

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – October 28, 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, James Moran, Karen Perkins, Stephen Stewart, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present were Lt. Dave Radford, Fire Marshal Bill Bundy, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, 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 receipt by the Commission of the monthly statistics reports. Commissioner Gillette stated he did not email the ACO report but would do so. Mayor McDaniel reported on a letter from the Norwich Chief of Police Patrick Daley concerning support from ACO Swanson that were “above and beyond the call of duty.” The Norwich PD lost their ACO and ACO Swanson has been helping them out.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2019.

Motion by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2019. 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

Residents Carol and Tom Howard, Larry Webster, and Dennis Serra of the Good Times Motoring Club in Colchester presented a \$500 donation. The club raises money from its auto shows, sponsorships, and dues to give back to the public by supporting local canines. The donation to Town’s ACO was raised from a truck show put on by the club that rendered a \$500 donation to Colchester as well. To memorialize the presentation, Lt. Radford took a picture of the Club members, Officer Dan Witts, and Canine Officer Barrett.

Lt. Radford reported there were 1035 total calls for service in September and they included Type 1 calls (91), arrests (29), and juvenile arrests (3). The source for these calls were Troop E (167), PD (207), Walk-ins (70), and By Officer (758) as summarized in the PD September 2019 monthly report. As to staffing, Officers Hagios and DiColella have graduated from the Academy and entered into the FTO program. Officers Cassidy and Kuckel continue to do well at the Academy and are scheduled to graduate late January. Lt. Radford also reported the Department assisted with the Parks & Recreation Trick or Trunk event on October 26 that was busy and went well. The Eversource gas line job has completed and on October 21 they finished taping and charging the line in Montville. Lt. Radford concluded by reporting the transition to new firearms has been completed and all officers are trained and carrying the new platform. He handed out an amended copy of the Department policy entitled *Weapons and Use of Force (Firearms)* to the Commission—the only change was the type and ammunition description of the platform. In response to a question by Town Councilor Rogers about the reason for the change, Lt. Radford cited a nationwide FBI survey and what he described as “quantity over quality.”

Motion by Commissioner Lenda; seconded by Commissioner Moran, to accept the revised police Policy *Weapons and Use of Force (Firearms)*. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department Report submitted by Fire Marshal Bundy reported activity for September 2019 as follows: There were 242 calls for service of which 178 were medical EMS calls, or 73.6% of all calls for service. There were no fire investigations resulting in loss. Of the EMS calls, 136 resulted in transporting by ambulance within the Town of which 69 calls involved two (2) paid staff (50%); 55 involved one (1) paid firefighter (39%) and one (1) volunteer; 12 involved an all-volunteer crew, and one (1) called involved mutual aid. Fire Marshal Bundy stated that due to questions regarding coverage on Saturdays and EMS calls that resulted in 14 EMS calls of which five (5) were all paid staff (35%), six (6) were one (1) paid staff and one (1) volunteer (42%), and three (3) all volunteers. There also 76 life/safety inspections conducted in September. The breakdown of the 178 EMS calls that he reported earlier were for career staff working Sunday thru Monday of which 122 were transported by ambulance or 64 all paid staff (52.5%), 48 one (1) paid staff and one (1) volunteer (39%), nine (9) all volunteers, and one (1) call requiring out-of-town service.

In addition, Fire Marshal Bundy said the Department participated in the Montville Safety Day on October 5 and partnered on a program done by Sue Bolling and the Red Cross for a home fire preparedness campaign throughout the area (New London County) that does home safety surveys and replaces batteries or installs fire and smoke detectors, free of service (a flyer was passed around to the Commission about it.) He said this information is on the Town website. As to Emergency Management, the Department will assist with the Holiday Parade on November 8 and will plan a meeting with Parks & Recreation for the same. Fire Marshal Bundy also reported Dispatch statistics as follows: 1441 calls of which 608 were 911 EMS calls and 833 were administrative or routine calls. He also reported he had been updating the Commission on the SAFER and AFG Grants for staffing but informed them the Town was

disqualified for both grants but may apply again in the future. He also notified the Commission on the resignation of firefighter Mike Swanson effective November 1 who has obtained employment with Poquonnock Bridge and said he has communicated with Chairman Yuchniuk and Commissioner Perkins regarding four (4) applications received for two (2) vacancies. Three (3) applicants met desired requirements and interviews will be conducted on October 31 with the Commission. Commissioner Leonard asked about the grant denials and Fire Marshal Bundy explained that application was done through the Town but career staff were not recognized as a fire department. He also responded to Town Councilor Rogers that reviews for the grant were conducted nationally by peers.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported stated today was National Safe Responders Day thanked all for their service. She also said she spoke with the fire chiefs regarding the budgets and CIP and said she would be meeting with them and had notified the Town Finance Director regarding the same. Upon completion of them, they will be brought before the Commission for review at the next meeting. She also spoke about the two (2) fire department vacancies and the three (3) qualified applicants reported by Fire Marshal Bundy. Commissioner Perkins said she would like the Finance Committee to reassess and find funds to hire a third qualified firefighter position so that talent does not go to another town.

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

Commissioner Gillette reported earlier the Town and Salem Animal Control September monthly reports would be forwarded to the Commission upon his receipt of them.

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (September 2019)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded		21
# of Animals Sold as Pets		10
# of Animals D.O.A.		1
# of Animals Euthanized		2
Total Complaints Investigated		207
Total Animal Bites Investigated		3
Total Infractions/Summons		1

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (September 2019)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded		3
# of Animals Sold as Pets		0
# of Animals D.O.A.		0
# of Animals Euthanized		0
Total Complaints Investigated		22

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Total Animal Bites Investigated		1
Total Infractions/Summons		0

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

Commissioner Lenda reported he met with Lt. Radford and Officer Alishire and discussed school security issues and as well he discussed the police budget with Lt. Radford and offered assistance from the Commission regarding it. He also said he was happy to hear from Lt. Radford about the weapon change.

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

Building Department Report

2019-2020 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	142	177	119									
Open Permits	2920	2973	3017									
Inspections	128	144	98									
Plan Reviews	22	34	21									
CO's	5	7	9									
Violation Notices	2	7	1									
Unsafe Notices	0	1	0									
Blight Identified To Date	533	533	533									
Blight Abated To Date	315	321	324									

Commissioner Leonard reported the Building Department had been working the past year on digitizing building permits that have scanned and uploaded to the Town website and are now accessible by anyone. He said he accessed the information and all details were there.

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

Commissioner Lenda reported a school security meeting was held on September 24. He said the meeting was a good one and included the Superintendent, principals, other staff, Resource Office Mike Collins, Lt. Radford and Officer Alishire. Commissioner Lenda reported grant work is ongoing and that matters of school security were discussed and said Commissioner Leonard brought forward a plan to speak with the Police Department about ongoing school security.

10. Unfinished Business -- *None*

11. New Business

- a. To consider and act on a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a potential claim. (*Discussion to include Commission, Town Council Liaison, Mayor, and Fire Marshal*).
- b. To consider and act on motion to enter Execution Session for the purpose of discussing matters of the School Safety Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Moran to go into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a potential claim (Agenda Item, 11.a) and for discussing matters of the School Safety Committee (Agenda Item, 11.b) and invite in the Town Council Liaison Rogers, Mayor McDaniel, Fire Marshal Bundy, and Lt. Radford. Discussion: Commissioner Lenda asked that Lt. Radford be invited in at discussion of school security. Voice vote; 7-0, all in favor. *The Commission returned from Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.* Chairman Yuchniuk stated no votes were taken but said the Commission would form a fire department subcommittee to review staffing and would include Commissioners Perkins, Leonard, and Stewart.

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

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

13. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel thanked all for their service to the Commission. He also remarked on the digitizing of the building records and said the Planning and Zoning Department records would be the next digitizing project.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Rogers remarked on the end of his first term and thanked the fire and police departments. He also thanked Fire Marshal Bundy and the Recording Secretary for all he had learned from them. He also explained that he sits on four (4) commissions and said this Commission for him was overwhelming but was a test to the Town and commitment by everyone. Town Councilor Rogers also voiced the individual accomplishments of each commissioners as distinguished in their roles as liaisons and also thanked the chairman spearheading the Commission.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Gillette gave thanks to the first responders and gave his regards to Lt. Radford for a staff injury from a minor incident who he wished a full recovery. Commissioner Leonard thanked first responders and all of the entities acted upon by the Commission. He spoke of the good work done by the Commission and the emotions involved in problem solving. Commissioner Perkins said, “I think I have said enough.” Commission Lenda thanked all of the first responders for the work they do and the Commission, especially Commissioners Moran and Leonard who “keep him in line” emotionally regarding school security and for their great ideas. He also thanked Mayor McDaniel and Town Councilor Rogers and wished them well next week. Commission Stewart said he was as glad for the establishment of the fire department subcommittee and hoped for solutions for the problems in a short period of time.

Chairman Yuchniuk recognized the firefighters present in the audience and said trying to work through the concerns was not easy given the factors involved and asked that they reach out to the subcommittee with any ideas they may have.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Leonard, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 7-0; 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.