

**AMENDED**

**Town of Montville Public Safety Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 20, 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 Mickey Gillette, Victor Lenda, Jr., Jon Leonard, Jim Moran, Karen Perkins, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present were Mayor Ronald McDaniel, ~~Fire Marshal Bill Bundy~~, Deputy Fire Marshal Paul Barnes, Lt. Dave Radford, and Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers. A quorum was present.

4. Amendments to the Agenda.

Motion by Chairman Lenda; seconded by Commissioner Moran to remove the Executive Session under Agenda Item 9.e. Discussion: Commissioner Lenda said the Executive Session was not needed. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Chairman Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Moran to remove Agenda Item 9.f. Discussion: Chairman Yuchniuk said he hoped the subcommittee would stay apprised of progress and the item would be added back to the Agenda in the future. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Communications:

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

Chairman Yuchniuk confirmed that Commissioners received the monthly reports.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2019.

Motion by Commissioner Lenda; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to amend the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2019. Discussion: Commissioner Lenda noted a correction to Item 9.e.a that Sandy Hook school system has two (2) former law enforcement officers haired as armed, school security and Item 10.b adding a word--understood the policy was to be sent to the chiefs. 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 983 total calls for service in April that included Type 1 calls (77), arrests (34), and juvenile arrests (0). The source for these calls were Troop E (151), PD (224), Walk-ins (51), and By Officer (557) as summarized in the PD April 2019 monthly report. As to staffing, Lt. Radford reported Officer Steve Fazzino graduated from the Academy on March 27<sup>th</sup> and is through with the FDL Program; Officer Brian Kelly is expected to graduate from the Academy on June 26<sup>th</sup>; and Russell Hodges and Timothy Travesant began the Academy on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Lt. Radford said interviews were conducted on April 30 and May 7 and three (3) polygraphs are pending towards finalizing staffing. He also spoke of PD presence at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Montville Lion's Club Road Race, May 18<sup>th</sup> Murphy Mad Dash, and the Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. He thanked fire/police for their participation at these events. Lt. Radford also praised ~~Officers~~ Sgt. Pelletier, Officer Aleshire, and ~~North~~ Officer Noyes for their assistance on May 7<sup>th</sup> with an hours old baby and mom who are doing well.

#### Fire Department Report

Mayor McDaniel reported that Fire Marshal Bundy was attending training in New Hampshire. The Fire Department report for April 2019 indicated there were 242 calls for service of which 172 were medical or EMS calls, or 71.1% of all calls for service. There was one (1) passenger vehicle fire for a loss of \$2,850.

#### 9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported on behalf of Fire Marshal Bundy stating grants were still in process; work continues with attorney regarding paid staff and volunteers; and contact was made with the fire chiefs with responses from three (3) as previously discussed at last month's meeting. The information from the chiefs will be passed on to the attorney. Commissioner Perkins also reported on the Finance Meeting budget process and a personnel issue concerning response procedure and cross training/cross district.

Asst. Fire Marshal Barnes spoke to the personnel issue mentioned by Commissioner Perkins and explained it concerned ambulance staff in Town. He said it has been a long-time issue that continues to occur and emphasized his comments were in no way an attack on volunteers. The call that occurred on May 19<sup>th</sup> was responded to by the paid staff member of the ~~Montville~~ Montville fire station while the five (5) EMTs who were present remained at the fire station. Commissioner Lenda spoke to his status as a volunteer and member of the Commission who was "trying to do his best." When he asked who owns the ambulances, Asst. Fire Marshal Barnes responded they are owned by the individual fire companies who supply for them and collect billing (funds) from the calls. Commissioner Lenda then asked what it would take for the fire stations to have their own EMTs to which Asst. Fire Marshal said he would need to review the contracts. Commissioner Lenda stated he did not like the arguments between the fire chiefs, Fire Marshal, staff, Town and the Commission. He said safety for everyone was a priority and said he supported having more paid firefighters at Chesterfield.

Commissioner Lenda then asked how to make the issue go away in a manner that benefited everyone and spoke of his understanding that the fire companies were or had come together

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years ago for that purpose. Asst. Fire Marshal Barnes responded that two (2) additional firefighters would be a start, especially after 5:00 p.m. and said two (2) more at Chesterfield would help a lot. He referenced a 40-minute extraction on I-395 stating more help was needed. He (???) also referenced violation of Duty to Act and Primary Service Area (PSA) accountability for failure to act if on call. Commissioner Leonard commented that the dwindling numbers was one of the reasons he became a commissioner and spoke about Town liability for inadequate staffing and/or action about the issue and referenced the response time of the ambulance for the May 19<sup>th</sup> call. Chairman Yuchniuk asked when Fire Marshal Bundy would return and said he would speak with him on Tuesday, May 28. Mayor McDaniel stated responsiveness would require hiring more people which did not pass his budget nor was it passed by the Town Council. He added that personnel have been moved to a better location and from department to department for accommodation purposes but it would take more resources with no easy answer as it is a price point issue. Town Councilor Rogers stated he concurred with Commissioners Lenda and Leonard and suggested reassessing patrols, having ambulances to handle other calls, and the role of the dispatcher to reallocate issues given the four (4) ambulances in Town. Commissioner Leonard commented there are times when there is a wait to get a crew. Mayor McDaniel responded to the suggestion for a reallocation of sources stating the Fire Marshal and Asst. Fire Marshal are always on call. Chairman Yuchniuk again stated he would speak with Fire Marshal Bundy when he returns and form a subcommittee to address the concern.

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

Commissioner Gillette reported on the Town and Salem Animal Control monthly reports submitted electronically to the Commission as seen below.

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (April 2019)

|  | <b>Month</b> | <b>YTD</b> |
|--|--------------|------------|
| <b># of Animals Impounded</b>          | <b>7</b>     | <b>107</b> |
| <b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>       | <b>2</b>     | <b>52</b>  |
| <b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>             | <b>0</b>     | <b>4</b>   |
| <b># of Animals Euthanized</b>         | <b>1</b>     | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>   | <b>117</b>   | <b>951</b> |
| <b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b> | <b>0</b>     | <b>19</b>  |
| <b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>       | <b>0</b>     | <b>8</b>   |

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (April 2019)

|  | <b>Month</b> | <b>YTD</b> |
|--|--------------|------------|
| <b># of Animals Impounded</b>          | <b>1</b>     | <b>8</b>   |
| <b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>       | <b>0</b>     | <b>1</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>15</b>    | <b>90</b>  |
| <b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b> | <b>0</b>     | <b>2</b>   |

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|                                  |          |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Total Infractions/Summons</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|

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

Commissioner Lenda reported Lt. Radford and given the data from April and he had nothing new to report.

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

Chairman Yuchniuk reviewed the Building Department statistics for April 2019. He then said he was looking for someone to take over as Building Department Liaison. Commissioner Leonard volunteered and said he would continue on the School Security Subcommittee with Commissioner Moran if anything else occurs

Building Department Report

| 2018-2019 Building Department Report |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|
|                                      | July | Aug  | Sept | Oct  | Nov  | Dec  | Jan  | Feb  | Mar  | Apr  | May | June |
| Permits Issued                       | 88   | 118  | 108  | 167  | 133  | 135  | 101  | 76   | 77   | 126  |     |      |
| Open Permits                         | 3104 | 3119 | 3167 | 3210 | 3254 | 3269 | 3099 | 2967 | 2876 | 2906 |     |      |
| Inspections                          | 91   | 136  | 115  | 136  | 119  | 116  | 99   | 66   | 88   | 122  |     |      |
| Plan Reviews                         | 21   | 24   | 17   | 13   | 19   | 29   | 22   | 16   | 8    | 23   |     |      |
| CO's                                 | 7    | 11   | 17   | 8    | 8    | 1    | 9    | 4    | 3    | 15   |     |      |
| Violations                           | 0    | 1    | 3    | 2    | 0    | 3    | 1    | 0    | 4    | 4    |     |      |
| Unsafe Notices                       | 0    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 1    |     |      |
| Blight Identified To Date            | 509  | 512  | 514  | 515  | 515  | 515  | 519  | 523  | 524  | 532  |     |      |
| Blight Abated To Date                | 237  | 249  | 258  | 265  | 274  | 279  | 286  | 289  | 292  | 292  |     |      |

