

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2025

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, April 7, 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, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Neil E. Gartland and Councilman Darin B. Meck (*Janet Blattenberger was absent*)

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, Beth Hoover, Larry Cardone, Robert Craig and Nichole Nagle of Hollidaysburg Ambulance; and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald.

Rob Craig, Larry Cardone and Nichole Nagle of the HOLLIDAYSBURG AMBULANCE were in attendance. The service agreement between Martinsburg Borough and Hollidaysburg Ambulance runs out in December 2025. Council has already appointed a committee to start reviewing the contract. They will be getting together soon with Hollidaysburg Ambulance. Rob Craig gave a small report on the calls they've received.

[Rob Craig and Larry Cardone left at 7:08 p.m.]

REBA STULLER suggest the borough fine people for throwing grass and snow on the streets. The police will look into it.

An EXECUTIVE SESSION was held from 7:11-7:20 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

This evening was CHIEF KERRY HOOVER'S last meeting attended as a borough employee. His wife Beth Hoover was in attendance. Kerry Hoover has been a borough employee for thirty-seven years. A photo was taken of Chief and Mrs. Kerry Hoover.

The MINUTES of the meeting of March 3, 2025 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The LIST OF BILLS for March 2025, check nos. 11669-11705 in the amount of \$79,777.70 (including a transfer to the Reserve Fund for \$45,000) approved on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written.

There will be a RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE for Chief Kerry Hoover at the Martinsburg Firehall on Saturday, May 10th from 1-4:00 p.m. The public is invited. On April 14th Representative John Joyce is scheduled to make a presentation to Chief Hoover in the Conference Room at 2:15 p.m. Mayor Richard Brantner prepared a proclamation to be presented at the May 10th open house. Letters have been sent to numerous leaders to invite them to the open house. Charles Kensinger spoke a little about knowing Chief Hoover since he was young and commended both Kerry and Beth for their team work in what it takes to accomplish thirty-seven years in law enforcement.

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Police Chief Kerry Hoover presented the POLICE REPORT as written. He gave a little history about how he came to serve on the police department in his home town and what an honor it has been. He and his wife are very community minded. As this is his last official council meeting as an employee he said he will find other way to serve and support his community after he retires. Chief Hoover and Mayor Brantner have always had a good working relationship together. Kerry's daughter Katelyn Hoover is now an attorney and ironically is working out of the old municipal building and in the office where Kerry once had his office before the new borough building was built.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

MAR 10 – WATER LEAK at 428 S. Market Street

MAR 11 – WATER LEAK on N. Nicodemus Street

MAR 18 – had a ZONING HEARING here at the municipal building

MAR 25 – attended a WATER/SEWER CLASS along with Gary Hooder

MAR 27 – did a WATER TAP at 300 W. State Street

MAR 29 – had a WATER LEAK on the 12-inch main at 404 Cove Mountain Road

APR 3 – had the STREET SWEEPER out

APR 4 – finished SWEEPING streets

APR 7 – had a WATER LEAK along Cove Mountain Road

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily expressed her appreciation and thanks to KERRY HOOVER for their thirty-seven years of working together.

Neil Gartland mentioned that the COMPOST AREA was extremely muddy the last time he used it. Manager Brantner, Jr. responded that we did just get three inches of rain lately and that stone doesn't work well in that area. It may be easier to just dump close to the entrance and it can be pushed back later when things dry out.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that a COMCAST AGREEMENT has been prepared. It includes a 5% franchise fee the same as the Breezeline contract. It is a ten-year agreement. A resolution will need to be passed and executed. Manager Brantner, Jr. was glad to have a choice of two internet and cable providers for the residents.

A committee was appointed last month to review the upcoming HOLLIDAYSBURG AMBULANCE agreement that expires in December 2025. The committee is still gathering information.

Wages for EMERGENCY HELP such as flaggers was last set at \$15.00 per hour. The wage can be looked at to be considered for increase next year.

Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Neil Gartland, appointed Justin Davis as the new POLICE OPEN RECORDS OFFICER effective May 3, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, appointed Justin Davis as the new FIRE MARSHALL effective May 3, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

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The status of hiring a new FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER was tabled.

Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, adopted Resolution No. 2025-0407-01 authorizing execution of a Cable Franchise Agreement between the Borough of Martinsburg and COMCAST CABLE Communications Management, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

Construction is all done at 114 W. PENN STREET, the new site for Zimmerman Family Dentistry. There are eight wells there now but they need to drill two more. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. met with Gary Calvert and our borough labor force can do some of the work ourselves to save a little money. We get billed every time we sample. The Zimmerman's pay half each time. If all of the sampling comes back good there is light at the end of the tunnel. This is all typical for getting the Act 2 clearance. The up side is we now have a nice business in that part of town and its an improvement to the community.

The Morrisons Cove Memorial Park submits an application to PennDOT each year for the Agricultural Parade and the application needs to be in about six weeks prior to the event. Part of the process is the inclusion of a letter from the Borough of Martinsburg approving the road closings. Council on a motion by *Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, to allow the pertaining streets to be closed for the 2025 AGRICULTURAL PARADE on July 8, 2025 subject to the Morrisons Cove Memorial Park obtaining the necessary PennDOT permit(s). Council's letter of approval through this motion will be attached to the permit. The motion passed unanimously.*

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily mentioned that the 2024 BOROUGH AUDIT has been completed. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, accepted the 2024 Borough Audit completed by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz. The motion passed unanimously.*

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the fire company's Dutch meal was a success and tickets were sold out. Tickets are available for their chicken barbeque scheduled for May 10th. Minutes of the MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S meeting of February 10, 2025 were included in the agenda packets.

The next SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES BOROUGH'S ASSOCIATION dinner meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025 at Marzono's. Reservations must be in by May 12th.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 8:03 p.m. on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary