TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – September 28, 2026 -- 6:00 PM
Town Council Chambers – Montville Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comments by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced.

1. Call to order.
Chairperson Murphy 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 Chairperson Gary Murphy, Vice-Chair Stephen Stewart and Commissioners, Mickey Gillette, Stephen Lougee and Karen Perkins. Absent were Commissioners Tracy Callaghan and William Bauer. A quorum was present.

4. Alterations to the Agenda
Motion by Commissioner Lougee, seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to revisit the Public Safety 2012 Almont Study as New Business, Item 10.a. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 5-0-0. Motion Approved**.

5. Communications:
Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police Department, Animal Control and Building Official.
Chairperson Murphy reported that the statistical reports for the month ending August, 2026 were received from each department. Vice-Chair Stewart noted that Montville Fire Company has been a little backlogged but that it is good to see reports from them. Two (2) communications to the Leadership and Board of Directors of Chesterfield EMS dated August 6, 2026 and Mayor Bunnell and the Town Council dated August 10, 2026 respectfully from Stephanie Kneier were included in the Commission meeting packet.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve minutes:
a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2026.
Motion by Commissioner Gillette, seconded by Commissioner Lougee to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2026. Discussion: Vice-Chair Stewart noted amendments to the minutes as follows: Item 10 the "*Mohegan*" Fire Chief; not Montville and Item 12.a to send the prototype of the Fire Marshal patch *to the acting Fire Marshal for review and consideration*. **Motion** by Vice-Chair Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Lougee

to approve the Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2026, as amended. **Voice vote: 5-0-0**, **all in favor**. **Motion Approved.**

7. Remarks from the Public. (Agenda items only).

Chairperson Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

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8. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford read into the meeting record the Animal Control reports for the months ending July 31, 2026 and August 31, 2026. This data can be found under Agenda Item 9B. The Lieutenant also reported that one (1) vacancy was filled by Tyler Briggs who was sworn in and will start at Post Academy this Friday. in Meriden in January. One (1) vacancy remains and the pool of four (4) candidates will be reviewed for the next opening at the Academy in January.

Fire Marshal Report

A fire activities report was submitted by Deputy Fire Marshal Roberts for the month ending August 31, 2026 and read into record by Commissioner Perkins as follows:

Fire Marshal's Office Activities	August 2026
Inspections of Businesses and Apartments by DPM for fire codes	**47**
Reinspection of Businesses and Apartments	**16**
Complaint Investigations	**3**
New Permits Issued	**4**
Fire Investigations	**1**
Permit Inspection Reviews	**1**
Planned Reviews	**4**
Burn Permits Issued	**23**
Enforcement Notices	**2**

Deputy Fire Marshal Roberts is working on updating the Local Emergency Municipality Operation Plan (LEOP) with DAMHS and had a monthly meeting with DAMHS to complete the Emergency Management Performance Grant. Work is also being done for a potential mutual aide fire marshal agreement.

9 Committee and Liaison Reports:

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

Commissioner Perkins read into the record Montville Fire Activity statistics for the months ending July 31, 2026 and August 31, 2026 as follows:

Montville Fire Activity—July 2026

Total Calls:	**327**	
Fire Calls:	**99**	**4 assists out of town**
Ambulance Calls:	**228**	**1 assist out of town** **3 assists from out of town**

Montville Fire Activity—August 2026		
Total Calls:	**327**	
Fire Calls:	**55**	**3 assists out of town**
Ambulance Calls:	**272**	**4 assists out of town** **1 assist from out of town**

Commissioner Perkins noted that her report did not include data from the Mohegan Tribe for fire activity assists. Going forward, she will request and include that information into the fire activity report as concurred by Vice-Chair Stewart.

Montville Fire Company (August 2026)

Incidents:	**Total**
Medical Calls: (54.5%)	**36**
Public Service Calls: (25.8%)	**17**
Hazardous Situation Calls: (10.6%)	**7**
No Emergency Calls: (1.5%)	**1**
Fire Calls (7.6%)	**5**
Total Calls:	**66**

Mohegan Fire Company (August 2026)

Incidents/Calls:	**In District**	**CO1**	**CO3**	**CO4**	**Mutual Aid**
EMS	**86**	**59**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Lift Assist	**9**	**9**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Fire Alarm	**5**	**4**	**4**	**6**	**0**
MVA	**6**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**1 (Preston)**
Structure Fire	**2**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Utility Emergency	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**
CO Emergency	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Motor Vehicle Fire	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
HAZMAT	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Service Call	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Townwide Coverage	**8**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Elevator Entrapment	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Station Coverage	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1 Gales Ferry**
Total Calls: 218	**118**	**81**	**6**	**11**	**2**

No Volunteers on calls in districts: 84
Ambulance Transports with no paid staff: 2
Ambulance Transports by other Departments in District: 15
Ambulance Transports from other districts 51

Oakdale Fire Company (August 2026)—No report

Incidents:	**Total**
Medical Calls:	
Public Service Calls:	
Hazardous Situation Calls:	
No Emergency Calls:	
Fire Calls:	
Total Calls:	

Chesterfield Fire Company (August 2026)

Incidents:	**Total**
No Emergency Calls: (4.5%)	**3**
Medical Calls: (45.5%)	**30**
Hazardous Situation Calls: (15.2%)	**10**
Fire Calls (1.5%)	**1**
Public Service (33.3%)	**22**
Total Calls: (100%)	**66**

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

The June 2026 statistics for Animal Control Activity Reports for the Towns of Montville, Colchester, Salem, Bozrah and Mohegan Tribe were submitted by Police Officer/ACO Bruce Rebelo. These reports were read into the record under Agenda Item 8 as follows:

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (July/August 2026)

Activity	July 2026	July YTD FY	August 2026	August YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	25	25	11	36
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	5	5	4	9
# of Animals D.O.A.:	0	0	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	111	111	110	221
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	5	5	1	6
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0	2	2

Town of Colchester Animal Control Report (July/August 2026)

Activity	July 2026	July YTD FY	August 2026	August YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	7	7	3	10
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	2	2	1	3
# of Animals D.O.A.:	1	1	0	1
# of Animals Euthanized:	0	0	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	18	18	12	30
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	0	0	2	2
Total Enforcement Action:	0	0	0	0

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (July/August 2026)

Activity	July 2026	July YTD FY	August 2026	August YTD FY

# of Animals Impounded:	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
# of Animals D.O.A.:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
# of Animals Euthanized:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Complaints Investigated	**4**	**4**	**6**	**10**
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**
Total Enforcement Action:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Town of Bozrah Animal Control Report (July/August 2026)

Activity	July 2026	July YTD FY	August 2026	August YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**
# of Animals Sold as Pets:	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**
# of Animals D.O.A.:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
# of Animals Euthanized:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Complaints Investigated	**3**	**3**	**1**	**4**
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**
Total Enforcement Action:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Mohegan Tribe Animal Control Report (July/August 2026)

Activity	July 2026	July YTD FY	August 2026	August YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

# of Animals Sold as Pets:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
# of Animals D.O.A.:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
# of Animals Euthanized:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Complaints Investigated	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Total Animal Bites Investigated:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Enforcement Action:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

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

Commissioner Gillette read into the record the Police Department statistics for the month ending August 31, 2026, as follows:

Police Department Activity – August 2026	**Total**
Total Calls for Service	**1009**
Citations:	
Infractions :	**20**
Juvenile Summons:	**0**
Misdemeanors:	**6**
Written Warnings:	**130**
Total Citations:	**156**

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

The Building Department of statistics for July 2026 or August 2026 emailed the Commission on September 15, 2026 as follows:

2025-2026 Building Department Report												
	July	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**June**
Permits Issued	**118**	**80**	**102**	**161**	**99**	**108**	**74**	**78**	**109**	**119**	**159**	**139**
Pending Permits	**71**	**90**	**62**	**22**	**38**	**9**	**12**	**89**	**90**	**72**	**60**	**147**
Inspections	**151**	**123**	**143**	**167**	**142**	**181**	**106**	**103**	**104**	**182**	**164**	**146**
Active Blight	**298**	**302**	**305**	**308**	**303**	**306**	**311**	**316**	**318**	**325**	**319**	**326**

Blight Abated To Date	**573**	**575**	**590**	**594**	**596**	**601**	**604**	**608**	**609**	**612**	**614**	**618**
Blight--Pending	**11**	**9**	**6**	**3**	**2**	**6**	**4**	**6**	**3**	**6**	**8**	**6**
Blighted Property Liens												

2026-2027 Building Department Report												
	July	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**June**
Permits Issued	**120**	**89**										
Pending Permits	**44**	**45**										
Inspections	**62**	**167**										
Active Blight	**328**	**336**										
Blight Abated To Date	**623**	**625**										
Blight--Pending	**9**	**3**										
Blighted Property Liens												

10. <u>Remarks from Fire Chiefs.</u>

Chesterfield Fire Chief Nelson commented on the correspondence sent to the Town Council from Former EMS Captain Steph Kneier concerning Operational Readiness—matters that should have been addressed in-house and will be. The Chesterfield Fire Company works to grow its membership and EMS personnel and its working operations. Five (5) members are currently attending EMS class. The fire company would like to meet with members of the Public Safety Commission and the Town Council for a more open and in depth conversation about its fire district, the state of the company and how it is overcoming challenges to move forward. An invitation to meet at the fire company was extended to the Commission as well as availability so a date can be set. The Chief has met with Commissioner Lougee and is still trying to meet with Commissioner Perkins. Chairperson Murphy noted that if three (3) or more meet it must be posted as a meeting; instead he recommended that two (2) meet at a time.

Mohegan Fire Chief Suarez reported on a letter received this afternoon from a resident concerning a call to her home where Montville and Mohegan Fire Companies were present. The resident spoke of her appreciation online and enclosed with her letter a small gift card for dinner for the crew that was present concerning the crash through a guard rail at her home.

11. Unfinished Business.

a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve a Policy to systemize and retain firefighter data to observe trends and effectiveness.

Chairperson Murphy reported not having any update regarding this agenda item. Mayor Bunnell commented on a recent accomplishment by Nextgen on emergency networking to capture information concerning calls for office and Fire Marshal inspections as well as access to information from the four (4) fire companies. Mohegan Fire Chief Suarez reported having been told that there was not a way to obtain information from the other companies. Instead, there are four (4) separate accounts that are not accessible among the companies who are relied upon to provide individual department reports. Mayor Bunnell will check on the same.

b. Update to the Fire Companies' radio system.

Steve Frischling, Chief Executive Officer of the Chesterfield Fire Company, reported that work continues to get onto the State radio system including documentation and radios have been selected.

12 New Business.

a. Review and reconsideration of the 2012 Almont Study.

Commissioner Lougee received a copy of the Almont Study from the Town Clerk that included 144 recommendations, some that were at low cost and simple to do. The document is still valid, so the question is why nothing was done. Chairperson Murphy, who was the fire chief at Oakdale when the study commissioned, described it as a cookie cutter plan and/or fire company specific, that was brought before the Town Council with no follow through. A team was sent to Oakdale where a member went through the files with the investigation group who were said to be happy, satisfied with the cooperation. The finding of the study distinguished that the fire company did not assist with the project as information was not computerized in addition to other misinformation. The Chairperson has a copy of the study that he will email to the Commission as some of the information is useful. Questions can be directed to him and further discussed at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Perkins spoke about her involvement regarding the study and Commissioner Lougee cited fiscal responsibility and doing what is right for the Town of Montville as the Commission owes the people it services with due diligence. Discussion concerning the study reflected about the existence of 16 paid firefighters currently on staff and a purpose to develop a plan of support for an organized police department. The increased cost for the firefighters increased the Town mill rate by 2.5 mills that nearly went to referendum. Development support is needed to move forward. Additional discussion noted the purpose of the plan for support attract development to pay for rising costs, all of which was referenced by Mayor Bunnell.

13. Remarks from the Public *three-minute limit*.

Steve Frischling remarked about the report of Deputy Fire Marshal read into the record by Commissioner Perkins and thereafter commented about the deadline for the grant that and his willingness to assist with it. Kimberly Dole remarked on information as seen on 60 Minutes

about procuring demo fire trucks a cost far less with almost the same specifications. She deemed it as a good opportunity and how to make it for the Town.

14. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell remarked on receipt of four (4) applications for the fire marshal vacancy on October 5th. Congratulations was given to all Public Safety personnel who were active during the recent, large storms that caused road closures and 30-plus EM calls. Appreciation was given to Deputy Fire Marshal Roberts for his efforts and dealing with the paid staff. It was noted that fire trucks have been put into the CIP for the future.

15. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Baker echoed the comments of Mayor Bunnell with sincere thoughts to Public Safety and Public Works regarding the monsoon. The prompt, efficient responses were praised and thanks was given to all personnel for keeping the community safe and returning safely to their families. Also noted about the Almont Study, was the inclusion of the new police department and communication center that has been addressed.

16. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Lougee remarked that the POCD did not meet last month, and he reiterated the three (3) ideas that he spoke about that were charged for discussion from each Commission representative. A workshop will be held tomorrow at Fair Oaks on the same. His ideas were (1) fire protection inclusively to include hydrants, road, water tanks et al, (2) firefighter staffing and (3) the police department. The Commissioner also addressed an incident reported by two (2) firefighters at Chesterfield Fire Company--spoiled food and a smelly bunkroom—that were referred to the Deputy Fire Marshal as a first line of communication. He also referenced having to cohabitate and work together as a team and acknowledged the resignation of Chris Dennis. Commissioner Perkins wished luck to the new police officer at training camp. She also acknowledged and thanked the Chairperson Murphy acknowledged the great job done by Public Safety personnel during the storm particularly given how hard it is to work in them. She also acknowledged and thanked the Mohegan Fire Company for attending the Montville Veterans Fundraiser on Friday, July 31st at the Senior Center parking lot. Their support and presence at the event were greatly appreciated. Additionally, she thanked the Montville Fire Company for generously allowing us to use one of their trucks for the event. Vice-Chair Stewart thanked the first responders who dealt with the loss of power, the closed roads and the downed lines as a result of the storm this past weekend. He also welcomed new police officer Tyler Briggs. He also agreed that taking another look at the Almont Study was deserved. He noted some items from it have been incorporated and the Town Council did not accept it as it would have had to accept all of it. Chairperson Murphy acknowledged the great job of the Public Safety personnel and their hard work during the storms. He also thanked Steve Frischling for the weather updates.

17. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Perkins; seconded by Vice-Chair Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 6-0-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted by:
Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WEBSITE.