

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – March 22, 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 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Mickey Gillette, Jon Leonard, Gary Murphy, Karen Perkins, Stephen Stewart, and Chairman Robert Yuchniuk. Also present were Lt. Dave Radford, Town Council Liaison Lenny Bunnell, and Mayor Ronald McDaniel. Absent was Commissioner James Moran. 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 all Commissioners received copies of the monthly reports.

6. Consideration and action to approve minutes.

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the February 22, 2021. Discussion: none. 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

Lt. Radford reported the PD monthly statistics ending February 28, 2021, are as follows: There were 1198 total calls for service that included Type 1 calls (81), arrests (35), and juvenile arrests (0). The source for these calls were Troop E (149), PD (189), Walk-in (60), and By Officer (613). Lt Radford also reported Officer Lindsey Michaels graduated from the Academy on Friday, March 19. He said no formal ceremony was held due to Covid, but pictures were taken. Officer Michaels is currently continuing on in her FTO phase. Officer Osunniyi will potentially be transitioning to a commuter academy this week. Lt. Radford reported the Montville Police Department received a \$25,000 grant from the Point of View Foundation for the specific purpose of updating their ballistic vests. He thanked Officer Weyel for helping facilitate this grant. Lt. Radford then addressed a final statement made to him by Commissioner Murphy at the last Commission meeting regarding the GLA boat patrol. He said, "As I believe Commissioner was unaware and has since been informed, the Gardner Lake Authority receives bids for the summer boat patrol and decides who they want to patrol the lake. GLA decided last year to use DEEP to patrol the lake. The Montville Police Department has no say in who they choose to patrol the lake. We simply attend their meeting

and explain our proposal and they decide. Sgt. Northrop and I attended their March 11 meeting and gave them our proposal for the 2021 boating season. I only mention this because I did not want this to go unanswered on the public record.”

Fire Department Report

The FD statistics for the month ending February 28, 2021, are as follows: There were 191 calls for service of which 139 were medical EMS calls or 72.8% of all calls for service.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports.

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

Commissioner Perkins read into the record the Mohegan Fire Company statistical activity for February 2021 received from Chief Gaetano as follows: Calls for Service: Total Calls Responded To (117); Total Mohegan Calls (67); Fire (15); EMS (97); Mutual Aid Out-of-Town (5). Total Training Hours for the month 229 ½ as follows: Regular Monthly Training: Sexual Harassment Training & CPR/CCR Training (19 members, 2 hours = 38 Hours); Junior and Probationary Member Training: Continuing hands-on training and signoffs (25 members, 6 ½ hours = 162 ½ Hours); Driver Training: Apparatus and Equipment Operations and Training (6 members, 2 ½ hours = 15 Hours); Online Training: Continuing Education (14 courses completed = 14 Hours). Commissioner Perkins also reported she attended the quarterly Montville Volunteer Fire Relief meeting that determined stipend eligibility for the fire companies as follows: Montville (4); Mohegan (16); Chesterfield (9) and Oakdale (16).

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

Commissioner Murphy read into the record the monthly statistics of the Town and Salem Animal Control for February 2021 as follows:

Animal Control Reports

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (February 2021)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	3	51
# of Animals Sold as Pets	4	26
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	1
Total Complaints Investigated	68	667
Total Animal Bites Investigated	1	18
Total Infractions/Summons	0	1

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (February 2021)

	Month	YTD
# of Animals Impounded	1	8
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	0
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	0

Total Complaints Investigated	4	43
Total Animal Bites Investigated	0	6
Total Infractions/Summons	0	2

c. Report from Police Department Liaison (*Gillette*)
 Commissioner Gillette said Lt. Radford had read the report.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison (*Stewart*)
 Commissioner Stewart read the Building Department monthly statistics for February 2021 into the record as follows:

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	83	73				
Open/Pending Permits (New System)	115	85	101	100	88	85	102	123				
Open Permits (Old System)	3201	3176	3166	3150	3133	3066	3063	3060				
Inspections	103	78	113	119	107	96	131	88				
Plan Reviews	37	17	96	9	20	25	17	11				
CO's	0	3	2	3	7	3	2	1				
Violation Notices		2	2	3	0	2	0	1				
Unsafe Notices		0	0	0	0	0	1	0				
Blight Identified To Date	530*	534*	534	538	538	538	539	539				
Blight Abated To Date	342	345	347*	349	349	351	354	356				

*Corrected numbers.

10. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- *None*

11. Unfinished Business.

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

Town Councilor Bunnell reported he had a discussion with the Town Attorney last week and spoke about changing the wording of the existing ordinance according to one used in Sprague. He asked that the item remain on the agenda.

b. Fire Department Solutions. -- *None*

c. Discussion and action on the Animal Control Facility.

Town Councilor Bunnell reported all options continue to be explored and spoke of a tour of the New London facility last week and of the Norwich facility, both regional options. He said the most cost-effective option is being sought stating the previous Town Council did not move the matter forward and it was left in limbo. Town Councilor Bunnell assured the matter would move forward.

12. New Business.

Commissioner Murphy spoke of requesting from the four (4) fire companies in writing the daily jobs of firefighters alluding to discrepancies of each faction, the Town, fire chiefs, and union. Motion by Commissioner Murphy; seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Discussion: Commissioner Murphy spoke of tasks being done on certain days and the need for a concrete methodology for staff, so everyone is doing the same thing. Commissioner Leonard said there are four (4) chiefs so all will be different; Chairman Yuchniuk said this issue may fall under Item 11b. Town Councilor Bunnell said daily duties are tasked to the individual fire chiefs and if they are not being done, why not? He said interpretation is determined by the Town Attorney, but decisions are made by the fire chiefs. Commissioner Murphy said it would be helpful for the firefighters, the Town, and the union to know what is or is not expected and commented T. Condon has been helpful with procedures. Commissioner Stewart said last October the fire chiefs submitted issues of concern but said nothing has been done as attempts have been made to set a meeting. Town Councilor Bunnell stated the issues were not defined as that of the chiefs. Mayor McDaniel said he would obtain the existing documents vetted by the Town Attorney and said the meeting has been on hold until a fire marshal is in place. Commissioner Murphy withdrew his motion; Commissioner Leonard noted the addition of new business is added at the beginning of a meeting.

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 on the Police Accountability Bill and the GLA stating ENCOM had reduced staffing in the past, but it had now increased. He also reported the pedestrian crossing at Chili's has been changed to a hand signal by the State for fewer accidents. Mayor McDaniel also spoke of the Salem ACO extension, front facing component of the new Building Department software seems to be working, the need to push for a part-time blight officer, and of interviews for fire marshal scheduled for Wednesday night. Commissioner Stewart inquired about the budget status; Mayor McDaniel he has done an initial review but is waiting for the return of the Finance Director. Chairman Yuchniuk asked the patrol boat was ever used in the river; Mayor McDaniel said a new one was needed, and funds would be sought from the DHS.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Bunnell appreciated the effort of Officer Weyel for the grant received by the PD and congratulated Officer Michaels on her graduation from the Academy. He also spoke about patrol of Gardner Lake and said finding someone to patrol was an issue. Town Councilor Bunnell said he hoped the PD's proposal for the upcoming boating season is confirmed.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Gillette congratulated Officer Michaels on her Academy graduation and Officer Weyel for his pursuit of the PD grant. Commissioner Leonard thanked the volunteer firefighters for responding to calls particularly mutual aid ones and thanked the PD for the grant received for new body armor. Commissioner Stewart congratulated Officer Michaels and Officer Weyel and told all to be safe. Commissioner Murphy asked who was on the interview committee for the fire marshal. Chairman Yuchniuk said it included Commissioners Perkins, Gillette, and himself. Commissioner Murphy asked if notice was put out about the committee; Chairman Yuchniuk said “no.” Commissioner Perkins commented on social media posts stating some can be good but said it has not been so lately. She said she will share positive posts but will not engage in negative ones. She also commented on a post about the responsibility of the Commission and said commissioners put in a lot of hours beyond the actual meetings, that community thoughts do not fall on deaf ears, and said the Commission is not a joke. Commissioner Perkins thanked the paid and volunteer firefighters and asked all to stay safe. Chairman Yuchniuk asked all to keep Commissioner Moran in their thoughts and prayers.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 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.**