

Town of Montville
Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairperson May called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Brian Baker, Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Rachael Novak, Nicholas Sabilia, and Kate Southard. Also present was Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

4. Special Recognitions/Presentations

- a. Presentation by DEMHS Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Supervisor Stephen Henrick regarding the transition of Millstone Drills to Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Supervisor Henrick introduced representatives from DEMHS, Dominion Energy Millstone, and Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) who were also in attendance. He discussed the transition of e-alerts from sirens to IPAWS, the purpose of the transition, and reviewed the current and new notification process. The transition, which is set to begin on October 1 within a 10-mile radius of the Millstone Power Station, includes part of Montville. The new platform (Everbridge) will include multiple redundancies in case of failures and a more streamlined and efficient process to notify the public of an emergency. The secondary alert system is CTAlert.

In response to a member of the public regarding the distribution of potassium iodide, DEMHS Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Supervisor Henrick stated that the state distributes tablets to each town and recommended reaching out to the Town's Emergency Management Director. If evacuated, the host towns will also have a supply of tablets. The current tablets, which expire in 2029, will be replenished.

In response to Councilor May, who questioned whether the Town continues to receive services from Everbridge, DEMHS Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Supervisor Henrick stated that the state subscribes to Everbridge, which includes the CTAlert System, which is accessible to all municipalities. A base version of Everbridge is available to all municipalities.

The Councilors expressed their appreciation for the presentation.

5. Alterations to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Novak to remove item 7(a), Executive Session, from the Agenda due to the lack of a vacancy(ies) and lack of public notification regarding the potential vacancy, giving the public an opportunity to submit an application for appointment. Discussion ensued regarding the process and the urgency to appoint a candidate to the Housing Authority.

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Caron, to add the following item to the Agenda:

- 16(d) To Consider and Act on a Motion to discuss the establishment of Employee and Citizen of the Year Awards

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Caron, to add the following item to the Agenda:

- 16(e) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to appoint two (2) Town Council Members to the Permanent Building Committee. (Councilor Baker)

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to add the following item to the Agenda:

- 14(f) To Consider and Act on a Motion to waive the waiting period for appointments, Rule 14C of the Town Council Rules of Procedure, for the Montville Housing Authority.

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-2. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Baker and Novak.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to add the following item to the Agenda:

- 14(g) To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint either Mickey Gillette or Doreen Brycki to fill a vacancy on the Montville Housing Authority with a term to expire on April 30, 2030.

Discussion: In response to Councilor Novak, who questioned the appointment of a candidate when the potential vacancy was not announced to the public, providing residents with the opportunity to submit an application and be interviewed, Chairman May stated that the Housing Authority has not been able to conduct necessary business due to the lack of a quorum. He also stated that interested parties may submit an application for any board/commission, regardless of a vacancy. Voice vote, 5-2. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Baker and Novak.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2026
Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- b. The Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2026 (Land Use Fees)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Executive Session

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Parks & Recreation Commission and Montville Housing Authority. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Sabilia. Discussion: The following candidates were interviewed: The following candidate was interviewed: Doreen Brycki, Montville Housing Authority. The candidate for the Parks & Recreation Commission was not present due to a conflicting engagement. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 7:39 p.m. Chairman May resumed the meeting at 8:05 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit

Vince Young, 375 Chapel Hill Road, Oakdale, posed the following questions:

- What is the plan for Connecticut Boulevard, which was repaved using taxpayer funds and is now being cut for a gas/water line?
- Why has the emergency exit door in Town Council Chambers been closed for the past four (4) months?
- He questioned the qualifications of the candidate for the Permanent Building Committee, citing his appointment as the Clerk of the Works for the Animal Control Facility (Item 14(a)) and its issues, including the substitutions that were made. He questioned whether the substitutions, which were not part of the original contract, were approved by the state, whether the Facility was inspected by the state, and the funding of the liquidated damages for the overrun.

Deb Suarez, 75 Veterans Court, Oakdale, spoke with respect to items 7(a) and 14(e), regarding the interview and appointment to the Montville Housing Authority. She questioned the process, stating the lack of a public notice regarding the potential vacancy and citing the departing member's record on the Authority, which affected its effectiveness. She stated the importance of appointing independent, qualified members who are committed to public service and requested that the appointment be postponed providing the community with the opportunity to submit an application.

Raymond Daniels, 87 Turner Road, Oakdale, spoke with respect to item 14(e), stating that it was his understanding that the outgoing member of the Montville Housing Authority had resigned three (3) times previously and wished to ensure she is not appointed in the future.

