

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – January 25, 2021 -- 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 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Mickey Gillette, Gary Murphy, Karen Perkins*, Stephen Stewart, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present were Lt. Dave Radford, Asst. Fire Marshal Paul Barnes,* Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell,* and Mayor Ronald McDaniel. Absent were Commissioners Jon Leonard and James Moran. A quorum was present.
*Remotely by phone.

4. Amendments to the Agenda.

Commissioner Perkins asked that Item 11.c, Fire Marshal's Budget be added to the agenda. No vote was taken.

5. Communications:

- Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police, Animal Control and Building Official.

Chairman Yuchniuk confirmed receipt of the monthly statistical reports by all the Commissioners.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of December 25, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the December 25, 2020 minutes as written. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0, 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

Lt. Radford reported the PD monthly statistics ending December 31, 2020, are as follows: There were 1332 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (75), arrests (32), and juvenile arrests (0). The source for these calls were Troop E (156), PD (214), Walk-in (68), and By Officer (726). Lt Radford also reported Officer Lindsey Michaels is doing well in the Academy and has six (6) weeks remaining until graduation when she will then continue her FTO program. Officer Caleb Osunniyi started the Academy on January 28 that will be completely by Zoom for approximately the first two (2) months. He then spoke of correspondence crediting officers with kind words over the past couple of months. Lt. Radford noted some of the incidents and read the correspondence into the record as follows:

- The actions of Officer Edwards at a December 24th ATV crash.

- On December 24th, Officers Edwards and Kelly performed CPR in an active cardiac arrest until the FD arrived, but the patient unfortunately succumbed later that evening. These Officers continued to assist EMS with clean-up and whatever was needed.
- Officer Stuart responded to a domestic dispute involving a knife on December 25th and convinced the accused who charged him to drop the knife and was then taken into custody without incident.

Commissioner Murphy asked if the Town provides body cameras. Lt. Radford said it did not but would be mandated as of July 2022.

Fire Department Report

The FD statistics for the month ending December 31, 2020, are as follows: There were 279 calls for service of which 199 were medical EMS calls or 71.3% of all calls for service. There was also one (1) motor vehicle fire loss of \$11,000.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins reported on Mohegan Fire Company statistical activity for December 2020 as follows: 174 total calls responded to; 101 Mohegan calls for service; 24 fire calls; 148 EMS calls; 2 mutual aid out of town calls. Regular monthly training: SCBA & N95 Fit Testing—10 Members, 1 Hours = 10 Hours. Junior & Probationary Member Training: Continuing hands-on training and sign-offs—4 members, 3 Hours=12 Hours. Driver Training: Apparatus and Equipment Operation and Training—5 members, 3 1/2 Hours = 17 1/2 Hours. Online Trainings: Continuing Education—16 courses completed = 16 Hours. Total Training Hours for the Month = 55 1/2.

Commissioner Perkins also reported Chesterfield Fire Company statistical activity for December 2020 as follows: MVAs (5); FAA’s (9); HazMat (1); Brush Fire (1); Structure Fire (1); CO Emergency (1); Ambulance 16); and R-1 (5).

Per questions from Chairman Yuchniuk and Commissioner Perkins regarding the absence of a fire marshal, Mayor McDaniel reported that Asst. Fire Marshal Paul Barnes was the acting fire marshal and is interested in the open position. He said the position would be posted internally for one (1) week and publicly advertised for two (2) weeks.

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

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

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (December 2020)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	4	45

# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	22
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	1
Total Complaints Investigated	85	504
Total Animal Bites Investigated	4	15
Total Infractions/Summons	0	1

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (December 2020)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	0	7
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	6	34
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	6
Total Infractions/Summons	0	2

Town Councilor Bunnell asked Commissioner Murphy to ask the ACO about the number of times the current Animal Control facility had reached its maximum capacity. Town Councilor Bunnell said he had spoken with Mayor McDaniel and Commissioner Murphy about the current facility and had read the correspondence concerning the proposed Animal Control facility. Commissioner Murphy said he called and would meet with the ACO at the facility prior to the next Commission meeting. Town Councilor Bunnell asked to be a part of that discussion. Chairman Yuchniuk asked that discussion of the Animal Control facility be added to Old Business on the agenda.

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

Commissioner Gillette said he met with Lt. Radford and Sgt. Northrup and said he was looking forward to his role as liaison and working with staff. He also commented on the Public Safety Building having not been inside of it and on the policy for the Wall of Honor.

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

Commissioner Stewart read the Building Department statistics for December 2020 into the record.

Building Department Report

2020-2021 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	115	76	197	111	151	110						
Open/Pending Permits (New System)	115	85	101	100	88	85						
Open Permits (Old System)	3201	3176	3166	3150	3133	3066						

Inspections	103	78	113	119	107	96						
Plan Reviews	37	17	96	9	20	25						
CO's	0	3	2	3	7	3						
Violation Notices		2	2	3	0	2						
Unsafe Notices		0	0	0	0	0						
Blight Identified To Date	530*	534*	534	538	538	538						
Blight Abated To Date	342	345	347*	349	349	351						

*Corrected numbers.

Commissioner Stewart reported he spoke with the Building Inspector this morning concerning changing the heading on the report to 2021-2022 and meetings with the software company that are going well. Mayor McDaniel that the software meetings are moving in the right direction and said some problems were attributed to operator error and more training for others. He also reported a part-time Blight Officer position for 19 hours per week was approved in December.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs.

Oakdale Fire Chief Messer acknowledged his presence and wished everyone well. Mohegan Fire Chief Gaetano said he had nothing to report. Responding to a question regarding Covid vaccination, Chief Messer said 15 staff had been vaccinated but said it was offered to all but the decision to take the vaccine was optional. He also said it was offered to those who respond to EMS calls and said video and paperwork was provided regarding the pros and cons of the vaccine. Fire Chief Gaetano said about 10 were vaccinated but information about it was disseminated to all. Fire Chief Truex said he was waiting to hear back from L& M, the sponsor hospital, to start vaccination. He said the Montville and Chesterfield companies are sponsored by L &M and said Chesterfield fell off the list. Chief Truex also reported there are 16 on the list for the vaccination and another 16 did not take up the offer.

Commissioner Murphy asked about vaccinations for police officers. Lt. Radford reported the vaccinations were open to all and said 10 had started the vaccination process.

11. Unfinished Business.

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

Town Councilor Bunnell reported he had no additional information as of yet but had spoken to Town Councilor Jaskiewicz today and a meeting will be scheduled with the Town Attorney. He asked that the item be kept on the agenda.

b. Fire Department Solutions.

Town Councilor Bunnell reported that overall things have improved and are moving in the right directions. He said he had asked for a meeting with the Fire Chiefs, Fire Marshal and the Mayor. He asked that paid and volunteer staff contact him if things are not going well.

Chairman Yuchniuk asked about the status of the proposed meeting of fire chiefs and paid staff; Town Councilor Bunnell spoke of scheduling issues, Covid, and a scheduled surgery on his arm. Mayor McDaniel said the Fire Marshal's resignation was unexpected and said Asst. Fire Marshal Barnes would be the acting official and asked that he not be put on the spot since he will be interviewing for the position. He also suggested appointing an interviewing committee.

c. To consider and act on the Fire Marshal 2021-2022 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to consider and act on the Fire Marshal 2021-2022 budget. Discussion: Commissioner Murphy said he did not review it so he would abstain from the vote. Commissioner Stewart spoke of the discussion over the last few years for hiring three (3) full-time firefighters. Mayor McDaniel said he did not get a copy of the budget; Chairman Yuchniuk asked Commissioner Perkins to send a copy of the budget to Mayor McDaniel and Town Councilor Bunnell. Per a quick review of the budget, Mayor McDaniel said it did not include new personnel and then gave an overview of the budget process and special meetings for the same. Commissioner Perkins asked about conferring with the Acting Fire Marshal concerning the budget. Commissioner Murphy said the Commission makes the recommendation for review of the budget. The motion was withdrawn by Commissioners Perkins and Gillette. Chairman Yuchniuk said he would send an email tomorrow regarding budgets and have them sent to the Commission for review next month.

12. New Business.

a. To consider and act on a motion for a proposed policy and application for a "Wall of Honor" at the Montville Public Safety Complex Community Room.

Lt. Radford spoke of the proposed policy as a means to set up guidelines and standards; to make the wall uniform with one plaque per person; and using a standardized format. He said he contacted area PDs, but none had a written policy and said decision making was done by administration and police departments. Commissioner Gillette said anyone can place or take down a plaque for any reason and spoke of disrespect regarding the same. Chairman Yuchniuk said the policy would be well above any other PD; Commissioner Stewart spoke about uniformity versus a collage of different things. Commissioner Murphy spoke of the approval for the Public Safety Building for use by the PD and dispatch. He disagreed with the selection process having two (2) PD members and one (1) Commission member and said fire departments support the PD. He spoke of the process becoming personal and having it take away from the meaning of the wall. Lt. Radford spoke of getting away from personal preferences; Commissioner Murphy spoke of officer dislike as a personal reason. Lt. Radford said he wants transparency, and the policy would provide it. Town Councilor Bunnell said he started the wall to commemorate officers who had died while in service. He said character was not an issue and said the application was a matter of opinion and added that plaques were to be given by families. Voice vote, 4-1, opposed by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried. Mayor McDaniel said the policy would not be sent on to the Town Council.

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 said he was saddened by the resignation of Fire Marshal Bundy and said applications for the position would be fast-tracked. He spoke of his pride in the officers mentioned earlier by Lt. Radford, particularly Officer Stuart, and commented positively on training and supervision. Mayor McDaniel responded to Commissioner Stewart about hiring for the part-time blight officer stating the job description had been approved.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell spoke appreciatively of Officer Stuart as a good cop who has done well and of his dismay about the process for the Wall of Honor.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Gillette spoke of the excellent job of the officers praised this evening and asked about the Town Charter regarding Commission meetings. Mayor McDaniel said he would forward a copy to all. Commissioner Murphy asked Mayor McDaniel about having the fire marshal job description reviewed stating the elimination or renaming of three (3) words “supervisor of paid firefighter” that is incorrect. He also commended Officer Stuart and he would be glad when body cameras are obtained. Commissioner Stewart thanked all of the officers identified this evening and said he hoped the Fire Chiefs would provide similar information. Commissioner Perkins said Fire Marshal Bundy would be missed and thanked the police officers and firefighters for doing their job well.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 5-0; 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.**