified to Date										497	499	505
Blight Abated to Date										182	193	208

Animal Control Report (June 2018)

	Month
# of Animals Impounded	28
# of Animals Sold as Pets	6
# of Animals D.O.A.	1
# of Animals Euthanized	1
Total Complaints Investigated	75
Total Animal Bites Investigated	2
Total Infractions/Summons	1

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported that she reaches out to the fire chiefs each month. She said the departments are busy and that the fire marshal position is open.

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

Commissioner Gillette referenced the ACO report that was sent electronically.

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

Commissioner Lenda reported that reaches out regularly to the Department and said that he hopes the pending applicants will pass the testing phase.

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

Commissioner Butterworth reported that Building Inspector Vesey was on vacation during the month of July. He also said that the department is working on updating its reporting system so it is easier to read.

e. Report from School Security Subcommittee (*Lenda, Butterworth*)

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth; seconded by Commissioner Moran that the Commission goes into Executive Session at 6:13p .m. to discuss School Security and invite in Lt. Bunnell, Mayor McDaniel, and Councilor Rogers. Discussion: Chairman Yuchniuk asked if representatives of the Board of Education were present. Voice Vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:38 p.m. Chairman Yuchniuk stated that no votes were taken.

10. Unfinished Business.

a. Discussion regarding Chesterfield Firehouse M32 replacement

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex reported that the fire chiefs met last week as requested by the Commission and recommended a 2600 gallon Hawk body vacuum tanker for the Chesterfield Firehouse. He said the price for the tanker was \$351,000 excluding the installation of new radios and other equipment. He added the tanker would have a 2020 chassis and the price as of now is unknown. Chief Truex explained that the 2019 chassis were all gone. He answered questions from the Commission about lighting installation and the cost of the 2020 chassis, estimated at \$2,000. He also responded to the condition of the two (2) 1991 trucks in the district remaining to be replaced. Discussion followed regarding the number of M32 trucks within the departments and their condition.

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth; seconded by Commissioner Lenda to move forward with a request to the Town Council for a 2600 gallon Hawk body vacuum tanker with a two-person cab to replace the Chesterfield Firehouse M32. Discussion: Commissioner Lenda praised the fire chiefs for meeting and coming up with a good compromise. He mentioned his concern about the safety issues of the 3000 gallon tanker. Commissioner Leonard asked about the specifications for the tanker that Chairman Yuchniuk said were presented to the Commission earlier. Voice Vote, 6-0-1, Commissioner Leonard abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

b. Level IV Plates and Carriers.

Lt. Bunnell reported that the cost to equip 20 police vehicles with steel plates, having a 20-year shelf life, helmets, and carriers was \$6,500.

Motion by Commissioner Lenda; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to send a request to the Town Council to budget an additional \$6,500 to equip 20 cruisers with steel plates, helmets, and carriers. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

c. Consideration and action of a purchase ordinance or guideline for fire departments. Councilor Rogers asked for clarification on the vote passed at the June meeting that was for a truck purchase policy as to what was approved by the Town Council. This item will be removed from the agenda.

11. New Business.

- a. Consideration and action to address shortages in fire department coverage on Saturdays.

Chairman Yuchniuk reported he was contacted by Town Council Chairman McNally to look into this item. He said he followed up with emails to the fire chiefs and union representatives so that there is adequate coverage although the union agreement does not reference Saturday coverage. The Saturday coverage has been problematic this year due to vacations and time off. The union treasurer stated that he was there to assist by agreement with the Town as covered through collective bargaining. Chairman Yuchniuk said that one of the chiefs responded about hiring more part-time staff. It was reported that in the department there are ten (10) fulltime employees and four (4) part-time, one of which is a floater amongst the firehouses. Mayor McDaniel explained that Saturdays have always been covered by part-time staff with fire and EMT coverage through mutual aid if needed. The Commission discussed Saturday part-time shift hours and how they are assigned, the number of volunteers, paid staff Saturday coverage and shift hours, new applicants, certification for all four (4) fire stations and the time period for the process, the importance of knowing Town streets, and the need for more people.

- b. Consideration and action to determine the feasibility for building a new Animal Control facility as opposed to utilizing the City of New London facility.

Chairman Yuchniuk stated he was approached by the Town Council about this topic. ACO Swanson reported that the Montville shelter has a lot of issues—a crushed sewer system, no bathroom, cracks, no desk, and a propane unit on the ceiling. Given a choice, she said it would be more realistic to build a new facility in Town given her day-to-day duties. She said her day involves cleaning the kennels and traveling back and forth from Salem to Oakdale to New London to redeem animals in addition to paperwork. ACO Swanson said there are currently seven (7) dog kennels of which two (2) are used for cats and one (1) for quarantine. For the future, she said, 15 kennels would be a fair estimate. Mayor McDaniel spoke about the proposal with New London at an estimated cost of \$130,000 although it does not include an agreement for maintenance, operations, or labor. It was said that grants are usually not available for municipalities but private funding at a reduced cost would be an option.

Location of a site, guidelines for construction, architectural plans and a subcommittee to review a new facility was discussed.

Motion by Commission Lenda; seconded by Commissioner Moran for the formation of a subcommittee to have the Commission work with ACO Swanson to research the building of an Animal Control facility in Montville and make recommendations to the Public Safety Commission and to Public Works Commission. Discussion: Chairman Yuchniuk confirmed the subcommittee is adjunct to the Commission and will report to the Commission as a whole accordingly. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

The subcommittee will include Commissioners Gillette, Leonard, and Perkins.

c. Consideration and action to vote on Capitol Improvement Project—Impound Lot. Lt. Bunnell began by commending the Department of Corrections for clearing and preparing the lot and Public Works for clearing brush. He stated that all police departments have impound lots and said the State Trooper lot is not big enough. Lt. Bunnell said that in 2011 the proposed impound lot was designed for 30 cars at a cost of \$130,000. The proposal now is for 15 cars at bids that ranged from a high of \$164,000 to a low of \$64,000. He also spoke about a past proposal for the Troop to rent the lot for \$50,000, a plan that did not come to fruition and is not part of the current proposal. Lt. Bunnell stated \$14,000 is needed to move the project forward. Commissioner Lenda reported the backstory for the impound lot that was a component of the Almont Study. He said the site would be located behind the PSB and Lt. Bunnell had obtained a low estimate for the work that exceeds the \$50,000 set aside in the CIP by \$14,000. RST Juhola spoke about the need for the lot described as “small bites of an apple.” He said that the lot would be more than a parking lot by supporting canine, new cars, and a secured evidence lot as required by State court. He added that 15-car lot would be reasonable for access by a tow truck, a 70-foot x 90-foot area. RST Juhola said that the State must create an understanding for use of the lot by the State.

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth; seconded by Commissioner Lenda to request the Town Finance Committee to appropriate \$14,200 for the Impound Lot. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three times for comments. Resident Mike Hillsberg, a volunteer firefighter for 22 years, spoke to the history of staffing in the fire departments, paid firefighters and volunteers, that he said was currently not enough. He commented on manpower, equipment, Saturday work duties, OSHA requirements, and aged trucks but emphasized that the district needs to acquire and retain volunteers who are trained.

Commissioner Butterworth remarked on his discussion with Town Councilor Caron about keeping volunteers up-to-date on training and paying them and also referenced a stipend. Chairman Yuchniuk suggested that the fire chiefs discuss the same.

Chesterfield Asst. Fire Chief Rob Forrester spoke of his firefighting history from the age of 14. Chairman Yuchniuk commented, “We are a board of recommendations.” He said that ideas for retention of recruits and volunteers should be brought before the Commission who would forward them on to the Town Council.

13. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel remarked favorably on the amount of information covered at the meeting this evening. He said that the police interviews continue and spoke to the interview movement for fire marshal. Mayor McDaniel also responded that a part-time ACO had been hired.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Councilor Rogers thanked the Commission for their commitment to the Town/people of Montville. He also thanked the fire personnel for understanding differences and getting through processes together and in a positive way. Councilor Rogers also remarked on the impound lot, the tough transition, and the need for new officers.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Chairman Yuchniuk thanked all of the fire personnel for their “insight, help, patience and hard work.” He also thanked Commissioner Leonard as well.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 5-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

AN AUDIO RECORDING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN’S WEBSITE.