

**Town of Montville Public Safety Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2019 - 6:00 PM**  
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to order.

Chairman Yuchniuk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Mike Butterworth, Victor Lenda, Jr., Jon Leonard, Jim Moran, Karen Perkins and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Commissioner Mickey Gillette was absent. Also present were Mayor Ronald McDaniel, Fire Marshal Bill Bundy, Lt. Dave Radford, and Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers. A quorum was present.

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 Commissioners received all of the monthly reports.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2019.

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth; seconded by Commissioner Lenda to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2019. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 6-0, 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

Lt. Radford reported to the Commission there were 1015 total calls for service in March that included Type 1 calls (67), arrests (18), and juvenile arrests (2). The source for these calls were Troop E (128), PD (222), Walk-ins (59), and By Officer (566) as summarized in the PD February 2019 monthly report. As to staffing, Lt. Radford reported Officer Steve Fazzino would graduate from the Academy on March 27<sup>th</sup> and integrate into the force; Officer Brian Kelly is halfway through the Academy and expected to graduate toward the end of June; and Russell Hodge and Timothy \_\_\_\_\_ would leave for the Academy on April 5<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that with these personnel the staffing numbers would increase to 24 officers with two (2) vacancies remaining. Lt. Radford also said the hiring process has begun again and there are three (3) applicants who are going through the initial interview process. He also asked whether the Commission had received the corrected policy, Portable Intoxilyzer Policy and

Procedure, presented at the last meeting. He explained that recalibration of the device would be done annually, not monthly as originally reported.

#### Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Bundy reported there were 216 calls for service in February 2019 of which 144 were misdemeanor calls. There were no fire investigations, loses or thefts, but there were 23 inspections conducted. Per Emergency Management, he spoke of an additional \$3,000 in pool money received in access of the annual grant amount to be used to increase and improve the video wall of the EOC, per discussion with the State. Fire Marshal Bundy also said the Department met the deadline for the Safer Grant, a federal grant, if awarded to be used to cover two (2) paid staff salaries and benefits on a matching basis over a 36-month period, a 75-25 match in years one and two, and 33-65 match in year three. He also reported that 911 Dispatch received 1039 routine calls of which 551 were EMS calls. The Fire Marshal then commented on questions and concerns he receives about house numbering that is problematic particularly with response with emergency situations. He referenced the current ordinance, PD officers sending notices concerning the issue, and spoke of conducting an educational campaign stating he had spoken with the Oakdale and Montville fire chiefs who sell sign kits as a fundraiser. The information regarding the signs--required 4-inch signs--will be noticed on social media.

Fire Marshal Bundy submitted to Commissioner Perkins a proposal to add a Communications Lead Dispatcher, an internal promotion for which all current dispatchers would qualify. He referenced the work dispatchers do in his absence as well as additional duties deserving of recognition. Chairman Yuchniuk suggested the proposal be tabled for review by the Commission and revisited at next month's meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to table the proposal for the Communications Lead Dispatcher for consideration and action under Old Business at the April Commission meeting. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Marshal Bundy also submitted to Commissioner Perkins a draft policy, Background Investigations for Fire Services Applicants. He said the policy would be applicable for both full-time and part-time positions. He commented on recent news coverage concerning CT fire chiefs. Currently, Fire Marshal Bundy said criminal, motor vehicle history, and drug checks are conducted but none are done for volunteers. He also noted that volunteers drive town-wide apparatus. Mayor McDaniel confirmed that the checks referred to are policy for pre-employment and said motor vehicle checks are done yearly. Fire Marshal Bundy mentioned employee coverage under Town workers' compensation and a waiver by the DMV with proof of Town insurance as ways to waive costs for the background checks. The Fire Marshal then answered questions and comments concerning the background checks as to whether fire chiefs do their own, whether pre-employment checks are limited to law enforcement, and the vet process promotes public trust. Citing C.G.S. regarding the hiring process and background checks, Fire Marshal Bundy said the purpose of the policy is to have an annual process for verifying the validity of motor vehicle licenses. He also responded to Chairman Yuchniuk that he had not spoken to the fire chiefs concerning the proposed policy.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Moran, to table discussion of the proposed policy, Background Investigations for Fire Services Applicants, until the April Commission meeting for review of the policy by Fire Marshal Bundy with the Fire Chiefs. Discussion: Commissioner Perkins said she would be available for the discussion. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Truex commented on discussion heard previously and then spoke on the vote at the February meeting whereby the Commission reaffirmed the purchase of the 2600 tanker, and not the replacement 3000 tanker deemed a safety issue offered by the manufacturer due to an order mishap, and not what the Commission originally approved by vote last year. He spoke about the weight disparity between a 3000 tanker at 51,520 lbs versus an M-15 ladder truck at 73,500 lbs. Chief Truex stated the safety concern about the 3000 tanker was a nonissue. He also spoke about the legitimacy of CDLs and asked whether the Town would pay for the physicals for those who have that driving status or institute a CDL policy. He again emphasized the “Q” exemption for that license status that he said requires every aspect of a CDL with the exclusion of the written test but does include the road portion in the presence of an inspector. Chief Truex then referenced what he described as “a lot of statements” made last month and an email circulated among the Commission regarding the tanker purchase and charged that the Commission was “supposed to be building a working relationship.” Commissioners Leonard, Lenda and Town Councilor Rogers addressed the tanker issue by commenting on the agreements that fire chiefs sign, whether the chiefs reviewed the order from the vendor, and that the mistake was made by the vendor, respectively. Commissioner Lenda then gave a detailed explanation as to details provided and the rationale for the Commission’s decision regarding the 2600 tanker purchase.

