

Town of Montville Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2020 - 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 Lenny Bunnell. 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.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

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

Motion by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Lenda to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 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

Lt. Radford reported there were 1386 total calls for service in December that included Type 1 calls (80), arrests (31), and juvenile arrests (0). The source for these calls were Troop E (163), PD (185), Walk-in (37), and By Officer (848) as summarized in the PD December 2019 monthly report. As to staffing, Lt. Radford reported Officer DiColella completed his Field Training Program and is on his own. Officer Hagios has a couple of weeks left on his Field Training Program and anticipates moving forward. Officer Cassidy and Officer Kuckel graduated from the Police Academy on January 23 and both have begun their Field Training Program. At the beginning of this month, ten (10) officers were sent to class for their Boating Certificates. Lt. Radford has reached out to the Gardner Lake Authority to find out when they will determine who they will use for patrol of the lake for the upcoming season but has had no feedback. Activities within the Department otherwise has been status quo, said Lt. Radford.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department Report submitted by Fire Marshal Bundy reported activity for December 2019 as follows: There were 272 calls for service of which 173 were EMS calls, or 63.3% of which 19 were life safety calls, and two (2) assists with the Building Department. There were also three (3) passenger vehicle fire investigations resulting in losses of \$12,000. Fire Marshal Bundy also reported the job description was posted today for three (3) full-time firefighter positions, newly created and annual grant applications for NESF and NEPG (DMAS) were completed. He also proposed having a badge pinning ceremony at next month's Commission meeting for Paul Zubulis similar to the one for Firefighter Mitchell, both new hires. Fire Marshal Bundy spoke again about recognizing responders (firefighters, Tribal medics, and police officers) whose "rapid, advanced measures" attributed to saving a life on December 20 and the recognition is fully supported by the Union. A letter will be sent by the Fire Marshal to Town Councilor Bunnell and a copy to Mayor McDaniel for recognition by the Town Council and the Commission. Chairman Yuchniuk asked if the Fire Department had a lifesaving award. Fire Marshal Bundy replied that paid staff did not but he would gladly put something together for one.

Chief Truex of Chesterfield Firehouse suggested to the Fire Marshal that he submit the names of the individuals for recognition through the State Firefighter Association who extend awards at the end of the year. He then reported the tanker approved by the Commission last year had completed construction and should be in state this week and at Chesterfield hopefully within two (2) weeks. Chief Truex also commented on the move-up policy mentioned by Fire Marshal Bundy which he said was great for individual circumstances but spoke of a call for help at a house next to his that had a 14-minute response time. He commented on his having spoken for years about the low number of volunteers and the need for 24-hours staffing at Chesterfield and explained how the move-up policy would only result in Saturday coverage. Chief Truex said that with three (3) paid staff if two (2) could be placed at Chesterfield it would have the same coverage as the other Town fire stations. He also spoke of being told the Chesterfield station did not have enough calls for its area but he asked that reconsideration be given to the move-up policy that he said "sometimes works."

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported the Fire Department Subcommittee met and was well attended and said the fire chiefs from Oakdale and Mohegan and representatives from Chesterfield and Montville. She then thanked the Mohegan station for their generous donation of additional flags on Route 32 in support of Parks & Recreation. She also commented on a social media post where Chesterfield station worked with Cohanzie station in Waterford on January 14 concerning training for winter emergency chimney fires. Commissioner Perkins also said the subcommittee would be speaking with the fire chiefs about getting more volunteers and she said a flyer could be given to the schools and sent via backpack home with students.

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

Commissioner Gillette reported on the statistics of the Town and Salem Animal Control December monthly reports as follows:

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (December 2019)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	8	71
# of Animals Sold as Pets	6	39
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	1
# of Animals Euthanized	0	5
Total Complaints Investigated	76	560
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	7
Total Infractions/Summons	0	1

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (December 2019)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	1	4
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	5	42
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	1
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

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

Commissioner Lenda reported he and Lt. Radford speak twice a month and said things were going well and there was nothing new to report.

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

Commissioner Stewart reported went to the Department to remind the Building Official to send out his report but said no one was there. He said the monthly reports shows the statistics for November and December 2019 that he read into the record.

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	161	104	87						
Open Permits	2920	2973	3017	3040	2859	2968						
Inspections	128	144	98	134	111	109						
Plan Reviews	22	34	21	32	23	10						
CO's	5	7	9	7	12	0						
Violation Notices	2	7	1	2	0	2						

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Unsafe Notices	0	1	0	0	0	0						
Blight Identified 329 333 To Date	533	533	533	535	535	537						
Blight Abated To Date	315	321	324	327	329							

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

As requested by Commissioner Lenda, Lt. Radford reported he had a conversation with Superintendent of Schools Palin today and there was no issue with the School Resource Officer (SRO) model nor with it being one of the Department police officers. He said the issue was being worked on and the goal would be to have the SRO in addition to the DARE officer, per a question posed by Chairman Yuchniuk. He also responded to Commissioner Moran that DARE training takes two (2) weeks. Commissioner Lenda confirmed that to start the goal is to have one (1) SRO and one (1) DARE Officer.

f. Report from Fire Department Subcommittee (*Leonard, Moran, Perkins, Stewart*)

Commissioner Leonard reported a meeting was scheduled for December 17 but cancelled due to inclement weather. He said the subcommittee did meet on Tuesday, January 21 and he apologized for those who did not receive notice of it stating the agenda was sent to the Town Clerk a week prior to the meeting. Commissioner Leonard commented on discussion at the meeting concerning the levels of qualifications for all current personnel and their membership and how this information would be obtained through correspondence to the fire chiefs. The information sought would be data driven without disclosure of individual identities and compared. Commissioner Leonard also reported fire chiefs discussed removing district lines and sharing volunteers and EMTs for each other’s calls; updated from three of four fire chiefs on methods of recruitment; discussion regarding the Town training educator to stay current with training mandates for career and volunteer personnel and possibly work with the Board of Education in its existing internship program and to establish and EMT course for college credit; proposal to establish the fire departments or bus garage as drop off points for students to spend time learning about their location fire departments; and mentioned the existing police department high school internship program.

10. Unfinished Business. -- *None*

11. New Business.

- a. To consider and act on a motion to identify a PSC member to the Volunteer Firefighters Relief Program.

Commissioner Stewart stated the ordinance for the program was recently updated to include the quarterly stipend that was paid identifies that one (1) member of the Commission should be a member. He said he was informed former Commissioner Butterworth was a member. Commissioner Perkins agreed to volunteer and made a correction for the record that former

Commissioner Butterworth did not represent the Commission for the program. Mayor McDaniel commented the program does not meet quarterly but does at least once a year.

Chairman Yuchniuk asked Mayor McDaniel to include Commissioner Perkins on any communication regarding the program.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to appoint Commissioner Perkins as Commission representative to the Volunteer Firefighters Relief Program. 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 (3) times for remarks from the public. Resident Gary Murphy of 55F Laurel Point Drive announced Chief Truex was elected as a president of the New London County Fire Chiefs Association and said the position was well deserved. He then asked if the Commissioners each had a copy of the agreement, the contracts between the Town and the fire departments. If not, he said he would get them copies and encouraged them to read it and the State regulations concerning the fire chiefs and departments. G. Murphy also spoke in support of Chief Truex as he did when he was the Oakdale fire chief as it benefited Oakdale and Chesterfield. He spoke of the need for paid firefighters at the Chesterfield firehouse.

Robert Forrester of 831 Chesterfield Road thanked G. Murphy for his remarks and spoke in support of Chief Truex's earlier comments stating he was a resident in his fire district. He said he supported the new hires and said funds and/or investment would be better spent covering Chesterfield 24-hours instead of making sure it has Saturday coverage.

13. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel reported he was pleased with the report by Lt. Radford of having 26 certified police officers in the PD at full strength and commented on their appealing presence of the recruits at graduations as "really standing out." He also spoke about the Town website upgrade currently in beta phase and said per feedback from the fire chiefs there would be a link for volunteers and contact information for the firehouses. Mayor McDaniel also said the Building Department permitting and property information would be available online. He also noticed the hire of an assistant ACO.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell congratulated Chief Truex on his appointment who he described as a dedicated individual, complimented the fire, police, and EMS for their successful EMS call on December 20 and for successfully saving a life. He also said this past week he attended the Firefighter Subcommittee meeting and was encouraged by the discussion, suggestions, involvement as well as the number who attended and said he hoped the end-result would help staffing.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Gillette congratulated Chief Truex on his appointment and Fire Marshal Bundy the saving of a life on December 20. Commissioner Leonard clarified for the record the times associated with the lake call mentioned earlier in the meeting and spoke positively of proposed staffing. Commissioners Moran and Perkins congratulated Chief Truex as did Commissioner

Lenda who thanked all for being there. Commissioner Lenda asked for clarification about what was approved in the firefighter union agreement with the Town and the move-up policy that was explained by Mayor McDaniel. Commissioner Stewart congratulated Chief Truex and Commissioner Perkins for their appointments and said he was happy to see people show up. He said the fire subcommittee meetings are open the public and that they will try to schedule meetings at the fire departments. Chairman Yuchniuk reassured everyone that the Commission supported increased fire staff and was the reason for formation of the subcommittee. But, he emphasized the Commission was a recommending body and said it was up to the Town Council to approve their recommendations.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Chairman Moran, seconded by Commissioner Leonard to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 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 WEBSITE