

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, February 7, 2022 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 Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Charles E. Kensinger Councilman, Edward L. Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell, and Councilman Darin B. Meck

In addition to council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Lt. Justin Davis, Attorney Matt Gieg, Emily Gieg, Sandy Weyandt, Lawrence Johnson and Anna Baughman of the Morrisons Cove Herald

The MINUTES of the reorganization meeting of January 3, 2022 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger. The motion passed unanimously.

The FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS for December 21-31, 2021 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

The LIST OF BILLS for December 21-31, 2021, check nos. 10582-10591 in the amount of \$57,328.87 (including a transfer of \$40,000 to the Reserve Fund) was approved on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.

The FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS for January 1-20, 2022 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

The LIST OF BILLS for January 1-20, 2022, check nos. 10592-10617 in the amount of \$22,555.41 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER (Sr.) presented his report as written. He thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers during his recovery from covid.

Chief Hoover presented the POLICE REPORT as written. The CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION met on January 4 to approve the rules and regulations. The police department was given artwork made by the students at Martinsburg Elementary depicting police for LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY on January 9. Chief Hoover and Lt. Davis attended the WILLIS CLARK HEARING at the courthouse on January 25 on the shooting two years ago – Mr. Willis plead guilty to most of the felonies and received 8-16+ years to State prison. Mayor Brantner commended Lt. Davis for the way he handled the incident. The MARTINSBURG GRACE BRETHERN CHURCH DONATED \$13,846.00 to the police department for the purchase of some Automated External Defibrillators (portable life-saving devices designed to treat people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest) – one will be placed in each police cruiser and one outside of the conference room. A letter of resignation was received from PATROLMAN LANCE MORRIS effective February 18, 2022 – the department now only has one part-time patrolman – its getting harder to find part-time help.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported.

JAN 4 – attended the POLICE CIVIL SERVICE meeting to review the rules and regulations with the Civil Service Commission

JAN 7 – PLOWED SNOW

JAN 12 – attended an AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN webinar along with Rob, Kerry and Renee

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JAN 14 – participated in a phone conference with Jane and the municipal authority's engineer to work on a **BUDGET FOR 2022**

JAN 16 – the borough crew **PLOWED SNOW** for a few hours

JAN 17 – **PLOWED MORE SNOW** – total storm was about 7-8 inches of snow

JAN 19 – was notified that **CURRYVILLE** received approximately \$2.1 million grant and a \$210,000 Pennvest loan for an interconnection with Martinsburg to hook on to our water system – we will sell them water on a monthly billing; it will be about a year until they start getting water

JAN 19 – had a **PUMP FAIL** at the wastewater plant

JAN 20 – had a **MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MEETING** and the budget was passed for the year – no rate increases

JAN 25 – Rob, Chuck, Darin and James all did there **NIMS 700** and passed

JAN 25 – we had **ANOTHER PUMP GO DOWN** at the wastewater plant leaving us with one pump – after hours on the phone making different calls and found a loaner – getting prices to either rebuild

Manager Rich Brantner announced that the old C & S Market building is being remodeled to be a **FAMILY DOLLAR/DOLLAR TREE (COMBINATION) STORE**. He was not sure when they would be opening.

Durban Metzler requested another **TOUR** for the members of council of the nitrate removal plant and the wastewater treatment plant sometime.

[Lawrence Johnson left at 7:30 p.m.]

Attorney Matt Gieg reported that there was an organizational meeting of the police Civil Service Commission on January 4, 2022. The commission was triggered by the hiring of the third full-time police officer. ***Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell, council adopted Resolution 2022-0207-01 Adopting and Approving the Martinsburg Borough POLICE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS. The motion passed unanimously.*** The civil service commission does not have to meet every month only as things come up but they must meet once a year. Attorney Ronald Repac is the civil service attorney. The civil service does not govern the part-time officers only the full-time officers.

Attorney Matt Gieg had a conference call on December 13 with a Blair County solicitor regarding the referendum on the ballot in November 2021 regarding the **SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS** naming Blair County as a sanctuary county. The By-laws now have to have an intergovernmental agreement. It does not have to be passed as an ordinance. It really doesn't change anything it will just memorialize the seconded amendment right. It's a push to show anti-gunners that we do support the second amendment. There will be a resolution prepared for next month to act on to enter into an intergovernmental agreement. Attorney Gieg updated council on the Police Mutual Aid Agreement. He has not heard anything on it lately as it has been dormant for some time.

Ed Bennett reported that the recycling center computer crashed and a new computer and software is necessary to keep the program going. ***Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Janet Blattenberger authorized the purchase of NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE RECYCLING PROGRAM from Lightners Communication for \$683.68 and a NEW COMPUTER from Chris Brooks for \$1,699.00 be expended from the Recycling Account. The motion passed unanimously.***

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Charles Kensinger reported that \$9,147 has been raised so far towards the **W. GENE HENRY MEMORIAL**. \$6,515.25 was spent on the memorial to date. The committee is pleased with the community response. No public funds will be used to pay for the memorial.

The second half of the **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN** money should be received in the spring.

*Council on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Durbin Metzler, approved the date of Saturday, April 23, 2022 for the **SPRING CLEANUP**. The motion passed unanimously.* Manager Brantner is going to see if Burgmeier's Hauling can bring their shredder out that day. There may be a cost to individuals for shredding.

A **NIMS TESTING DAY** was scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 2022 for all council and employees needing the certification. Each person will be individually scheduled that day to take the test.

*Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Darin Meck, authorized the council officers President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-Pres. Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Charles E. Kensinger and Borough Secretary M. Jane Staily to be the updated **CHECKING ACCOUNT CHECK SIGNERS** (two of any of the four). The motion passed unanimously.*

The Compliance Audit of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION** for the period of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020 was completed and received. This money can only be used for certain things for the fire company. Dustin Russell is the treasurer for the committee.

Council and Mayor received invitations to participate in the ribbon cutting and the open house of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** for the new addition on Saturday, February 26, 2022. The building is 95% done. There are about 20+ active volunteer firemen and they are constantly going to training. The firemen also do fund raisers and equipment maintenance. Our town is very fortunate to have them as well. The mayor noted that having a local fire company keeps homeowners' insurance rates down.

Representative Jim Gregory is hosting a preregistered **CONCEALED CARRY WORKSHOP** on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Morrisons Cove Memorial Park.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary