

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – September 28, 2020 -- 6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Town of Montville will be utilizing a virtual GoToMeeting service for this meeting.

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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 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 (by phone), Victor Lenda, Jr., James Moran, Karen Perkins, Stephen Stewart, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel, Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell, and Fire Marshal Bill Bundy (by phone). Absent was Lt. Dave Radford. A quorum was present.

4. Amendments to the Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Moran to add Item 12.a, *To consider and act on a motion for replacement of an M-21 at Mohegan Fire Company* and Item 12.b, *To consider an act on a motion regarding Public Safety Commission responsibilities*. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Chairman Yuchniuk; seconded by Commissioner Perkins to remove Item 11.a, *Discussion between Town of Montville, and Fire Departments* from the agenda. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Chairman Yuchniuk; seconded by Commissioner Moran to add Item 12.c, *To consider and act on a motion regarding a noise ordinance*. Discussion: none. 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 the Commissioners received copies of all of the monthly statistics reports.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

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

Motion by Chairman Yuchniuk; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2020. Discussion: Recording Secretary Gathers noted an email from Commissioner Leonard with a correction to Item 11.a. as follows: *Commissioner Leonard clarified **run times**, deleted to read **run cards** (commonly referred to as 'action plans'), were submitted to Chiefs Gaetano and Turner.* Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve the August 28, 2020, minutes as amended. Voice vote: 6-0, 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

The PD monthly statistics ending August 31, 2020, are as follows: There were 1490 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (71), arrests 23), and juvenile arrests (0). The source for these calls were Troop E (172), PD (240), Walk-in (114), and By Officer (773).

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Bundy reported he submitted his August 2020 monthly report to Commissioner Perkins, Town Councilor Bunnell, and Recording Secretary Gathers. The Fire Department statistics for the month ending August 31, 2020, are as follows: There were 292 calls for service and one (1) fire investigation at Rand Whitney with a loss of \$30,000. Of the 292 calls for service, the breakdown was Montville District – 100 calls (34.25%) of calls; Mohegan District – 85 Calls (29.11%) of calls; Oakdale District – 66 Calls (22.6%) of calls; Chesterfield District – 25 calls (8.6%) of calls; Out of town – 16 calls (5.48%) of calls. There were 196 EMS calls or 67% of all calls for service. Of the 196 EMS calls, 79.0% resulted in the transporting by ambulance with two (2) paid – 65 or (31%); one (1) paid – 45 or (22%); zero paid – 41 or (21%); Transported by other – one (1) or (1 %); No transport – four (4); Lift assist – 21; and Refusals 13. There were also 177 inspections conducted.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported statistical activity at the Montville and Mohegan Fire Departments for the month of August 2020, submitted by Fire Chiefs Turner and Gaetano, respectively.

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

The statistics of the Town and Salem Animal Control for August 2020 monthly reports were read into the record by Commissioner Gillette and are as follows:

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (August 2020)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	3	15
# of Animals Sold as Pets	1	3
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	1	1
Total Complaints Investigated	103	199
Total Animal Bites Investigated	1	4
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (August 2020)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	0	1
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	7	11
Total Animal Bites Investigated	4	4
Total Infractions/Summons	1	1

Commissioner Gillette asked about the status of the new, proposed AC building given to the Town Council at least a year ago and the quote for the same a few months before the last Town election. The status of the proposal is unknown, and Commissioner Gillette said it was time for them to act. The condition of the current building and warnings for it were mentioned.

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

Commissioner Lenda reported on interviews that took place over a three-day period where 13 candidates were vetted by him, Lt. Radford, Det. Saffiotti, Sgt. Northrup, and Commissioner Moran. He spoke about the cooperation displayed at the interviews and the quality of several of the candidates. Commissioner Lenda said there one opening for a retired police officer to be filled. He added the patrol boat was not launched this summer but said oversight was handled by the DEEP.

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

Commissioner Stewart reported Building Official Vesey had finally figured out how to produce reports using the new software but said there are still some struggles. Statistics for July and August 2020 were emailed to the Commission.

Building Department Report

2020-2021 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	115	76										
Open/Pending Permits (New System)	115	85										
Open Permits (Old System)	3201	3176										
Inspections	103	78										
Plan Reviews	37	17										
CO's	0	3										
Violation Notices		2										
Unsafe Notices		0										

Blight Identified To Date	540	544										
Blight Abated To Date	342	345										

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

Commissioner Lenda reported on an ad placed in *The Day* for a school security officer but said the position was not mandated but was suggested by the State for classes held outside. He also spoke of his discussions with Superintendent Palin and M. Collins about it. Commissioner Lenda said he wanted to remove this item from the agenda as the subcommittee made recommendations to the school and Lt. Radford and the PD can handle everything going forward, such as additional security. He added that one (1) position was filled by a former military person that was being funded by Covid funds per Mayor McDaniel

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex spoke in support of the M-21 stating an appropriate amount of apparatus is needed and said the topic was discussed among the fire chiefs. He also reported on city-wide training conducted yesterday. He said the training was going well and career staff were asked to participate. Mohegan Fire Chief Gaetano also referenced the training that took place and support for the M-21.

11. Unfinished Business.

- a. Discussion between Town of Montville and Fire Departments.
 This item was removed from the agenda.

12. New Business.

- a. To consider and act for replacement of an M-21 at Mohegan Fire Company.
 Commissioner Perkins stated she emailed to the Commission the information for the proposed replacement of the M-21 with the understanding review of it was preliminary. Fire Chief Gaetano reported the current M-21 is 30 years old, in need of repair, and needs to be replaced. He said it was a justified replacement and an alternative water supply and said once it came back into service, he asked the Commission to come look at it. He also agreed to provide the Commission with detailed specifications for the proposed M-21. Town Councilor Bunnell asked that a summary be provided as well. Discussion followed with Commissioner Gillette asking about the age and condition of the truck; Chairman Yuchniuk who commented the Town passed a resolution for purchase of future vehicles which Mayor McDaniel explained. Fire Chief Gaetano reported the fire chiefs discussed their needs for their companies and had agreed on the specifications for the proposed truck. Mayor McDaniel said he would research the purchase policy and said for reasons of public safety we should know what we are buying. Fire Chief Gaetano agreed to contact the sales representative for a summary to send to the Commission. Chairman Yuchniuk also asked that he include with the summary written confirmation of the discussion and agreement of the fire chiefs regarding the purchase.

Commissioner Gillette asked additional questions concerning the oldest piece of equipment in Town and its condition that Fire Chief Gaetano said were questions for Fire Chief Turner. As to the purchase, Mayor McDaniel spoke of the fire chiefs' 20-year plan, approval by the Commission, approval and lease without bonding, and the approval through the budget process.

b. To consider an act regarding Public Safety Commission responsibilities.

Commissioner Perkins gave a handout to the Commission, Chapter C. Charter, Article IV, Subsection C408, concerning the Public Safety Commission, a commission appointed by and responsible to the Town Council. She asked about the expectations of the new Town Council for the Commission. Mayor McDaniel and Town Councilor Bunnell each said Commission responsibilities were defined in the Town Charter and Town Councilor Bunnell said as issues arise address them. He added that the fire chiefs had asked to meet with him one-on-one. Commissioner Perkins asked what was the job of the Commission, and Town Councilor Bunnell spoke of addressing roadblocks brought before Commission and thereafter forwarding them on to the Town Council. Commissioner Lenda said Commissioner Perkins' question was one he pondered as well during his time on the Commission. He spoke about the communication between the fire chiefs and Town Councilor Bunnell and said social media was not a reflection on the role of the Commission as addressed in the Town Charter. Chairman Yuchniuk stated the Commission was a board of recommendation that vets and recommends to Mayor McDaniel and the Town Council. Town Councilor Bunnell spoke about an example of progress referencing the statistical data for the Montville and Mohegan fire companies reported by Commission Perkins earlier and defines the issue as to whether there are enough persons to respond to calls.

c. To consider and act regarding a noise ordinance.

Town Councilor Bunnell handed out a draft concerning the noise control ordinance from the Town Attorney and said it was a matter that had been going for 20 years. He spoke about the benefits of the draft to the Town and its residents that addresses exemptions, procedures, checks and balances, and to avoid penalties to get people to comply. Town Councilor Bunnell said a public hearing on the matter would be held on October 14. Mayor McDaniel said the hearing had been put off until November.

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

14. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel remarked the PD interviews scheduled for October 13 for the top four (4) candidates; the problem with migrating data from the sold system by the Building Department; and the search for a blight/hearing enforcement officer. He also said the animal shelter is a budget not CIP issue and spoke of the discussion for a joint venture in the area but said the \$850,000 quote was an engineering estimate for a standalone shelter in Town that he would provide information to Town Councilor Bunnell. Mayor McDaniel also commented on the town tree, not located on town property, but decorated for respect to first responders.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell said the Commission was intricate to the safety of the Town to recommend applicants, policy, budget and said the Town Council appoints based on the recommendations of the Commission. He commented on the Almont Study, the public safety plan that was not being followed, and proposed the Commission lobby for things to get accomplished. Town Councilor Bunnell then spoke about 12-year old Calvin LaFrance who is participating in a 50-yards challenge to mow and rake lawns. He said he needs 50 yards to qualify for a national competition to help seniors, veterans, or those who cannot afford having their lawn done.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins remarked favorably on the firefighter training that she said could be seen by the public. Commissioner Stewart spoke about the firefighter tankers and engines moving around and moving water at Chesterfield and said many stop to observe the activities. Commissioner Gillette thanked the fire chiefs, the fire EMS, and the police with much respect for their actions during Covid. He also commented on the backlash about the tree decorated to honor first responders. Chairman Yuchniuk asked about the State Phase 3 reopening and having the public at meetings. Mayor McDaniel said 25 persons are allowed and said department heads and fire chiefs are welcome but not the general public. He said, “How do you discriminate?”

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 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 OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF
MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**