

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**MAY 6, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, May 6, 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:** President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Ed Bennett, Pro-Tem Charles E. Kensinger, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Neil E. Gartland and Councilman Darin B. Meck [arrived 7:05 p.m.]  
*(Mayor Richard Brantner was absent)*

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Sarah Detwiler, Nichole Nagle and Rob Craig of the Hollidaysburg Ambulance, and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald

Sarah Detwiler of 106 Locust Street inquired if anything could be done about her neighbors riding their **SCOOTERS** on the sidewalk in front of her house. Some of the councilpersons have also been seeing scooters running into other peoples' yards and running in front of cars. Chief Hoover is going to look into it.

Rob Craig of the **HOLLIDAYSBURG AMBULANCE** attended to update council on the ambulance activities and to apologize for not bringing the newly appointed Martinsburg representative Brandon Weber in front of council to approve as he wasn't aware of the past procedure. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. explained that in the past council has always chosen and approved of the Martinsburg ambulance board representative. The board members each have two-year terms. Rob Craig would like to attend the council meeting every other month to keep council updated on the ambulance.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** on personnel was held from 7:17-7:20 p.m.

*Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved the appointment of **BRANDON WEBER** as the Martinsburg representative to the Hollidaysburg Ambulance board for a two-year term. The motion passed unanimously.*

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of April 1, 2024 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for April 2024, check nos. 11330-11356 in the amount of \$106,434.30 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

**MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER** was not present so his report was presented as written.

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The department will be getting three laptops, five portable radios, three mobile radios and one base station from the county **GRANT** at no cost to the borough. The items are probably worth about \$8,000. Compros will come here to install the units. Training will be needed on the radios. The radios should last about ten years. The radios will be coded/scrambled so outside listeners cannot here sensitive information. The county did a great job on the grant!

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Chief Kerry Hoover did a laptop presentation of the data and statistics downloaded from one of the **SOLAR SPEED SIGNS** for council to see. The statistics were for a fifteen day period. East Allegheny Street had the highest number of vehicles. Chief Hoover was interested in doing a 24-hour download on parade day to see the number of vehicles. He would like to do a statistics report on a monthly basis for council to review.

Chief Hoover is researching the **ELECTRIC SCOOTER ISSUE** and will be reviewing the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code and will have a report next month. Assistant Chief Davis has approached several kids already about riding them on the road. The department will encourage parents to watch their kids.

Janet Blattenberger had **CONCERNS** about roller blading on the streets as well as scooters. Dog owners walking their dogs and picking up their feces is also a big concern she had.

**BOROUGH MANAGER** Rich Brantner reported:

MAR 11 – received an email from Senator Casey’s office that the authority was awarded a million-dollar **GRANT** for a new elevated tank for at the airport

MAR 12 –Congressman John Joyce called me and told me we were awarded a million-dollar **GRANT** for the elevated water tank and awarded \$700,000 for a water transmission line from the Hershberger Well to the water plat at the well field

MAR 26 – put up all three **RADAR SPEED SIGNS** on West and East Allegheny Streets and South Market Street coming into town

- We are in the process of setting up an **ONLINE BILL PAY** for water and sewer payments

APR 2 – attended the **TERRY LONG** viewing – he will be greatly missed and did a lot for the Martinsburg area

APR 3 & 4 – had high flows at the **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT** – the labor crew took shifts throughout the night to watch over the plant

APR 8 – Grannas Brothers **STARTED MILLING** on the state highway in town

APR 9 – Grannas Brothers **FINISHED MILLING** in town

APR 16 – Grannas Brothers **PAVED** parts of E. & W. Allegheny Streets and all of N. Market Street to Forshey Street

APR 25 – received a new **SEWER JET** to help unplug sewer mains – we also received training on it that same day

APR 27 – the annual **SPRING CLEANUP** was held from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

MAY 1 – **SPRAYED WEEDS** along the curbs throughout town

MAY 2 – **PAINTED** cross walks and speed lines

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Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. thanked all the council members, employees and all the other volunteers that helped with **SPRING CLEANUP** as it couldn't have happened without all their help.

175 residents participated  
10 skids of electronic  
4 roll off dumpsters of 8.37 tons of junk  
4 roll off dumpsters of junk metal

Janet Blattenberger reported that she was appreciative for the **STATE HIGHWAY PAVING** at the intersection. She mentioned that Homewood has been approached with a **COMCAST** questionnaire. Mayor Brantner had mentioned in his report that he is checking into it. It was noted that Homewood is not in the borough. She also mentioned that **HERBERT L. DECKER TRASH HAULING** is selling out to Weaver's Sanitation Service effective June 1, 2024.

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily mentioned that the **2023 BOROUGH AUDIT** has been completed by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz.

Rob Dickson reported on a finance matter that the borough has been making considerably more **INTEREST** over the past twelve months than over the previous twelve months. Not only has the interest rate gone up but he thanked the borough staff for monitoring the accounts more closely to ensure the FNB rates stay comparable to PLGIT.

Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. got a price for a fourth solar speed sign. The cost of one is \$3,750 but if we purchase three the cost is only \$3,100 (3 x \$3,100=\$9,300). North Woodbury Township is interested in getting two signs so he recommended ordering our one in conjunction with their two to get the cheaper price. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved to purchase a fourth **SOLAR SPEED SIGN** for \$3,100 from Elan City to be paid from the Highway Liquid Fuels Fund. The motion passed unanimously.* Since the signs can be easily moved with the bucket truck one can be moved to Spring Street and another one to S. Walnut Street for a while.

Three bids were received for the 2024 Paving Project as follows:

New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.	\$66,466.55
Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Co.	\$60,930.45
Cottle's Asphalt Maintenance, Inc.	\$78,125.71

*Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Janet Blattenberger accepted the lowest bid from Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Co. for the **2024 PAVING PROJECT** in the amount of \$60,930.45 subject to our solicitor's approval after reviewing the bid package. The motion passed unanimously.*

Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. reported that the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company had a successful chicken barbeque fund raiser this past weekend selling 450 meals.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:20 p.m. on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary