

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – June 22, 2020-- 6:00 PM**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

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On March 14, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order 7B suspending in-person open meeting requirements, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology.

Link: **<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>**

For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town charter may be submitted in writing in advance or by live audio via GoToMeeting.

Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk's Office at **[townclerk@montville-ct.org](mailto:townclerk@montville-ct.org)** at least **1 working day in advance** (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Public Safety Commission.

Live audio comments may be made via GoToMeeting by calling from your telephone.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Public Safety Commission Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced in the same manner as if the meeting were held in person.

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 Fire Marshal Bill Bundy, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, and Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell. Lt. Dave Radford was absent. A quorum was present.

4. Amendments to the Agenda.

Motion by Chairman Yuchniuk; seconded by Commissioner Moran to add Agenda Item 4.a, *Election for Commission Chair* and 4.b, *Election for Commission Vice-chair*. Discussion: Chairman Yuchniuk said nominations were to be held in April per the Commission bylaws. Voice vote; 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Chairman Yuchniuk; seconded by Commissioner Moran to add Agenda Item 12.a, *Discussion between the Town of Montville, and the Fire Departments*. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

4.a Election of Commission Chair.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to nominate Robert Yuchniuk as Commission Chair. There were no other nominations for chair. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 6-0-1, abstained R. Yuchniuk. Motion carried.

4.b Election of Commission Vice-chair.

Motion by Commissioner Moran; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to nominate Jim Moran as Commission Vice-chair. There were no other nominations for vice-chair. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 7-0, 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 the Commissioners received all of the monthly statistics reports.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2020. Discussion: Commission Lenda noted last sentence of the Fire Department Report appeared to be incomplete and should read *Commissioner*

*Lenda mentioned the upcoming Fire Department Subcommittee meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and suggested the **fire chiefs attend the meeting**. Motion by Commissioner Lenda; seconded by Commissioner Moran to amend the February 24, 2020 minutes. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0-1, Commissioner Leonard abstained. Motion carried. Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve the February 24, 2020 minutes, as amended. 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 (3) times for remarks. There were none.

8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Commissioner Lenda reported he spoke with Lt. Radford who was unable to attend the meeting due to qualifications with the new state trooper Sgt. Gosselin. According to the PD monthly report ending May 31, 2020, there were 1251 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (62), arrests 165), and juvenile arrests (0). The source for these calls were Troop E (150), PD (172), Walk-in (25), and By Officer (785).

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Bundy reported on the Fire Department statistics for May 2020 as follows: There were 213 calls for service and three (3) fire investigations. Of the calls for service, 156 (72.2%) were medical EMS. Per the EMS calls, 129 (73.2%) were transported by ambulance within town; of which 70 (55%) were by all paid staff, 50 were by one (1) paid and one (1) volunteer; and eight (8) by an all-volunteer crew. The Fire Marshal also reported there were three (3) for other issues by a mutual aid ambulance; 21 lift assists; and 16 refusals. Also, the EMS has been open and working remotely and assisting virtually with the State and providing support locally with the Covid-19 response securing PPE for business re-openings.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported she had reached out to all the fire chiefs for any needs they wanted to address. She spoke of the responses on social media concerning fire and police participation in the birthday parades conducted in Town. Commissioner Perkins said three (3) interviews were conducted from which there are three (3) new hires—one started on June 15<sup>th</sup>, another this week, and the third next week. She also reported she reached out to the paid firefighters about any concerns they may have; and she also stressed the need for communication by all and with the Fire Marshal.

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

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

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (May 2020)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>115</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>60</b>
<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1025</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (May 2020)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>0</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>0</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Commissioner Gillette was asked by Commissioner Perkins about the AC facility which he said was not good stating the desire by the Town Council to use the New London Facility. He said bids for a Town facility came in at \$800,000 - \$1 million to utilize the existing AC property and said attempts were made to raise funds. Per discussion, Town Councilor Bunnell commented the Town AC facility was deemed unsafe by the State and said he would speak with the Town Council and Mayor McDaniel about the project. Commissioner Gillette preferred the AC be kept in town and said once done would last for 30 or more years. Mayor McDaniel said grants are not available for nonregional AC facilities but for 501c3 rescue groups, not municipalities per Chairman Yuchniuk. Commissioner Perkins asked for the number of licensed dogs in Town—Commissioner Gillette said he would email ACO Swanson for the information and also reported he saved the ACO reports for March, April, and May.

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

Commissioner Lenda reported he communicates with Lt. Radford and said calls were getting busier. He reported the PD May stats into the record; spoke of the new RST, and the Black Lives Matter Rally and the planning done for it. Commissioner Lenda said he had no report on the schools but said he hoped the SRO would be in place. He also said he spoke with former RST Sgt. Juhola and thanked him for his service and wished him well in his next endeavor. Commissioner Lenda also mentioned the uncertainty for continuation of the RST program in Town per his outreach with Sgt. Juhola. Mayor McDaniel responded that negotiations with the State occurs every two (2) years.

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

Commissioner Stewart reported the Department statistics for May into the record and said work continues with moving Department tracking data for access from the Town website and that funds are budgeted for blight according to Town Councilor Jaskiewicz.

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	108	95	68	75		
Open Permits	2920	2973	3017	3040	2859	2968	3091	3131	3159	3184		
Inspections	128	144	98	134	111	109	136	135	78	89		
Plan Reviews	22	34	21	32	23	10	15	14	8	7		
CO's	5	7	9	7	12	0	3	6	3	2		
Violation Notices	2	7	1	2	0	2	1	3	0	0		
Unsafe Notices	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0		
Blight Identified 329 333 To Date	533	533	533	535	535	537	537	538	538	538		
Blight Abated To Date	315	321	324	327	329	333	337	339	339	339		

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

Commissioner Lenda reported he had no information to report from Superintendent Palin but said he hoped talks would continue.

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

Commissioner Leonard reported the last meeting of the Subcommittee was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and the next was scheduled for June 30. Town Councilor Bunnell asked whether staffing data for firefighters, EMS, and stipends was obtained and said if satisfied with the information it would be used to determine who are receiving stipends. Commissioner Moran distributed stipend figures to the Subcommittee that he obtained from the Finance Department.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Oakdale Chief Messer spoke of his compliance with information requested by Fire Marshal Bundy and said he now knows it will be requested weekly. He also said he had been attending the Subcommittee meetings. Commissioner Lenda said he was impressed with the fire stations and their community involvement during tough times. Thanks, were given to the Fire and PD for their involvement with the graduation drive-throughs.

Mohegan Chief Gaetano said he was glad to see this item on the agenda and said all were “here doing their thing” and said he appreciated the support, the parade, and getting back on a truck.

11. Unfinished Business. -- *None*

12. New Business.

a. Discussion between Town of Montville and Fire Departments.

Town Councilor Bunnell stated Policy 2019-54 concerning background checks was not being followed. He said it was brought to his attention there is not enough strength to the policy and referenced the 2017 firefighter contract that speaks to compliance but said that compliance is not defined and when enacted by the Departments no one liked the policy. Town Councilor Bunnell said the aim was to revisit the policy to make palatable for all parties or make it part of the Subcommittee for consideration. When speaking of noncompliance, he referenced information requested by the Fire Marshal specifically MVA and background checks that could be strengthened by instituting a time limit. Discussion followed about who is the Town agent, who will request the information, and how the policy evolved. Mayor McDaniel commented on Town ownership of the expensive equipment for public benefit and safety and the Town having liability to ensure operator information is checked. Town Councilor Bunnell said he would meet with the Fire Chiefs and obtain their feedback. Chairman Yuchniuk suggested it be added to the Subcommittee agenda for next week's meeting or a future agenda and spoke of having a fire administrator in place per the Almont Study. Fire Chiefs Messer and Truex addressed the information they submitted on licensing to Fire Marshal Bundy who responded to the specifics of that information required. It was noted the Subcommittee would meet next on Tuesday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three (3) times for remarks from the public. Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex spoke of his experience as firefighter and chief and said the rhetoric between the Departments, the Commission, the Town, and about the fire equipment needed to stop.

14. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel remarked on the complexities resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic that includes working long hours, working and pulling together, fogging ambulances and PD cars, social distancing requirements, and the impact of positive Covid infections numbers at Corrigan on the livelihood of the Town as well as the unemployment impact. He also spoke of the Commission as being ambassadors of the Town and relied on them to wear masks and social distance. Mayor McDaniel urged compliance with the 2020 Census survey that represents funds back to the Town. He also recognized the Fire Department three (3) new hires and spoke of the professionalism of the new RST Sgt. Gosselin along with Lt Radford and himself and their meeting with the organizers of the recent BLM rally. Per a question by Chairman Yuchniuk regarding re-opening meetings to the public, Mayor McDaniel touched upon Phase 3 plans by the State and its guidance along with that of the CDC and Uncas Health stating information on Town events would be noticed as soon as information is available.

14 Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell remarked about the peacefulness of the BLM rally, racism in policing, and of the great job done by the Town in its selection process for officers in addition

to kudos to Lt. Radford and Mayor McDaniel for “[standing] the pressure to get good guys.” He also spoke to his agreement with Chief Truex about working as a team; the need for criminal/background and MVA checks; having no surprise about the ACO report and his aim to look into it as he commented earlier; and his thanks to the PD, FD, and Mayor for working weeks of long hours.

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins spoke to keeping the virtual meetings ongoing, good luck to the new firefighters, and urged everyone to stay safe. Commissioner Stewart remarked on having spoken with the new firefighters, \_\_\_\_\_, today; and having participated in the graduation parade and of riding on and witnessing the capabilities of the new tanker. Commissioner Lenda questioned Commissioner Stewart about the handling response of the new tanker at Kittimaug Road near EB—Commissioner Stewart said there was no problem. Commissioner Gillette thanked all first responders who he described as courteous and respectful and also told all to stay safe. Commissioner Lenda welcomed the new firefighters, and the Fire Department for their response to suspected cases of Covid. Chairman Yuchniuk thanked all commissioners and for having the virtual meeting.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Chairman Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 7-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers  
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

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