The Commission meeting then evolved into an in depth discussion into the party at fault for the tanker order mishap and the need to hold someone responsible, as well as warranties and safety guarantees that Mayor McDaniel said was in place. Chief Truex confirmed that the 2600 tanker was on order and moving forward. But, he again commented on the email he referenced earlier and spoke to its contents of implied accusations and the circumstances surrounding the order stating the email maybe should not have been written. Town Councilor Rogers confirmed his agreement to see this matter as a “lesson learned” as described by Mayor McDaniel stating the truck belongs to the Town and the tanker order if mishandled by the vendor, must “eat it.” Chief Truex did not respond to the question by Commissioner Leonard as to how he obtained the email. Instead, he presented the Commission with an FOI request that he said he was formerly filing and stated that texting and emailing among the Commission made the exchanges public record.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported that she was offended about a comment made by Chief Truex stating that she had respect for all four firehouses and not him exclusively.

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

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Although absent from the meeting, Commissioner Gillette submitted beforehand the Town and Salem Animal Control monthly reports electronically to the Commission as seen below.

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (February 2019)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>75</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>711</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (February 2019)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

Commissioner Lenda reported that he spoke with Lt. Radford by phone and complemented him on staffing and spoke with him about the breathalyzer policy.

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

Commissioner Butterworth reported on the drop in inspections that have occurred over the past 9 ½ years. He also reported the Department is in the process of purging its system.

Building Department Report

<b>2018-2019 Building Department Report</b>												
	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>Permits Issued</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>76</b>				
<b>Open Permits</b>	<b>3104</b>	<b>3119</b>	<b>3167</b>	<b>3210</b>	<b>3254</b>	<b>3269</b>	<b>3099</b>	<b>2967</b>				
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>66</b>				
<b>Plan Reviews</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>				
<b>CO's</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>				
<b>Violations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>				
<b>Unsafe Notices</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				
<b>Blight Identified</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>523</b>				

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<b>To Date</b>												
<b>Blight Abated To Date</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>289</b>				

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

**Executive Session:**

Motion to approve an Executive Session for discussion of Agenda Item 9.e and invite in Mayor McDaniel and Fire Marshal Bundy.

Commissioner Lenda reported on the School Superintendent working on an April 9<sup>th</sup> scholastic safety meeting and also said there was no news yet on the safety grant applied for by the Board of Education.

f. Report from Animal Control Facility Feasibility Subcommittee (*Gillette, Leonard, Perkins*) – *No report.*

10. Unfinished Business.

a. Consideration and action of the PD Portable Breathalyzer Policy.

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth; seconded by Commissioner Moran, to approve the amended PD Portable Breathalyzer Policy. Discussion: Town Councilor Rogers described the policy as a great tool and asked whether information needed to be added concerning the manufacturer, since Lt. Radford mentioned concurrence by a prosecutor. Lt. Radford said the device is not manufacturer specific. He also commented that one unit is not better than another stating the device will be used as a final test prior to arrest. Mayor McDaniel commented the same thing occurred with the Narcon policy. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

11. New Business -- *None*

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three times for comments.

Rob Forrester, 831 Chesterfield Road and Asst. Fire Chief at Chesterfield Firehouse spoke about the Commission decision last month about the 2600 tanker stating the Commission’s decision was based on comments from a former fire chief. He also said that it may be factual that a tanker over 2000 would be unsafe with one rear axle. R. Forrester also remarked he felt that Chief Truex’s comments were ignored and espoused that fire chiefs are responsible for knowing what is needed. He added that commentary regarding CDL was an insult and said he had to drop it 10 years ago.

