

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, December 2, 2024 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Richard Brantner, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Richard A. Brantner, President P. Robert Dickson, Charles E. Kensinger, Pro-Tem, Councilman James C. Dell, and Councilman Neil E. Gartland (*Janet Blattenberger, Darin Meck and Ed Bennett were absent*)

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Attorney Nathan Karn, Amy Hockenberry Dustin Russell, Sandy Weyandt, Rob Craig, Larry Cardone, Jessica Reilly and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald.

Rob Craig, Larry Cardone and Jessica Reilly of the **HOLLIDAYSBURG AMBULANCE** attended to update council on how things are going. A year-to-date report reveals the following number of calls in the following areas:

Martinsburg	422
North Woodbury Twp.	238
Roaring Spring	217
Huston Twp.	22

Hollidaysburg Ambulance will have a unit in the police department's Christmas Cruise next week. They recently lost two paramedics but then gained two more back so Martinsburg still has 98% coverage for twenty-four hours seven days a week. Getting paramedics has been difficult nationwide. Classes are held for recruitment. The ambulance service also has a cooperative agreement with the Altoona Technical School. You must be eighteen years of age to be an Emergency Medical Technician.

(Rob Craig and Larry Condone left at 7:05 p.m.)

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of November 4, 2024 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for November 2024 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for November 2024, check nos. 11542-11566 in the amount of \$147,721.13 approved on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Neil Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written.

Police Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The Annual Christmas Cruise with Santa will be done on December 10th. The police department along with other police departments and the emergency service units drive through the campuses of The Village and Homewood and through the streets of Martinsburg. Neil Gartland was reviewing the solar speed sign data and questioned the totals of incoming and outgoing traffic did not seem to add up.

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BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

NOV 4 – Brightspeed started running the new **FIBER INTERNET** throughout town

NOV 19 - hung **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

NOV 22 – **BRIAN MILLER’S** official last day

NOV 26 – installed **NEW LED LIGHT FIXTURES** in the Borough Office – Penelec is offering all kinds of different rebates on lighting – they are charging \$8 right now for fixtures that normally cost \$40 and bulb are only \$1 each now – new lights were also installed at the wastewater treatment plant

-The **NEW STREET SWEEPER** is expected to arrive on December 10th.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the heater in the truck bay at the ambulance building is not working. *Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, approved to replace the heater at the **AMBULANCE BUILDING** in the truck bay for an estimated cost of \$1,500-2,000 to be paid for from the Building Maintenance Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

Charles Kensinger mentioned that last month members of the **BOOSTERS ASSOCIATION** case to request permission for the Christmas tree display. The display is done. They did a wonderful job and council was very appreciative of their work.

The demo street sweeper from Bortek was purchased but not yet received. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, voted to reject the bid from **SPEEDY AUTOMOTIVE** for the used street sweeper. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, adopted **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1202-01 FOR THE 2025 REAL ESTATE TAX** to maintain the rate of 1.967 mills. The motion passed unanimously.*

Attorney Nathan Karn advised that roll call votes are required for **TAX ORDINANCES**.

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Neil Gartland, adopted **ORDINANCE NO. 2024-649 2025 PER CAPITA TAX** to maintain the rate of \$5.00. Roll Call vote was as follows: 4 Yays from Rob Dickson, Charles Kensinger, James Dell and Neil Gartland (Ed Bennett, Janet Blattenberger and Darin Meck were absent); 0 Nays. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, adopted **ORDINANCE NO. 2024-650 2025 EARNED INCOME TAX** to maintain the rate of ½ of 1 percent. Roll Call vote was as follows: 4 Yays from Rob Dickson, Charles Kensinger, James Dell and Neil Gartland (Ed Bennett, Janet Blattenberger and Darin Meck were absent); 0 Nays. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Charles Kensinger, adopted **ORDINANCE NO. 2024-651 2024 LOCAL SERVICES TAX** to maintain the rate of \$52. Roll Call vote was as follows: 4 Yays from Rob Dickson, Charles Kensinger, James Dell and Neil Gartland (Ed Bennett, Janet Blattenberger and Darin Meck were absent); 0 Nays. The motion passed unanimously.*

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*Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Charles Kensinger, adopted the **2025 BUDGET** which requires **NO** real estate tax increase as advertised for the required 10-day public inspection period. The motion passed unanimously. period. The motion passed unanimously.*

FUND	ESTD BEG BALANCE JAN 1, 2025	REV	EXP	ESTD END BALANCE DEC 31, 2025
GENERAL OPERATING FUND	260,193	1,009,380	1,009,380	260,193
HIWAY LIQUID FUELS	229,253	66,264	90,450	205,067
EQUIPMENT - FNB	161,402	41,600	9,062	193,940
MEDICAL CARE REIMBURSEMENT	6,754	2,500	3,500	5,754
CHRISTMAS LIGHT FUND	1,712	555	-	2,267
REVITALIZATION PROJECT	1,014	40	-	1,054
BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND	65,159	7,200	-	72,359
POLICE PISTOL RANGE FUND	10,602	600	-	11,202
LONDON WEAVER MEMORIAL FUND	1,560	-	-	1,560
RECYCLING CENTER	4,933	10,950	10,450	5,433
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN	61,873	-	10,478	51,395
	-	-	-	-
	804,456	1,139,089	1,133,320	810,225

With the new street sweeper arriving on December 10 we will need to make room for it in the borough garage. The old street sweeper is a 1991 but was purchased used in 2003. It has been having mechanical problems. It smokes badly when running because the rings are going bad. Joe Hoover looked at our old street sweeper for free for us to give us an idea what the value of it is. Also a quote of \$1,500 was received on what it would be worth if it was not fixed and was scrapped. Duncansville Borough is interested in buying the street sweeper from us at a reasonable price since it will need a lot of work to rebuild the motor. *Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, to approve to sell the **OLD 1991 STREET SWEEPER** to Duncansville Borough for a cost of \$1,500.00 as is. The motion passed unanimously.*

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. received an email from **COMCAST** requesting to bring their cable to the borough. A copy of the contract was also emailed. Attorney Nathan Karn does not specialize in cable contracts as it is a federal regulated area so he is recommending the borough use Attorney Cohen to review the contract. The cable contract that Comcast emailed had a zero percent franchise fee which would give them an unfair advantage over Breezeline which has a 5% franchise fee. It is important that there is not an inequity of 0% and 5% between the two cable companies when reviewing the contracts. Freedom Township is also interested in having Attorney Cohen look into the Comcast agreement for them. We would get a discount with Attorney Cohen if we go in with Freedom Township to have him review both contracts. It will cost the borough \$6,210.00 for Attorney Cohen to review the contract but we would get that cost back after a few years. Cohen is going to try to get back one-half of the \$6,210.00 for each municipality from Comcast in the agreement. Having two cable companies in town would give our residents a choice. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, to approve*

*to hire Attorney Cohen to review the **COMCAST CABLE AGREEMENT** for a cost of \$6,210.00 to be paid for from the Reserve Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

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The Police Policy Manual is required to be approved by council and copies have been made available for months. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Neil Gartland, adopted the **MARTINSBURG BOROUGH POLICE POLICY MANUAL** as presented to council.* The motion passed unanimously. The manual is updated every five years.

Minutes of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S** meeting of November 11, 2024 were included in the agenda. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that it has been a busy off and on and they had a structural burning class in Curryville.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:54 p.m. on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary