

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 3, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, February 3, 2025 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, Vice-President Edward L. Bennett, Pro-Tem Charles E. Kensinger, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell, and Councilman Neil E. Gartland and Councilman Darin B. Meck

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Assistant Chief Justin Davis, Attorney Nathan Karn, Amy Hockenberry, Dustin Russell, Sandy Weyandt, Reba Stuller, Mike Rouch and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald.

**MIKE ROUCH** was present to announce that he is running for Blair County Judge in the 2025 election. He is currently an attorney in the Altoona Office of Quatrini Law Group. He is married, with two adult daughters, and lives in Duncansville.

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of January 6, 2025 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for December 21-31, 2024 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for December 21-31, 2024, check nos. 11602-11615 in the amount of \$9,138.04 approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for January 1-20, 2025 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for January 1-20, 2025, check nos. 11616-11635 in the amount of \$56,732.91 approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

**MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER** presented his report as written.

Police Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. We received one application for the position of **FULL-TIME OFFICER**. The police department has photos of all the **POLICE CHIEFS** since 1912. Chief Kerry Hoover is Police Chief no. 9 and Justin Davis will be Police Chief No. 10. The **2020 POLICE CRUISER** is out of commission. It was taken to Stuckey's two weeks ago and may need a new engine. They currently only have the older style engines to replace it and there is an upcoming recall which will replace the engine with a new style engine once they are made available. The car will end up getting two new engines by the time the recall is out that of which should all be under warranty. The police department is thankful they have three police cars.

**BOROUGH MANAGER** Rich Brantner reported:

JAN 8 – hauled **SNOW** out of town

JAN 10 – did the title transfer with Duncansville Borough for the **OLD STREET SWEEPER**

JAN 11 –plowed 2-inches of **SNOW**

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JAN 15 – put new **LED BULBS** in the hallway and the police department

JAN 22 – it was -8° out in the morning and it didn't warm up much at all – we had a few **WATER LINE FREEZE UPS** in homes

JAN 23 – T. L. Long Excavating started hauling out the **COMPOST** – they hauled for two days at our expense and at their own expense the third day

JAN 25 – Saturday morning we repaired an **EMERGENCY WATER LEAK** on S. Walnut Street

JAN 31 – used the **NEW STREET SWEEPER** to sweep some of the main streets

Janet Blattenberger suggested the borough consider adopting a leaf ordinance so the borough could pick up **LEAVES** at resident curbs one day a week. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. explained that the new street sweeper wasn't designed for that large of a job as it only had the capacity for 3-4 cubic yards and we also do not have a large enough work force to do such a job.

Neil Gartland reported that the municipal authority passed their 2025 Budget on January 16<sup>th</sup> to include a **19% WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE** effective June 1, 2025. Water rates were last increased in 2016 and sewer rates were last increased in 1992. The increase will cost a minimum user less than \$7 per month. We are still one of the cheapest water and sewer rates in the county.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that he and East Freedom were on a conference call with the attorney regarding the **COMCAST FRANCHISE**. They are still working on it.

Help Wanted advertisements went out requesting applications for the **FULL-TIME POLICE POSITION** due in by today at 4:30 p.m. One application has been received. It is up to the Civil Service Committee to approve three applicants for council to decide from. In this case it will be one applicant. This applicant must pass the civil service test. Hiring fulltime in the police department is now a longer procedure than before.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** was held from 7:26-7:34 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, to retain **TODD BOOKHAMMER** at a full-time borough employee since his 90 day probationary period is over and increase his wage by \$1.00 per hour (from \$20 per hour to \$21 per hour). The motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S** meeting of January 13, 2025 were included in the agenda packets. Tickets are now on sale for the Dutch Meal.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:36 p.m. on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary