Town of Montville
Ad-Hoc Sustainable Materials Management Committee/Town Council
Special Joint Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Town Hall Council Chambers

1. Call to Order
   Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge Of Allegiance

3. Roll Call
   Present were:
   Ad-Hoc Sustainable Materials Management Committee: Councilors Brian Baker and Nick Sabilia, Public Works Director John Carlson, Finance Director Julie Chapman, Transfer Station Foreperson Florence Turner, and Laurence Eiden.

   Town Council: Councilors Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, and Rachael Novak. Absent was Councilor Kate Southard.

   Also present was Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

4. New Business
   a. Presentation by WasteZero and discussion regarding the Sustainable Materials Management Round 2 (SMMR2) Grant Program
      WasteZero President Mark Dancy and Project Manager Kristen Brown, and CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) Materials Management and Compliance Assurance Division Director Joseph DeNicola provided a brief presentation regarding the program.

      CT DEEP Management and Compliance Assurance Division Director DeNicola stated that the program has been a significant priority for both the Agency and the state since the 1990s. He stated the importance of encouraging the public to engage in more responsible disposal and diversion of materials, which results in environmental and economic benefits. Due to the state's continuing decline in disposal options (landfills), its waste is increasingly handled outside the state, resulting in rising costs and volatility. He presented preliminary data from Round 1 of the Program, which includes the separation of food waste from the waste stream. Designing a program that combines Unit-Based Pricing (UBP) with other alternatives is a critical aspect of the program, as households directly realize the increasing cost of waste.

      WasteZero Project Manager Brown provided a brief overview of the Program, which includes three phases. The Town is currently engaged in Phase I of the Program,

which includes meeting with various boards, commissions, groups, and organizations and gathering the public's feedback. Phase II is the implementation of the program, which includes public outreach and education, and Phase III is the institution of the program. As stated earlier, approximately 40% of the state's waste is exported out-of-state, resulting in rising costs. Studies show that Unit-Based Pricing is the most effective way to reduce waste, resulting in a reduction of waste from 900 lbs. per capita in 1990 to 743 lbs. in 2024.

Case studies are available, including short online webinars, which show an immediate reduction in waste. Having the food waste separated from their household waste reduces its weight, reduces carbon methane emissions, and provides nutrients for the soil, resulting in lower tipping, i.e., disposal, fees. In Montville, the current system is subsidized through revenue earned via taxes and sticker fees, resulting in an imbalance for those households who do not utilize the Transfer Station or strive to generate less waste. The projected shift in waste stream materials from all waste to recycling, food scraps, source reduction (behavior changes), and waste is predicted to result in an overall cost savings of approximately $760,000.00 in tipping fees and $1 million overall over 10 years. Scenarios based on the recovery of all of the residential tipping fees (estimated $108,113.00) and either 100%, 75%, or 50% of the labor costs were presented to help determine the bag cost. The Program would allow the Town to fund a system that would cost less and be more efficient while still providing the same service. It is a fairer system for those who are making an effort to reduce waste as well as those who do not utilize the Transfer Station on a regular basis or at all.

Food Scrap Limitations (Councilor Novak) – Food scraps collected include meat, bones, bread, and other materials that are not recommended for home composting. Funds are included in the program to provide free composting buckets.

Enforcement (Town Council Chairman May) – While there are those who will not strive to reduce their waste, most households will take advantage of the incentives to reduce their waste.

Bag Vendor (Town Council Chairman May) – During the first year, WasteZero will supply the bags. Thereafter, it is recommended that the Town issue an RFP (Request for Proposal) for bag vendors. The bags will be available, tax-free, through various businesses located throughout the Town; a monthly consolidated report will be made available to the Town for financing purposes. Discussion ensued regarding the management of the funds from the revenue earned from the selling of the bags by the various vendors.

Status of Program Participants (Committee Member Eiden) – During the first round, five (5) communities participated in and are continuing the program. There are 9 to 10

communities who have been offered the grant, and the Town of Litchfield is moving forward with the program in November while other towns are in the initial phase of the process.

Bag Price (Councilor Novak) – 80 to 90% of the towns charge $2.00 to $3.00 per bag. Additional feedback will be solicited from the community, which will help determine the pricing of the bags.

Roadside Bags (Councilor Novak) – In their experience, no additional garbage was disposed of along the roadside as a result of the program.

Councilor Baker reported that 1,545 stickers have been sold to date this fiscal year, which is less than the previous year. Those who do not utilize the transfer station will save money by shifting the cost to those who do, and the taxpayers will witness a reduction in their taxes for the transfer station costs. He expressed his appreciation to and commended the Committee for their ongoing input and feedback. A presentation will be provided at the Senior Center and the program will be promoted in their upcoming newsletter. He hopes to introduce the selected model to the Town Council in October and implement the program soon thereafter and align the official start of the program with the fiscal year. Discussion ensued regarding the current and proposed program and their relevant costs.

Chairman Baker thanked everyone for attending the meeting and providing their input.

5. Public Comment – 3-minute time limit – *none*

6. Adjournment
   Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Novak, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 10-0, 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