Jeff Rogers, 146 Forsyth Road, Oakdale, stated that he had submitted an application to serve on the Montville Housing Authority this morning and was not contacted to attend an interview. He stated that when he served on the Town Council, business was conducted in a fair and respectful manner. After the acceptance of a resignation, the vacancy was announced to the public, allowing interested parties to submit their interest and attend an interview before an individual was appointed. He stated the importance of transparency, following the process, and respecting the residents of the Town.

Kimberly Dole, 19 Sharp Hill Road, Oakdale, expressed her agreement with Councilor Novak regarding the process, adding that, in the business world, a resignation must be accepted and a position must be open before an appointment is made to ensure that all potential candidates have an opportunity to apply, be interviewed, and be considered. She recommended that adaptations to past practices to coincide with the current environment be made.

David Nelson, 50 Holmes Road, Oakdale, Chesterfield Fire Company Chief, spoke on item 9(c) regarding former EMS Captain Stephanie Kneier's letter. He reported that the letter refers to internal matters that are being handled by the Firehouse. The Fire Company, which currently includes five (5) members who are attending the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) class, seeks to grow its membership. He invited the Town Council to an open conversation to discuss the fire district, the Fire Company, its challenges, and plans.

9. Communications

- a. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of July 2026
- b. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of August 2026
- c. Copy of a letter from Former EMS Captain Stephanie Kneier regarding the Operational Readiness of the Chesterfield Fire Company

Chairman May stated that internal affairs are under the purview of the fire companies.

Councilor Novak suggested referring the letter to the Public Safety Commission.

Councilor Caron agreed with Chesterfield Fire Company Chief Nelson's invitation to

meet, discuss, and understand the inner workings of the departments and challenges they face.

10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred

Matters referred to the Town Attorney include:

- Access Agreement for the use of the upper parking lot at the Boat Launch
- Magistrate Ordinance, related to the ATV Ordinance and other such future ordinances
- Property Maintenance Code for apartment complexes
- Animal Control Facility cost overruns

11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred

Public Works Director John Carlson reported that third-party vendors were hired to haul the town's waste and materials while repairs were being made to the Transfer Station's roll-off dumpsters. The 2022 utility body is currently being repaired and will not be in operation for approximately one month. Many trucks are in need of new tires, and overtime costs are increasing due to fallen trees (approximately one per week since July 4). The reclaiming of Maple Drive is expected to be completed tomorrow. After it is reclaimed, the road will be graded, the binder course will be installed, and work will begin on the sidewalks. The guardrail has been installed, and work on the shoulders is being conducted on Butlertown Road. The deficiencies at the Pier are being addressed, and the engineers are working on the boat ramp, which did not meet the specs, at their cost. A §8-24 Review is being conducted by the Planning & Zoning Commission for the Large Pavilion. The Pickleball/Tennis Court Parking Lot is slated for replacement later this month. The bids for the Camp Oakdale Parking Lot will be going out this winter, and the project will be scheduled for June/July 2027; the parking lot will be closed to the public during paving.

Fishing Pier Punch List (Chairman May) – An official notification will be made by Race Engineering to the Contractor.

Community Center Bathrooms (Mayor Bunnell) – The bathrooms are complete and open for use, with the exception of minor items. The basement plumbing is being addressed; the building may be closed while the work is being completed.

Mowing Status (Mayor Bunnell) – One (1) mower is currently in operation; two (2) mowers are being repaired. The mowing will recommence following the completion of the catch basin and drainage work. Complaints are being addressed when received.

Montville Police Department Lieutenant David Radford reported that two (2) officers recently resigned from their positions. A swearing-in ceremony was held for one (1) replacement officer, Tyler Avery Briggs, who will be starting at the Academy in October. The interview process for the second position is in progress. There are currently 10 to 12 animals being housed in the Animal Control Facility.

Land Use & Development Director Dennis Goderre reported that the Town's Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and Housing Plan are underway. The Advisory Committee, comprised of board/commission members and led by Gorman+York, held a roundtable-type discussion regarding a wide range of topics, including senior housing, commercial developments, open space and preservation, TIF Districts, and a community center. A flyer promoting the Montville: Plan of Development Public Kick-off Event on September 29, 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the Montville Community Center is being distributed. Additional events and a survey will also be held. The Town joined the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority and is working with them to identify a development area (town center) and ensure that the area meets the zoning criteria. Once approved, the Town will be eligible to receive funding for various projects in the area. The RFP (Request for Proposal) for the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) Grant for the Meadows

Apartments and WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority) expansion was released, and a pre-bid meeting with six (6) to eight (8) firms was held last week; the bids are due September 15. A webinar-based Community Building Workshop regarding resilience and preparing for weather/climate-related events, facilitated by the Nature Conservancy, will be held on October 14. He recited the dedication plaque, which was funded by an anonymous donor, that will be installed at the Fishing Pier. The Pier will be dedicated to Veterans and late Town Planner Marcia Vlaun this Wednesday. A formal dedication is planned.

Mayor Bunnell recognized and credited Land Use & Development Director Goderre for many of the projects and plans and expressed his appreciation to him and his staff. He reported on the holding of interviews for the vacant Fire Marshal position, which remains vacant. He thanked Councilor Southard, Cindy Breton, and Lisa Scovish for coordinating a successful and well-attended 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, marking its 25th Anniversary. The Firefighters contract was recently signed, and a vacancy for an Administrative Assistant in the Fire Marshal’s office was announced. He also attended the Opening Day for the Soccer season this past weekend and continues to attend as many town meetings as possible.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – *no meeting; no report*

b. Finance

The Board of Education submitted the necessary information, as requested by the Auditors, to help complete the Audit.

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – *see Public Works Director’s report (item 11)*

Councilor Baker cautioned the public of raised structures on Maple Avenue and requested their patience as delays are expected during construction. The completion date is dependent on unanticipated site and weather conditions.

Chairman May confirmed that a performance bond and permit were submitted for the work being conducted by the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA) on Connecticut Blvd. The revised regulations require specific requirements, an inspection process, and a warranty period for repaired roads.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Baker: Public Safety Commission

The Commission did not hold a meeting due to lack of a quorum. The Calls for Service for the month of August were reported as follows:

	Calls for Service	Per Day Average
Fire Department	346	11.16
Police Department	1,009	32.54

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Non-Profit Organizations, Social Services

Councilor Caron is in touch with the Non-Profit Organizations regarding their fiscal needs in preparation for the upcoming budget season.

The Social Services Department provided him with information regarding the donations and community’s needs, including clothing, food, and energy assistance.

The Senior Center was awarded three (3) grants, and a grant application to help fund the purchase of a new Senior Bus is in process. The senior lunches are proving successful. He is seeking additional funding for field trips to various venues.

c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Planning & Zoning Commission

During the Commission’s August Regular Meeting, two (2) applications were continued and one (1) was withdrawn. An application for a two-lot subdivision on

Chapel Hill Road and a CGS §8-24 Review for the future sale of a property located on Maple Avenue were received and continued to their next regularly scheduled meeting. The Zoning Department issued 31 permits and closed 17. The Land Use & Development Director provided the Commission with an update regarding the POCD, Housing Plan, Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, Design Guidelines, and provided a recap of the August 12 group exercise/workshop, as earlier reported. He reminded and encouraged everyone to attend the Plan of Development Public Kick-off event on September 29, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Montville Community Center. The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, at 6:00 p.m.

- d. Councilor Novak: Economic Development Commission, Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund

The Economic Development Commission tabled its discussion regarding TIF Districts. The Commission also did not discuss the Business Outreach Breakfast due to a lack of funds. She also attended the Planning & Zoning Commission's roundtable workshop, which she found interesting, and encouraged everyone to attend the Public Kick-off event and provide their input.

The Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund will hold their next quarterly meeting on October 26.

- e. Councilor Sabilia: Conservation Commission, Water Pollution Control Authority, Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board

The Conservation Commission is installing trail markers at the Conservation Center. Councilor Sabilia thanked Chairman John Guetens for trimming the weeds along the trails and the Garden Club for weeding the Lawton Trail and Town Hall Gardens. Residents interested in joining the Garden Club are encouraged to reach out to him. The Commissioners are also assisting the Avalonia Land Conservancy to prepare for the Bond Property Grand Opening by helping remove invasive plants and trees and conducting trail work.

The Water Pollution Control Authority is launching a new, more user-friendly payment system. They are also conducting hydrant flushing until September 18 from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. During this period, the water may be discolored; customers are advised to allow the water to run clear before use. Sharp Hill Road will be closed on September 19 to connect the recent development to the main line.

The Youth Service Bureau's 20th Annual Penny Drive proved successful, having collected over 50 (fifty) pairs of socks, 75 (seventy-five) chap sticks, and monetary donations that were used to purchase 50 Dunkin' Gift Cards. The Bureau is partnering with Reynolds Subaru for Project Warm-up, which provides winter coats to those in need. A successful and full Summer Program was held with two (2) spots dedicated to children in the custody of DCF (Connecticut Department of Children and Families). They are currently accepting registrations for their Afterschool Program. The homework room was redesigned and now features a custom-built LEGO/Art/Puzzle/Homework table. The *You Good Bro?* Campaign was nominated for another state award. Interested individuals, age 16 and over, may receive free training to earn their EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) Certification through the Chesterfield, Mohegan, Montville, and Oakdale Fire Companies. The Bureau is also partnering with the Montville Police Department and Fire Departments for a Stuff-A-Boot Fundraising event on October 3 and 4, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Montville Commons. All proceeds will support the Montville Animal Welfare Initiative to help fund the spaying, neutering, and medical costs of shelter animals.

- f. Councilor Southard: Board of Education, Farmers Market Committee, Library Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission

The Board of Education meeting was cancelled.

The Farmers Market Committee will be hosting a Spooky Market event on October 17, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., at Camp Oakdale, and a Holiday Market on November 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Tyl Middle School.

The Parks & Recreation Commission did not hold a meeting due to lack of a quorum. During the informational meeting, the Commission discussed various projects, including the privacy screen for the pickleball courts, which will be installed in the spring, and a review of the Commission's budget.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Deane Terry to the Permanent Building Committee with a term to expire on September 7, 2031.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint William Bauer to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire on October 11, 2030.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Full Member Mickey Gillette as an Alternate Member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, effective immediately.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: The appointment was requested by the Commissioner, for personal reasons. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Alternate Member Mark Meyers as a Full Member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, effective immediately.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- e. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Karen Perkins from the Montville Housing Authority, effective immediately.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- f. To Consider and Act on a Motion to waive the waiting period for appointments, Rule 14C of the Town Council Rules of Procedure, for the Montville Housing Authority.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: Councilor Novak. Motion carried.

- g. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint either Mickey Gillette or Doreen Brycki to fill a vacancy on the Montville Housing Authority with a term to expire on April 30, 2030.

Motion made by Councilor Sabilia, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: Based on the interview with Candidate Brycki and her experience and qualifications, Councilor Baker endorsed Candidate Brycki. Councilor Novak opposed voting for either Candidate, stating that the position should have been made open to the public. Voting in Favor of Candidate Gillette: None. Voting in Favor of Candidate Brycki: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Abstention: Councilor Novak. Candidate Brycki was appointed to the Montville Housing Authority.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2026-62. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$35,762.47 (thirty-five thousand seven hundred sixty-two dollars and forty-seven cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- b. **Resolution #2026-63. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to endorse the proposed amendments to the 2022 Montville Plan of Conservation and Development. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- c. **Resolution #2026-64. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the Property Tax Relief and Deadline Waiver for a 100% Service-connected Disabled Veteran under C.G.S. §12-81(83)

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes §12-81(83) provides a 100% property tax exemption on the primary residence of veterans determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability rating; and

WHEREAS, EDWARD VILKISH, a resident of the Town of Oakdale residing at 35 Lake Drive, meets all federal eligibility requirements for said exemption; and

WHEREAS, the veteran was unable to meet the standard local filing deadline because the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs did not finalize and issue the official 100% P&T rating certification letter until **August 4, 2026**; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes the service of its disabled veterans and desires to ensure that federal administrative processing delays do not strip an eligible veteran of a vital, state-mandated financial benefit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of Montville hereby waives the late filing deadline for **EDWARD VILKISH** due to the documented timing of the VA determination, and authorizes the Tax Collector to retroactively apply the C.G.S. §12-81(83) property tax exemption to the 2024 & 2025 Grand List, resulting in a tax abatement/refund in the exact amount of \$3,072.74 (refund) and \$1,736.20.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron,

Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to discuss the establishment of Employee and Citizen of the Year Awards. (Councilor Baker)

After speaking with Councilor Southard, Councilor Baker proposed establishing an annual program to award an Employee of the Year and Citizen of the Year to recognize individuals who go above and beyond. He volunteered to contact other towns who do the same for their guidance and input.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to table the item to the Town Council's September meeting. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- e. **Resolution #2026-65. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to appoint two (2) Town Council Members to the Permanent Building Committee. (Councilor Baker)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz to nominate and appoint Councilors Caron and May to the Permanent Building Committee. Councilor Caron appreciated and declined the nomination and recommended Councilor Baker.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Sabilia, to nominate and appoint Councilors Baker and May to the Permanent Building Committee. Discussion: Mayor Bunnell reminded the Councilors that an additional member-at-large and one Board of Education member are still needed to serve on the Committee. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Caron, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- 17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit

Jeff Rogers, 146 Forsyth Road, Oakdale, questioned whether the FY2025 Audit has been submitted and the status of the water leak at the Fair Oaks Community Center. He also expressed his disappointment with the Councilors, with the exception of Councilor Novak, regarding the appointment of an individual who is employed by the Senior Center as an independent contractor and works with the Senior Center Director/Housing Authority Chairperson, and the appearance of a conflict of interest. He reiterated his concerns that the vacancy was not publicly announced and stated that he submitted an application and was neither contacted nor granted an opportunity to interview for the vacancy. Appointments to the Housing Authority, which serves some of the town's most vulnerable residents, should be based on their qualifications. He believed that the residents deserved better and stated the importance of a fair, open, and transparent process. He requested an explanation regarding why the vacancy was not announced to the public.

Councilor Sabilia stated that the BOE recently submitted the necessary paperwork to the Auditors to finalize the Audit. Mayor Bunnell stated that the leak has been secured and the matter is being addressed. Chairman May invited Mr. Rogers to attend next month's meeting for an interview, adding that applications are valid for a period of one year.

Mr. Rogers stated that he will pay attention to future vacancies and will reapply to serve on the Authority at that time.

Doreen Brycki, 394 Kitemaug Road, Uncasville, Montville Rotary Club President, Dori's Skin & Lash Spa Owner, who provides facials for seniors, supports the Senior Center, and is a former hospice worker, expressed her love for the seniors and the Town of Montville and stated the need for the town to come together.

Deb Suarez, 75 Veterans Court, Oakdale, recalled Ms. Brycki and forgave the Councilors. She stated that governance begins at the top and the importance of following the rules.

Vince Young, 375 Chapel Hill Road, Oakdale, stated his plans to reach out to the Mayor and requested the name of the individual planning the formal dedication of the Pier to arrange for the presence of a color guard.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Novak thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and encouraged them to attend tomorrow evening's Housing Authority meeting and learn about its issues.

Councilor Baker echoed Councilor Novak's comments, adding that the Housing Authority meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at Independence Village, 41 Milefski Drive. He was pleased with this evening's attendance and thanked the public for attending and speaking.

Councilor Sabilia also thanked everyone for staying until the end of the meeting and caring about the Town; the Councilors value their thoughts.

Councilor May also expressed his appreciation for attending the meeting and providing their comments. He announced that Avalonia Conservancy's Grand Opening of the 670-acre Bond Preserve will be held on October 22; the Conservancy is seeking volunteers to help clean the trails every Tuesday, at 9:00 a.m. He also congratulated Councilor Caron on being a new grandfather.

Councilor Caron also thanked everyone for staying for the meeting. He was impressed with Ms. Brycki's interview during Executive Session and commended her for her courage.

Councilor Jaskiewicz thanked everyone for speaking politely and respectfully this evening. He wished everyone a great night.

Councilor Southard also thanked everyone for attending the meeting, adding that she, too, was very impressed with Ms. Brycki. She thanked her for stepping up and felt that Ms. Suarez will be very pleased with the new addition.

Mayor Bunnell stated that he helped flip burgers at the High School Concession Stand on the new grill donated by the Mohegan Tribe, who supports the Town and its residents in countless ways. He also stated that the paving of Connecticut Blvd. was delayed for several years as they anticipated future work. The updated regulations will ensure that the road is repaved, as required. He stated that he had made efforts to form a Building Committee as a member of the Town Council, to no avail. The Clerk of the Works for the Animal Control Facility was a competent, qualified volunteer with many years of experience in the construction industry. Efforts are being made to repair the stairs of the Town Council Chamber's emergency exit, which has been closed due to lack of funding; the Fire Marshal has approved the emergency egress and room capacity. He also expressed his objection and opposition to those motivated to grandstand for political reasons and seek faults rather than make positive contributions.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Sabilia, to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki,
Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S
WEBSITE LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – MEETING RECORDINGS**