

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting – October 26, 2020 -- 6:00 PM**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

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

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone at:  
**<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/124605589>**

You can also dial in using your phone.  
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 124-605-589

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 Mayor Ronald McDaniel, Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell, Fire Marshal Bill Bundy (by phone), Chesterfield Fire Chief Keith Truex, and Mohegan Fire Chief Corey Gaetano. Absent was Lt. Dave Radford. 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 and specifically asked if the Fire Marshal report was received.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve a correction to the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2020. Discussion: Commissioner Stewart noted a correction to paragraph 9.c **stating he was at the interview along with Commissioner Lenda**. Commissioner Lenda noted the use of the word “oversight” regarding the use of the patrol boat at Gardner Lake that he said he would not have used but did not require it to be changed. Voice vote: 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve a correction to the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2020. Discussion: Commissioner Stewart noted a correction to paragraph 14 to change the word “**sold**” to “**old**”.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Moran to approve the September 28, 2020, minutes as amended. 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

The PD monthly statistics ending September 30, 2020, are as follows: There were 1360 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (70), arrests 21), and juvenile arrests (0). The source for these calls were Troop E (155), PD (221), Walk-in (127), and By Officer (644).

Fire Department Report

Fire Marshal Bundy stated he had no report.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported the Volunteer Fire Relief meeting occurred this evening. She said the meeting takes place quarterly to determine who qualifies for stipend. She reported the qualifications by fire company as follows: Montville (9), Mohegan (8), Chesterfield (9), and Oakdale (17), submitted by the fire chiefs who attending the meeting. Commissioner Perkins also reported statistical activity at the Montville and Chesterfield Fire Companies for September 2020, submitted by Fire Chiefs Turner and Truex, respectively. She then recognized and/or read communications of recognition into the record as follows:

- An email on October 6 from Fire Marshal Bundy regarding a successful CPR save of a 78-year old cardiac arrest dispatch call attended by Mohegan and Montville fire companies paid staff (Adam Kaplan and Paul Zabulis), a volunteer Andrew Rinbolt, and Mohegan Tribal Medic.
- A letter the first week of October from Fire Chief Gaetano regarding a medical call for a child who was not breathing somewhere on Rte. 32 with recognition to responders Bill Bundy, Kevin \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Jaskiewicz, Paul Barnes, Keith \_\_\_\_\_, Ken Stewart, Karen Aleshire, Mike Pierce, and Bruce\_\_\_\_\_. Commissioner Perkins said she responded back.
- A memo of October 9 from Officer Aleshire to Commissioner Perkins that she read into the record. It gave a detailed summation of the lifesaving efforts of the medical call for an unconscious two-year old who was not breathing and the actions of Dispatcher Leonard and Fire Marshal Bundy during this incident. Commissioner Perkins responded to the memo with thanks to the individuals for their amazing job and teamwork.
- A letter from a Montville career firefighter Donald Ellis to the Commission, Public Works, and Mayor McDaniel who read it into the record concerning disturbing social media posts directed towards career firefighters and fire chiefs and the gap between career staff and volunteers.

Commissioner Perkins stated she responds back to communications she receives.

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

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

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (September 2020)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>
<b># of Animals Sold as Pets</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

<b># of Animals D.O.A.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b># of Animals Euthanized</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Complaints Investigated</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (September 2020)

	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b># of Animals Impounded</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</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>7</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Animal Bites Investigated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Infractions/Summons</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

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

Commissioner Lenda reported that since the last meeting he had spoken with Lt. Radford and said things were going smoothly. Lt. Radford told him today promotions and hiring processes are going through the normal chain of command and investigation. Commissioner Lenda also said the promotional testing for the position of sergeant will occur on Wednesday morning and that he will sit on that panel. He then reported the statistical data from the Department as of September 2020. He also noted per the detailed report that 47% (500+) of the total calls (1360) were patrol checks and business checks that did not require a report or were handled in a different way and said the numbers and percentages in the report seem to be in line with those of previous months.

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

Commissioner Stewart reported he did not speak with Building Inspector Vesey but said a report was issued and it seems to show data tracked from previous months. He also noted that the numbers from the old system are decreasing.

Building Department Report

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

Violation Notices		2										
Unsafe Notices												
Blight Identified To Date	530*	534*	534									
Blight Abated To Date	342	345	347*									

\*The numbers in yellow were corrected.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex stated he was never approached by the union regarding a letter and said what was accused did not happen. He spoke of another issue about the wait time for a Covid test by one of his staff at Dodge Stadium that was put on social media and then visiting a doctor’s office instead and questioned who would pay for the test. Chief Truex also spoke of and gave a scenario about a move-up and said the policy for them needs to end. He gave the Commission a handout titled, *Standard Operating Guidelines—Apparatus Operator Qualification and Recertification*, stating it was the procedure for his staff for operating vehicles and the reason why chiefs need to have operational control. Chief Truex also said there was no plan in place if someone gets Covid, specifically quarantining so staff does not go home and expose their families. Commissioner Perkins asked whether the chiefs were willing to sit down with the Emergency Management Director and Chief Truex replied as long as it is productive. Commissioner Leonard commented he loved the move-up policy.

Mohegan Fire Chief Gaetano apologized about not having included Commissioner Leonard in his letter summarized earlier by Commissioner Perkins. He also said he never received a letter asking for the chiefs to meet and that he never refused to meet with the Fire Marshal. The Chief also said he never refused career staff the use of apparatus stating they have access to the station. Commissioner Perkins asked whether the chiefs were willing to meet with the union president and Chief Gaetano said “yes.”

11. Unfinished Business.

a. To consider and act on a motion for replacement of an M-21 at Mohegan Fire Company. Commissioner Perkins asked if the Commission had received the summary emails from the fire chiefs. Chairman Yuchniuk said Mayor McDaniel and Town Councilor Bunnell were satisfied. Commissioner Stewart said he spoke with Chief Gaetano today and no issues. Commissioner Leonard said the Almont Study calls for the M-21 not to be replaced. Chief Gaetano spoke of the scrapyard fire recently the struggle of the M-13 to provide water the ladder truck. Town Councilor Bunnell inquired about the summary for the M-21 that Chief Gaetano said met the specifications for their needs. Chief Gaetano said the summary is research specifying their needs for the tanker for bid purposes and crafted by Bulldog without solicitation on their behalf as confirmed by the company representative. The policy for purchase of apparatus was summarized by Chairman Yuchniuk and Mayor McDaniel with follow up by Chief Truex for preparing/processing the specifications for bid.

Motion by Chairman Yuchniuk; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to advance the specifications sheets for the M-21 truck to the next level--to Finance, TARP, and the Town Council--based on the consensus of the four fire chiefs. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

b. To consider and act on a motion regarding a noise ordinance.

Town Councilor Bunnell reported the policy for noise ordinance has been delayed. It has been sent back to the Town Attorney for additional information and the findings will be reviewed with Town Councilor Jaskiewicz. Town Councilor Bunnell said the aim is not to violate second amendment rights but to meet the needs of others and to obtain the cost of meters. Whether it can be prosecuted is another concern that is being researched by Lt. Radford. This item was tabled and left on the agenda pending further information.

12. New Business. -- *None*

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

Chairman Yuchniuk asked three (3) times for remarks. Fire Chief Truex spoke about fixing and working on relationships and said he hoped the career staff would agree to work with volunteers. He also spoke of his refusal to have staff use apparatus for move-ups due to miles logged and then thanked the Commission for what they do.

Matt Horne of Cranberry Drive is a volunteer firefighter and asked about the Town paying for Covid testing. He stated he used sick time for 2 ½ hours but failed to get the test. He spoke of a co-worker who had tested positive. M. Horne also said he has no issues with career staff and said he does what the Town wants him to do.

Tim Condon, Union president, is a career firefighter who said he has been in multiple meetings about working together but nothing has been done. He spoke about Chief Truex's company that complains about move-ups, makes verbal attacks, and the silence from raising issues. He also commented on the power struggle, a way for everyone to meet in a nonpublic forum, and said he wants the Town to recognize career and volunteer firefighters and investigate having a fire department. T. Condon said the union would like the Town to consider operating a fifth Montville Fire Department as it has all the mechanisms to do so and to "put a player on the field" to resolve the power issues, Fire Marshal Bundy.

Ethan Gagnon, a career firefighter at Chesterfield Fire Company, spoke about the comment by Chief Truex about "sitting on chairs and spreading Covid" as grossly negligent and disgusting. He commented on move-ups stating he had responded to them and said they work and described incidents of the same. He also suggested the creation of a fire department and said, "we want to be heard" and expressed joy about what he does.

Mark Batista, a career firefighter at Chesterfield spoke of working together for the public safety of the Town and reiterated Chief Truex's comments about the role of the Commission and the respect for them. He said all want to help the public and praised the responders to the Pequot Road incident earlier this month with assistance from mutual aid. M. Batista spoke of everyone

working together, career and volunteers, during these incidents and said that some are often tragic.

Mark Forrester, Asst. Fire Chief at Chesterfield, 831 Chesterfield Road. He spoke of his appreciation for Ethan Gagnon and about a recent Covid test he tried to get that was referenced earlier by Chief Truex. He apologized for comments he made online and to Fire Marshal Bundy. M. Forrester also commented to Commissioner Leonard about his role as chief dispatcher and the optics of his wanting protection for his own home and his responsibility for initializing the move-ups.

Kevin Rowe, union member and Town employee, said he lives in Town and pays taxes. He said we are all in this together to work for the betterment of the Town stating he stands behind the Chief and the Fire Marshal who have the best interest of the Town in mind. He also said he supported the comments by the union president and said he was willing to sit down to discuss issues. As to move-ups, he questioned how many miles on a vehicle are worth a life stating he would like to sit down to get everything straightened out.

Mitchell Dole, a Montville paid firefighter and volunteer for two (2) years, spoke of the actions by volunteers who trash them, the Fire Marshal, and the Town on Facebook that he described as being despicable instead of coming up with solutions. He said move-ups work, he supports the union president and Fire Marshal Bundy, and he referenced Chief Truex's comments earlier as a disgrace given his position.

Mike Moran said that as of November 9 he will have worked 22 years in Town as a fulltime firefighter stating that this situation is the worst division he has seen. He spoke of the need for a "come to Jesus" meeting with career staff, volunteers, the fire chiefs, and the Fire Marshal. He then said he hoped everyone was feeling better referring to Covid and testing for it.

Keith Truex thanked Mike Moran for being reasonable and for his comments about meeting. He then spoke to his earlier comments which he said he referenced with a pause and used as an example of a way in which Covid could be spread. He commented, "You guys are just as bad" and suggested sitting down to discuss things the right way.

Tim Condon stated he never wrote a letter but had asked repeatedly for career staff and volunteers to meet as equals. He spoke of it as a collective failure of the system.

#### 14. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel referred to comments made by Commissioner Lenda stating offers had been made to viable police candidates after the interview process and said they were at the final stage for the sergeant's position for candidates to push forward. He also said he would meet with Building Department concerning the new software that has been problematic and said he would request an allocation of funds for Covid testing at tomorrow's Finance meeting for the ease and convenience of staff. Mayor McDaniel said he had no other comments under the advice of his personal counsel.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell said the letter from the career firefighter was a personal opinion of an issue with two sides. He said there is an agreement with the four (4) fire companies and a draft proposal recognizing operational control that will be forwarded to the Town Attorney to discern any issues that may arise from the union concerning the fire department and the job description of the Fire Marshal. Town Councilor Bunnell spoke about his work on the issue and said that at every meeting he asked for suggestions/proposals on Resolution 54 and improving staffing numbers and providing data to the Fire Marshal that he needs but said only the chiefs gave him any feedback. He also said he favored move-ups especially with Covid and was useful during bridge repairs and commented on possible Covid spread from it. Town Councilor Bunnell did ask that the harassment online about the Fire Marshal and others stopped as it was inappropriate not beneficial. Instead, he said to practice PPE, distance, and use CDC approved fast masks to protect others

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Gillette said his thoughts and prayers were with the Covid sufferers and praised the fire companies on the safe incidents. Commissioner Leonard praised the great job of those involved with the incidents of late and stated move-ups do not just occur on his shift. Commissioner Moran said he was glad funds would be sought for Covid testing. Commissioner Lenda thanked everyone for attending the meeting, proposed getting together to talk about issues, and thanked Chief Gaetano for the tanker specs. Commissioner Perkins thanked the Commission, firefighters, volunteers, and mutual aid involving the scrapyard fire. Commissioner Stewart addressed recent news regarding social media and the lack of accountability, spoke of the amount of water pumped for the scrapyard fire, and urged everyone to vote. He said he was willing to setup a meeting with all the parties to resolve issues. Chairman Yuchniuk said Chief Truex's comment was not disparaging; instead, it was actually a metaphor for Covid spread. He also spoke to the nonsense being discussed and said the Commission had been advocating for all to sit in the same room.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 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 OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF  
MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**