

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. 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, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Mark K. Gartland, 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 Justin Davis, Attorney Nathan Karn, Patrolman Tom Lykens, Matt Replogle and Nicole of the Hollidaysburg Ambulance, Reba Stuller and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald

Nicole Nagle of the **HOLLIDAYSBURG AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION** was present along with Matthew Replogle. She reported that they had 41 calls in Martinsburg Borough and 34 in North Woodbury Township in August. These calls include calls from residents, retirement homes, stores and roadways.

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of August 4, 2025 were approved with a correction to adding Nicole Nagle in the list of attendance and correcting that it was James Dell who made the motion and Darin Meck made the second for adjournment, on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Neil Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for August 2025 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for August 2025, check nos. 11850-11882 in the amount of \$139,665.55 (including transfers to the Reserve Fund totaling \$60,000) approved on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written.

Police Chief Justin Davis presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The department handled 86 complaints last month – 9 were criminal arrests. Chief Davis attended a special event held at the Grace Brethren Church called ‘Touch a Truck’.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

AUG 6 – **BLACKTOPPED** utility cuts and potholes

AUG 7 – 421 E. Christiana Street had **SEWER** issues

AUG 12 – **JON KEIM** passed away – he served many years on borough council and was a member of the fire company for many years and served in the chiefs department for 17 years

AUG 14 – had to drain no. 2 basin because of the **RAG ISSUES** – rags keep getting sucked into the pump and clogging it – a quote of \$50,000 was received to clean out one of the two basins but eventually both basins will need cleaned out mainly due to the rags

AUG 15 – a tractor and trailer hit one of the **SOLAR LAMP POSTS** by the post office but they never stopped so we have no way of knowing who did it

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AUG 22 – the AMBULANCE COMMITTEE and representatives from North Woodbury Township met with the Hollidaysburg Ambulance and AMED ambulance services for interviews

AUG 28 – the borough crew gave a fresh coat of PAINT in the police chief's office and also painted the entrance way into the borough office hallway

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. had a conversation with the bank that has the 409 E. Julian Street property that had the garage fire a few years ago about fixing it up and keeping the grass mowed. This property went into FORECLOSURE a few years ago.

Rob Dickson reported that the AMBULANCE COMMITTEE met in August. There are two ambulance proposals included in the council's agenda packets for Hollidaysburg American Legion Ambulance Service and Altoona Mobile Emergency Department (AMED) to review. The committee will probably meet one more time before the October council meeting. Council may be making their decision at the October meeting.

Chief Justin Davis reported that the police department is currently using 40 millimeter hand guns. They are 17-18 years old and have been having malfunctions with them. Most police departments have been upgrading their guns every 5-6 years and are downsizing to 9 millimeter guns. Chief Davis was planning to ask for new guns in the 2026 budget but would really like to qualify with the new guns now so they don't have to re-qualify in 2026. A quote was received from Base Camp Guns to get a unit package for \$1,300. Council felt the old guns were a safety issue and were in agreement to purchase them now. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, approved to purchase seven (7) unit gun packages at \$1,300 each with each package consisting of a 9 millimeter gun, optics, flashlight and holster, totaling \$9,100 (7 x \$1,300 = \$9,100) from BASE CAMP GUNS to be paid for from the General Fund Reserve Fund and to be purchased as soon as possible in 2025. The motion passed unanimously.* Chief Davis thanked council for approving the request. The old duty weapons will be traded in towards the purchase he just wasn't sure if the price quoted included the credit for the trade ins.

Chief Davis was also requesting to purchase his old duty gun. *Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Darin Meck, approved to allow Chief Justin Davis purchase his old DUTY WEAPON at the trade in value cost. The motion passed unanimously.*

Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, adopted the 2026 MMO for the NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN PMRS Plan No. 07-045-3N in the amount of \$42,757.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Mark Gartland, adopted the 2026 MMO for the UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN PMRS Plan No. 07-045-3P in the amount of \$12,905.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, approved Thursday, October 30, 2025 from 6-8 p.m. as TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT. The motion passed unanimously.

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Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company was apply for a regional grant for new radios for their trucks. The grant comes from gambling proceeds. A letter of support is part of the grant application. ***Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Mark Gartland, approved to prepare a LETTER OF SUPPORT for the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company supporting the Blair County Fire Chiefs' Association application for Local Share Account Statewide funding for the Regional Fire Department Mobile Radio Project. The motion passed unanimously.***

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** will be held on personnel matters following the adjournment of the meeting this evening.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 7:32 p.m. on a motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary