

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – July 27, 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 (by phone), Stephen Stewart, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel. Lt. Dave Radford, Fire Marshal Bill Bundy, and Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell were absent. 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 the Commissioners received copies of all of the monthly statistics reports. Commissioner Stewart reported the Building Inspector was on vacation and still having trouble with his computer.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2020. Discussion: Motion by Commissioner Lenda; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to make corrections to Item #15--the spelling of Kitemaug to "*Kitemaug*" and the location EB to "*Dow Chemical.*" Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor, motioned carried. Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Moran noting two (2) of Item #14, and to renumber the minutes to "*Items 14, 15, 16, 17,*" accordingly. Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Vote on Original Motion: Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried, as amended.

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

The PD monthly statistics ending June 20, 2020, are as follows: There were 1211 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (88), arrests (31), and juvenile arrests (0). The source for these calls were Troop E (170), PD (189), Walk-in (62), and By Officer (648). As to staffing, Officer Stacie Savage submitted her resignation. Her last patrol shift will be July 30, but she will remain on the books until September 30. Officer Savage will be leaving police work and continuing her education towards teaching. The hiring process is currently active with one (1) good, potential applicant for the next Academy class that has been moved up to September 11 due to Covid-19. Interviews will be conducted in the future to fill the position being vacated by Officer Savage. Thank you to the Commission for their continued support and assistance. Also, a move has been made toward beginning the promotional testing for the vacant sergeant's position with the support of Mayor McDaniel. The testing will begin October 1. (*The information was reported by Commissioner Lenda under Item 9.c.*)

Fire Department Report

Per the report from Fire Marshal Bundy on the Fire Department for June 2020, the statistics are as follows: There were 207 calls for service and one (1) fire investigation with a loss of \$550. Of the calls for service, 152 (73.4%) were EMS.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported she had reached out to all the fire chiefs to work together toward submitting a monthly report to the Commission and encouraged open communication between the Commission and the Fire Departments. She also mentioned a meeting of the Fire Fighter Relief Fund next week.

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

Commissioner Gillette read into the record the statistics of the Town and Salem Animal Control June 2020 monthly reports as follows:

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (June 2020)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>130</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>70</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>114</b>	<b>1139</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (June 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>9</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

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

Commissioner Lenda read into the record the PD monthly statistics for June 2020. He also read into the record two (2) letters to Lt. Radford. One was from resident and former Montville patrolman Jim Pollard who praised Sgt. Michael Pierce and Trooper David Malek who with “compassion and kindness” assisted his wife, with a tire blowout on I-365 near a Montville/Norwich construction site on July 8. The other was from resident Mary Aey in

praise of Officer Robella who responded within 15 minutes to intoxicated, speeding driver that struck a stone wall and tree at her home and left the scene and also yelled at another car speeding on her street. She described Officer Robella as “businesslike and professional” and “one of the nicest and approachable” police officers she had met in a long time.

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

Commissioner Stewart reported the he had no Department statistics for the month but said online permitting is up and running.

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	78	
Open Permits	2920	2973	3017	3040	2859	2968	3091	3131	3159	3184	3201	
Inspections	128	144	98	134	111	109	136	135	78	89	70	
Plan Reviews	22	34	21	32	23	10	15	14	8	7	16	
CO's	5	7	9	7	12	0	3	6	3	2	2	
Violation Notices	2	7	1	2	0	2	1	3	0	0	1	
Unsafe Notices	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	
Blight Identified 329 333 To Date	533	533	533	535	535	537	537	538	538	538	540	
Blight Abated To Date	315	321	324	327	329	333	337	339	339	339	342	

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

Commissioner Lenda reported no one had reached out to them from the School District but said he was trying to get information regarding the SRO.

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

Commissioner Leonard reported on the last meeting of the Subcommittee held on June 30 and the false impression that he was against volunteer staff and comments of the Subcommittee having stepped outside of the charge by the Commission. Chairman Yuchniuk affirmed that the Subcommittee was formed to review Saturday coverage and asked Mayor McDaniel what could be done. Mayor McDaniel said the void in coverage has been filled with part-time and volunteer staff but said the original charge was vague, broad, and general. As to the agreements, he said questions about them would come from the Fire Chiefs and go to the Subcommittee, and then sent on to the Town Attorney for clarification. Mayor McDaniel said the Subcommittee had value and questions needed to be answered with exclusion of personal attacks which he said had nothing to do with safety but instead about an allocation of service. The Commission spoke about the original purpose for the volunteers, public and staff safety,

staffing, Saturday coverage having evolved into all-around coverage, and the purpose of the subcommittee which was to bring back information to the full Commission. The Subcommittee said they did not want what happened last week on Facebook and the Subcommittee to reoccur.

Motion by Chairman Yuchniuk; seconded by Commissioner Moran to disband the Fire Department Subcommittee noting it did not mean the Commission would not be discussing FD issues in anyway but that those issues could be brought up at any time and discussed at the Commission meeting with decorum and professionalism. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0-1, abstention by Commissioner Leonard. Motion carried. Chairman Yuchniuk said if a subcommittee was needed in the future a mission statement would be developed for its purpose.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex apologized for what happened at the last FD Subcommittee meeting and remarked on problems with the format of the meeting, comments made, the 3-minutes remarks rule, the three (3) firefighter new hires, firefighter coverage hours in the past and those currently, and politics versus safety for those living in the Chesterfield area. Chairman Yuchniuk addressed Chief Truex's comment that he did not have the opportunity to complete his comments at last week's FD Subcommittee meeting and asked him if he had anything to add at this time. Chief Truex spoke to questions about the Mohegan Tribe covering ambulance calls and said that was not a failure of the volunteers; contracts and having a liaison between the Town and fire departments stating the Mayor is the point of contact per the contract; references to rules and procedures causing issues and response times not being followed stating he needed specifics on them in order to fix them; retaining volunteer membership and retention of them; and the move-up policy and why it was not a 24-hour a day 7-day a week policy. Chairman Yuchniuk asserted that no one on the Commission was against volunteers, firefighters or anyone involved in the Town of Montville and said he appreciated Chief Truex's comments and questions but said the Commission was trying to do the best for the Town.

Chesterfield Asst. Fire Chief Forrester gave a report on coverage at his station in the month of July that thus far had resulted in 80 hours of shifts without coverage, an average of four (4) hours every day; a report of 53 weeks of Saturday coverage which he said was zero unless someone worked overtime; and addressed day coverage for those who attend training and other activities.

11. Unfinished Business. -- *None*

a. Discussion between Town of Montville and Fire Departments.

Commissioner Leonard read a letter into the record sent to him by Commissioner Perkins for submission to the Commission. The letter dated July 16, 2020, was from the Montville Professional Firefighters Local 3386 to Fire Marshal Bundy that addressed a request for an immediate "*change to MVA responses to a three company response to ensure a fire engine is responding to all scenes along with the needed additional staffing that the third company can provide along with the career member stationed in the third company.*" The letter responded

to motor vehicle crash calls over a week's time that had low certified volunteer staff attendance. Chief Messer agreed with the proposal but asked if it was first presented to the fire chiefs stating the chiefs are responsible for the districts. Union President Tim Condon said he did not go to the chiefs as they work for the Fire Marshal and the union is part of the town. The Commission discussed the question of who would implement the change, who could make the recommendation; a plan for the Fire Marshal, Union, and chiefs to meet; and the issue as to why the Fire Marshal/EMS could not be a liaison to the chiefs which seemed to be a problem. Chief Truex also agreed to the change.

Motion by Chairman Yuchniuk; seconded by Commissioner Moran for a recommendation to the Town to make a change to MVA calls to a 3-station response. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-1-0; Commissioner Stewart opposed. Motion carried. Chairman Yuchniuk said he would write a commentary on the motion and it would be sent to the Mayor, the fire chiefs, Fire Marshal, and Town Council.

12. New Business.

Commissioner Lenda commented on remarks made by Chief Truex regarding staffing. Mayor McDaniel commented that staffing was the subject of an allocation of funds through the Town Council, a budget process.

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three (3) times for remarks from the public. Mark Battista remarked on the need for Commissioner Leonard to develop a thicker skin regarding Facebook comments, a lack of transparency; a way to get more coverage; and the definition of a fire marshal and the duties of Fire Marshal Bundy, which Mayor McDaniel objected to as a point of order citing denigration of a Town official. Tim Condon remarked that the Fire Marshal/EMS manager had authority over every area of the department. He also spoke on the Subcommittee discussion of firefighter agreements with the Town; Resolution 19-54; and staffing; the good comments about the bridge with the Board of Education for getting MHS students involved, and obtaining/retaining volunteers. Chief Truex commented on numbers and questions the basis for them; staffing and the need for public safety; and the need to fix the relationship between the Town and volunteer fire department. Melissa Truex commented on the Facebook post she made regarding the last Subcommittee meeting, the content of the meetings, the disrespect to fire volunteers; and moving forward and working together.

14. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel remarked on getting the Building Department network up and running and getting information to help and keep Town staff safe. He spoke of two (2) police officers who are still in the running and one (1) secured slot for the Academy. As well, an ad was run for the lead dispatch position, looking to fill sergeant slot or two, and has written letters regarding police accountability but doing the best we can with selective enforcement. Mayor McDaniel also spoke of Grace Carolos, a 20-year old who decided to do something celebratory to promote unity at an event at which there were legislative representatives. He also apologized for his

comment earlier and spoke to making remarks with respect, dignity, and decorum and the allocation of resources in a dignified manner.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison. – *Absent from meeting*

15. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Moran had no comment. Commissioner Lenda supported Chief Truex stating he did not know the numbers in support of him and his statistics but said we will get there. He also remarked on his comment made last month about his conversation with RST St. Juhola and said he had an uplifting conversation with the new RST Sgt. Gosselin who had no feedback on the RST program within Town but said he was working with the officers and would work with the Town, Mayor, and Lt. Radford. Commissioner Stewart spoke to creating another subcommittee in the near future regarding issues brought up at the disbanded one that were considered inappropriate for that venue. Commissioner Leonard said he was a proud volunteer and life member of Chesterfield Fire Company and he thanked the Commission and all first responders. Commissioner Gillette had no comment. Commissioner Perkins thanked the career firefighters and volunteers, told all to be safe and stay healthy, and asked that they reach out to her if they needed anything. Chairman Yuchniuk said he hoped Commissioner Perkins felt better and complemented her on doing a good job as a liaison for the Fire Department. He also asked the fire chiefs to contact her with issues they had.

16. Adjournment.

Motion by Chairman Moran, 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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