

Town of Montville
Public Works/Solid Waste Sub-Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2018
5:30 p.m. – Montville Town Hall – Room 102

1. Call to Order
Chairman McNally called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call (Councilors McNally, Pollard, and Caron)
Present were Councilors McNally, Pollard, and Caron. Also present was Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr.
4. Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda – *none*
6. Approval of:
 - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2018
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda
Florence Turner, Transfer Station Employee, urged the Councilors to consider raising the fee for the one-time pass when reviewing the Regulations. She also recommended limiting the number of garbage bags to ten (10) per visit and any garbage brought in beyond the limit be charged as bulky waste. She added that the general consensus is that residents are willing to pay twice the current sticker fee amount for.

Donna Geary, 11 Depot Road, offered a perspective regarding the Informational Meeting for the PAYT/ SMART Program. The communication regarding the Program continued to be inadequate and the process appeared rushed, resulting in a confused and misinformed public. She also commented on the lack of adequate representative(s) to properly answer some of their questions. She suggested instituting a Facebook page providing a public forum in which information regarding the Program can be disseminated and residents can ask and representatives can answer questions. She stated the importance of revising/updating their policies prior to the implementation of any program and educating the public, especially on matters regarding recycling. She encouraged the Councilors to continue their efforts as not all of the responses have been negative and many may not care or be vocal about their opinions. While WasteZero Vice President of Municipal Partnerships and DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protections) Consultant Kristen Brown is knowledgeable, the PowerPoint presentation was difficult to view and, she felt, insufficient.

Councilor Wills Pike commented on the importance of holding people accountable and responsible and providing the proper administrative tools to enable the staff to properly run the Transfer Station. Their current regulations are outdated and unexecutable and should be, he felt, started from scratch. He agreed with Ms. Geary's suggestion regarding the need to review their current policies and procedures prior to instituting this or any program. He felt that, possibly, the colored trash bags might not be the correct solution for the Town, but that residents should pay for the garbage they are bringing in to the Transfer Station. He suggested eliminating the cost of the sticker, which, he heard, some are willing to pay up to three times the current amount. He looks forward to reviewing the revised regulations in the very near future.

8. Old Business

a. Road repair schedule update

The Road Repair Schedule is pending, depending upon the bond resolution/referendum in November. The Finance Department is currently developing the explanatory text.

b. Transfer Station update

In response to Chairman McNally, Public Works Director Bourdeau stated that the building will include a window on each end and cameras as well as a PA system, enabling the attendant to monitor the activities and speak with the visitors, as necessary. Due to the lack of power, there will be no cameras located at the bottom of the Transfer Station. Work has slowed down due to the need to obtain the proper approvals from the utility company(ies).

1) Revisions to Transfer Station Policy – *see item 8(g)*

c. Public Works Facility update

The project has been approved by the State and discussions with the Contractor is expected to begin in the Fall.

d. Status of the cash bond for roadwork

A meeting was held with the Southeastern CT Water Authority (SCWA) regarding the issues at Montville Manor. Due to its proximity to the existing gas lines, the copper piping is weakening, resulting in leaks. The Public Works Director proposed holding Informational Meetings with the residents of the Manor to discuss the issues and the possibility of installing an additional assessment fee to repair and upgrade the lines and pave the roads. SCWA is currently investigating the possibility of receiving grant funds to help subsidize the project. Chairman McNally will speak with the Town's SCWA Representatives to have the item placed on their next meeting agenda.

e. Status of Silver Falls Bridge

The Engineer is currently working on the design of the pedestrian bridge, which will have a chain link fence and barricades on both sides to ensure the safety of the pedestrians.

f. Care and maintenance of service memorial area by old Town Hall
Contractors are currently in the process of reviewing the sidewalks.

g. PAYT/SMART Program

Chairman McNally stated that, after numerous meetings and extensive promotion, the Informational Meeting was poorly attended reflecting, perhaps, the residents' lack of concern. He proposed a number of revisions to the regulations, including instituting a bag limit, eliminating the day pass, requiring landowners with over four (4) units to hire a dumpster, eliminating the brush chipping, and no longer accepting any construction debris from contractors, thereby resolving approximately 90% of the issues.