Resident Mike Hillsberg of 39 Lisa Lane addressed fire service attendance whereby a strategic plan was addressed concerning the manning of apparatus. He spoke about the pay system and staffing that has occurred since 2000 and referenced mutual aid, rapid intervention teams, and ambulances stating people are needed to operate them and he expressed favor for three (3) additional firefighters.

Eric \_\_\_\_\_, stated he had worked at Oakdale Fire Department for 27 years and referenced M. Hillsberg's comments. He spoke of the approval for a \$300,000 tanker and a new tanker just obtained by the Oakdale station. He also discussed the need for water in the Town and suggested a common sense approach to reduce spending and use of members and paid staff.

Jeremy Truex, 1046 East Lake Road, read a statement that expressed his concerns about discussion reiterated this evening concerning the tanker purchase. His statement addressed the "back and forth of trivial things" and the issue concerning safety. J. Truex referenced the Commission's ex parte discussion that he described as a violation of FOI that questioned the integrity of Chief Truex.

Chief Keith Truex of 1046 East Lake Road apologized to the Commissioners Perkins and Butterworth for his earlier unfavorable comment. He also referenced the Almont Study raised earlier by Mr. Majewski that spoke to a need for a second tanker. He stated the program needs to be fixed and current actions are not encouraging. He spoke about Commission meeting attendance that reflected more PD staff than Fire Department staff. Chief Truex also commented that paid staff must increase and said he was asking for the same at Chesterfield as given to every other fire station.

Mike \_\_\_\_\_ of Lebanon said he was paid firefighter in Town for the past 20 years working 50 hours a week in the Department where he is usually working by himself. He said staffing is needed. He also expressed his respect for volunteers as he was one in Oakdale and added that paid staff have an enormous burden.

William Bundy commented that he does not live in Town but spoke of his agreement with Chief Truex about the Almont Study. He encouraged a review of the study in its entirety referencing oversight, personnel recruitment and retention stating that paid staff responds to 65% of calls and said the problem exists throughout the U.S., not just Connecticut. He suggested that the standards of the MFPA be met.

#### 13. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel remarked that Fire Chief Messier secured a marine camera through Mystic. He also said the breathalyzer policy would need to go to the Union initially and then to the Town Council.

#### 14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Rogers remarked on the decrease in Town blight by the Building Inspector and thanked Lt. Radford for the breathalyzer policy. He also said he concurred with having Fire Marshal and the fire chiefs meet to cooperatively review the background check policy. Town Councilor Rogers also said that he wanted the firefighters to have everything they need but emphasized needs versus wants. He then addressed the comment made earlier by J. Truex about the time involved with approving the 2600 tanker. He said the Commission did not build the tanker; the job of the Commission to approve and forward on to the Town Council, and as a delegating body it is not responsible for delays.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins remarked that she did know trucks and relies on the fire chiefs to bridge her knowledge gap. She spoke of the meetings that took place with the fire chiefs concerning the Almont Study and continued regular contact with them.

Commissioner Lenda spoke about not being able to do the job without volunteers and cast his hand to refer to the five (5) new volunteers on the Commission. He spoke about reviewing water holes stating he looked to the fire departments and information from people he knew and respected concerning his decision making and said he did not need to hear the abuse this evening. Commissioner Lenda also said he relied on the information the Commission received to go with the 2600 tanker and that the information about it was not explained in other meetings as well as it was tonight. He also mentioned that he asked about the fifth wheel referring to the 2600 versus the 3000 tanker but said his intent was not to start a “war of words.” He added that tonight was the first time the Almont Study was mentioned and spoke about an investigation as to what was needed than to what was ordered.

Commissioner Butterworth spoke about the number of openings for firefighters in surrounding towns, specifically 18 in Waterford and 2 in East Lyme, and the need to pay into MERF. He said he spoke with staff who want guaranteed retirement stating they must look out for their families. Commissioner Butterworth added that the firefighters were the only unit in Town with that benefit. He also spoke about the Almont Study and the potential relocation of a fire station. He also stated that the fire chiefs and the Mayor were charged with recruitment and retention of staff as well as the need for more volunteers. Commissioner Butterworth said a plan should be developed and submitted for paid staff and volunteers.

Commissioner Moran commented that he agreed to all that said this evening and said he joined the Commission after the completion of the Almont Study which had not been utilized. He said funds have to be apportioned and a plan developed every year to work on “a sliver of the pie chart.” Commissioner Moran also spoke about a look at farming out ambulance services.

Commissioner Leonard said he appreciated the turnout this evening and said the email referenced earlier was written in frustration. He also said that as paid employee of the Town he felt responsible and disturbed about the lack of transaction documentation pertaining to the tanker purchase.

Chairman Yuchniuk thanked the public for their comments.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth; seconded by Commissioner Moran to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 6-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Gloria J. Gathers  
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE.**