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

**Executive Session:** *The Executive Session was removed from the Agenda.*

Commissioner Lenda reported the Subcommittee meeting last month was cancelled and commented on a grant application that was pending. He reported he spoke with BOE Superintendent Pallin today who said a safety and security meeting was held on May 14<sup>th</sup> which he said the Subcommittee instituted a year that he was a part of and was thus not pleased. Commissioner Lenda stressed the importance of communication and then thanked Town Councilor Pike with providing him with a report on said meeting. Per the report, the grant he referenced earlier was approved for security and skill training. He also said he would make a better effort to attend meetings.

f. Report from Animal Control Facility Feasibility Subcommittee (*Gillette, Leonard, Perkins*) – *This item was removed from the Agenda.*

10. Unfinished Business. -- *None*

11. New Business – None

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three times for comments.

Resident John Britton (Bricky) ? asked why constables are calling themselves police officers. (Commissioner Lenda commented that the PD are officers per the Town Charter.) Mr. Britton said a police department must have an ID number so an individual can be identified as a police officer per the DESPP. (Commissioner Lenda said that most police departments can carry weapons and were years ago called constables although they each are trained through the Academy.) *Mayor McDaniel referenced that remarks to the public on non-agenda items do not require comments back and forth.*

Thomas McCarthy of Oakdale stated he has been a volunteer firefighter for 17 years and proposed an idea to increase revenue. He identified that the EMS ambulances are owned by the departments and staff, paid and volunteers, with oversight by departments. He suggested that advanced life support be obtained from the Mohegan Tribe and that it be paid for, per time used, with funds from department budgets for medical services. Mr. McCarthy then said those funds would be used to start a Town paramedic service whereby firefighters will have 3+ staff with offsetting revenue.

~~Mark~~ Matt Suarez of Cranberry Drive remarked he has been a firefighter for the past 10 years and a “big fan” of the proposal suggested by Mr. McCarthy or “whatever will get more people working.” He spoke about the need for two (2) or more additional staff and talked about having two (2) ambulance calls at the same time explaining it was harder to get people to respond. He also asked who was responsible for investigating blight. He said he filed a blight complaint a year ago and got no feedback adding he sold his house at a loss due to the same.

Tim Miles Congdon of Waterford stated he heads Public Safety in town and said that every fire service has been dealing with the issue of staffing. He suggested that a subcommittee be formed to address issues to better “flush out ideas” and alleviate “agitation at stations.”

13. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel thanked the fire/police departments for their participation with the Memorial Day Parade. He said he is working with Lt. Radford to fast-track getting new employees. As to EMS, Mayor McDaniel said there is no personal liability if one is acting in the best interests of the Town adding balance and better decision are key. He also reported on the loss of the Assistant ACO and said ~~there were no plans for replacement to the position.~~ he fully intends to seek a replacement for the position.

14 Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Rogers apologized for his attire having been a behind a car involved in an accident responded to by Town fire personnel who did an outstanding job. He commented again to Lt. Radford that he did not receive the PD monthly reports. He also thanked the

fire/police/volunteers and others who participated in the Memorial Day Parade. Town Councilor Rogers also stated he heard comments that Mayor McDaniel had engaged the Town of Norwich Police regarding monitoring of gas line work by Eversource that he said was a Town project and should be staffed by Town personnel. He also addressed the use of mutual aid that he said was not for a long-term process nor did he want the Town in a bad situation with the State. Town Councilor Rogers' claim was denied by Mayor McDaniel.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Leonard remarked that an ambulance responding from another Town is a liability. He also said he appreciated the words of Deputy Fire Chief Suarez. Commissioner Moran commented on a pecking order to follow stating it would not hurt to “take State money and go independent.” Commissioner Lenda spoke on town charters of years past and referenced C.G.G. §53A-3 that references a peace officer. He said the term constable in the past referred to an elected officer who did not have peace order status but said he would research the issue further. Commissioner Perkins thanked everyone and wished all a safe Memorial Day weekend. She also called attention to the upcoming Montville Carnival to take place on June 21 – June 23 at Camp Oakdale. Chairman Yuchniuk remarked that Commissioner Butterworth had resigned from the Commission but encouraged anyone interested to contact the Town Clerk or the Town Council.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; Commissioner Moran to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.  
Discussion: none. Voice vote; 6-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers  
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

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