Motion made by Councilor McNally, seconded by Councilor Caron, to revise the regulations over the next 30 days or sooner and suspend the PAYT/SMART (Pay-As-You-Throw/Save Money And Reduce Trash) System for a period of one year.

Discussion: In response to Councilor Pollard regarding a recent trash audit conducted by the employees, Public Works Director Bourdeau stated that it was determined that most of the residents were following the rules. He also reported and circulated a letter he recently received from Willimantic Waste regarding residents who are throwing away their garbage in the recycling bins, which would result in the imposition of a charge/fine to the Town. The fees for the towns of Woodstock and Colchester were distributed. Woodstock has instituted a regulation requiring *all* households to purchase a sticker and is considering purchasing a scale to help alleviate their piggybacking issues. Colchester currently charges \$3.00 per 25-30 gallon bag of trash. Councilor Caron agreed that the regulations are outdated and should be reviewed and revised, thereby providing the staff with the necessary tools to guide and enforce the rules. He also felt that the Town should offer more services to their residents and the need to better educate the public with regards to recycling. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

h. Status of historic church located on Meetinghouse Lane and Raymond Hill Road

Chairman McNally met with Town Planner Marcia Vlaun, who provided him with a tour of the Church. With the exception of the steeple, the exterior is complete. Because the steeple has gone out to bid twice without success, the Town Council's August Meeting Agenda will include a resolution to waive the bid requirement for the project. The immediate goal is to ensure that the building is weather-tight for the coming winter season. A mold assessment will be conducted on the interior of the church. \$5,000.00 from the Historical Society has been allocated for the renovations. Chairman McNally will speak with the Building Official regarding the need for a permit to revive the power in the building. The ultimate goal is to create a usable building for the public. Once the building has been approved for use, porta-potties will be placed.

9. New Business

Chairman McNally reported that the Public Safety Commission is currently investigating the possibility of constructing a Dog Pound behind the current Dog Pound in Montville. Due to the cost (\$140,000.00 from each of the participating towns) and the travel time, it was felt that a regionalized dog pound, located in New London, would not be feasible. A subcommittee will be established by the Commission to investigate the possibilities.

10. Remarks from the Public

Florence Turner requested that they take into consideration those who occasionally host a large party resulting in an excess of garbage or those who might have inadvertently missed their trash pick-up as they review the regulations, .

Donna Geary stated that, as a retired taxpayer living on a modest income, she did not feel that the taxes in Montville were exorbitant. She felt that people, in general, do not understand the benefits they are receiving and/or realize that they are residing in a community to which everyone contributes. She urged the Councilors to take the necessary care and time with the regulations. In response to her question as to whether it would be possible to determine who is throwing their trash into the recycling bins, Public Works Director Bourdeau stated that the route on which the incidences are occurring can be determined and inspections of the area can be conducted and fines imposed, but it would require manpower and staffing.

Councilor Pike stated the importance of instituting rules and regulations that are simple, practical, and enforceable. He noted that in Bennington, VT, there is no charge for a Transfer Station permit/sticker and all incoming garbage is monitored and any questionable or odd items are charged accordingly and felt that the taxes in Montville are more than adequate.

11. Remarks from the Councilors

Councilor Caron thanked everyone for their comments and believes that they are doing the smart thing by revising the regulations and not penalizing those who are following the rules. He looks forward to revising the regulations, taking into consideration everyone's comments and the existing regulations of other comparable towns, and moving forward in the best way possible for the residents who utilize the Transfer Station.

Chairman McNally, feeling that knowledge is power, stated the importance of having an informed public. He felt that the Committee has a good footprint and looks forward to revising the regulations, increasing the fees, and creating an educational piece(s).

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville