

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 2, 2024

The reorganizational meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, January 2, 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: Mayor Richard A. Brantner, Councilman Ed Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman P. Robert Dickson, Councilman Neil E. Gartland, Councilman Charles E. Kensinger, and Councilman Darin B. Meck

In addition to council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Sandy Weyandt, Sharon Brower, Mark Ayers, Magisterial Justice Andrew Blattenberger, Benton Bradley, Robert Craig, Jessica Sorge and Anna Miller of the Morrisons Cove Herald

Prior to the meeting, Magisterial District Judge Andrew Blattenberger administered the **OATH OF OFFICE** to the following elected officials:

P. Robert Dickson	(4 year term)	Borough Council
Neil E. Gartland	(4 year term)	Borough Council
Darin B. Meck	(4 year term)	Borough Council

[Andrew Blattenberger, left at 7:10 p.m.]

The meeting was then **CALLED TO ORDER** by Mayor Richard A. Brantner, assuming the chair for the purpose of designating officers.

Nominations were taken for the office of **PRESIDENT**. *Rob Dickson was nominated by Charles Kensinger. Edward Bennett was nominated by Janet Blattenberger. Nominations were closed on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by James Dell, the motion passed unanimously. A roll all vote was taken for Rob Dicks: 5 yays [James Dell, Rob Dickson, Neil Gartland, Charles Kensinger, Darin Meck) 2 nays [Ed Bennett, Janet Blattenberger]. Rob Dickson was voted in as President by majority vote.*

Nominations were taken for the office of **VICE-PRESIDENT**. *Ed Bennett was nominated by Charles Kensinger. Nominations were closed on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Jams Dell, the motion passed unanimously. There being only one nomination Ed Bennett was voted in as Vice-President.*

Nominations were taken for the office of **PRO-TEMPORE**. *Charles Kensinger was nominated by Rob Dickson. Nominations were closed on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by James Dell, the motion passed unanimously. **CHARLES KENSINGER** being the sole nominee was voted Pro-Tempore.*

ANNA MILLER of the Morrison Cove Herald announced that she is leaving the newspaper for a new job closer to home in Altoona on January 16, 2024. She said she will miss Martinsburg and has enjoyed attending the monthly meetings. Council thanked her and said she will be missed by Martinsburg.

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Representatives of the **HOLLIDAYSBURG AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE SERVICE** were in attendance to answer any questions or concerns council may have about the service. Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. inquired about a recent letter that was given to the directors dismissing them without reason. When he tried to call them about it he was told to direct his questions to their attorney which was concerning. Jessica Sorge explained some of the recent changes that were going on one being that outsourcing of their billing was not going well so they recently took it back and are doing it in house again. The ambulance service serves 9 townships and communities. At their December meeting they starting cleaning up the last board presidents issues after he was let go. The proceeded to explain their EMS and paramedic services.

The following council members were appointed to retain their COMMISSIONS:

- SAFETY -Charles Kensinger
- STREETS -James Dell
- FINANCE -Rob Dickson
- PROPERTY -Darin Meck
- WATER/SEWER -Neil Gartland

The following **STAFF APPOINTMENTS** were made and approved on motions as follows:

Title	Appointee	Motion by:	Seconded by:	Vote:
CHIEF OF POLICE				
POL. DEPT. OPEN RECORDS OFFICER				
FIRE MARSHALL	-Kerry Hoover	<i>motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, passed unanimously</i>		
ASSISTANT CHIEF	-Justin Davis	<i>motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously</i>		
SOLICITOR	-Evey, Black Attorneys LLC	<i>motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Charles Kensinger, passed unanimously</i>		
BOROUGH MANAGER				
EMER. MGMT COOR.				
DEPUTY OPEN RECORDS OFFICER				
ZONING OFFICER	-Richard Brantner, Jr.	<i>motion by Jams Dell, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously</i>		
BOROUGH SECRETARY				
BOROUGH TREASURER				
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE PENSION PLAN		<i>(updated State language for forms)</i>		
OPEN RECORDS OFFICER	-Jane Staily	<i>motion by Darin Meck, seconded by James Dell, passed unanimously</i>		
DEPUTY EMER. MGMT. COORDINATOR		-Dustin Russell	<i>motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Neil Gartland, passed unanimously</i>	
ENGINEER	-Stiffler, McGraw & Associates	<i>motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously</i>		
ZONING SOLICITOR	-Atty. Shawn Sullivan	<i>motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously</i>		
BUILDING CODE INSPECTORS:	-MDIA	<i>motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously</i>		

-PMCA *motion by James Dell, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously*

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR for fiscal year ending 12/31/2023 -Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz
motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Neil Gartland, passed unanimously

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RECEIVER OF TAXES FOR LST: -Blair County Tax Collection Bureau
motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously

Appointments to the following **BOARDS** were made and approved on the following motions:

ZONING HEARING BOARD:

Mark Gartland (3 yr ending 1/2026) *motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, passed unanimously*
Alternate1 (3 yr ending 1/2027)
Alternate2 (3 yr ending 1/2025)

A motion was made by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, to appoint Janet Blattenberger at Zoning Hearing Board Alternate1 for a 3 year term ending 1/2027, the motion passed unanimously. It was brought to council's attention that a council member as an elected official may not be eligible to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board. The motion to appoint Janet Blattenberger as Alternate 1 was **RECINDED** until it was researched to see if it is permitted.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Nathan P. Ormsby (4 yr ending 1/2028) *motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Neil Gartland, passed unanimously*
Darin B. Meck (4 yr ending 1/2028) *motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, passed unanimously*

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:

Rodney A. Weyant (5 yr ending 1/2029) *motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, passed unanimously*
Jeffrey G. Gunnett (5 yr ending 1/2029) *motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Neil Gartland, passed unanimously*

VACANCY BOARD:

Vacancy since Jan 2016

POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:

No terms expire this year

*The following **COMMITTEES** were appointed:*

PENSION COMMITTEE -Rich Brantner, Jr., Jane Staily
EMP. MED. REIMB. COM. -Rich Brantner, Jr., & Rob Dickson
REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE -Rich Brantner, Jr., and Janet Blattenberger
RECYCLING COMMITTEE -Ed Bennett and James Dell
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COM. -Ed Bennett and Rich Brantner, Jr.
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE -Rob Dickson, Ed Bennett & Charles Kensinger

COMMITTEE FOR TROOPER LANDON WEAVER MEMORIAL

-Kerry Hoover, Rich Brantner(Sr.), Rich Brantner, Jr.,

GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: -Richard A. Brantner, Sr.

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POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION -Kerry Hoover, Justin Davis, Chris Brooks, Lawrence Johnson, Todd Bookhammer & James Caporuscio

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE -Rich Brantner, Jr., Kerry Hoover, Rob Dickson, Darin Meck, & James Dell

SOLAR POWERED SPEED SIGNS COMMITTEE -James Dell, Charles Kensinger, Ed Bennett, Rich Brantner, Jr.

A motion was made by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell, approving to maintain the following DEPOSITORIES at First National Bank. The motion passed unanimously:

- GENERAL FUND CHECKING
- PAYROLL FUND
- RECYCLING FUND
- AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
- GENERAL FUND RESERVE
- EQUIPMENT FUND
- TPR LANDON WEAVER MEMORIAL

A motion was made by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Neil Gartland, approving to maintain the following DEPOSITORIES at PLGIT. The motion passed unanimously:

- BUILDING MAINTENANCE
- CHRISTMAS LIGHT FUND
- REVITALIZATION PROJECT
- HIGHWAY FUND
- MEDICAL CARE REIMB PLAN
- POLICE PISTOL RANGE FUND

The MINUTES of the regular meeting of December 4, 2023, were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.

The FINANCIAL AND TREASURER’S REPORTS were presented by Treasurer Jane Staily for December 2023.

The LIST OF BILLS for December 2023 check nos. 11232-11251 in the amount of \$4,004.47 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

The MAYOR’S REPORT was presented as written.

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the POLICE REPORT. The police department participated in the Christmas Cruise on December 19 through the retirement villages and through town. This started during covid and will probably become an annual event.

BOROUGH MANAGER RICHARD BRANTNER, JR. reported:

DEC 5 – called the HOLLIDAYSBURG AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE SERVICE to talk to an American Legion member to see why Martinsburg’s director was dismissed and was told that all questions are to be directed to their attorney

DEC 8 – had a WATER LEAK on Cherry Street

DEC 11 – was the starting date of our new Office Clerk **AMY HOCKENBERRY** - she seems to be doing well

DEC 13 – I delivered letters to the **HOLLIDAYSBURG AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE SERVICE**, North Woodbury Township and Huston Township – also mailed one to the ambulance’s Attorney Joseph Grappone

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DEC 13 – received the results back from the **SIX METERS** from the **TWO TRAILER PARKS** Spring Drive and Stone Manor – I sent the meters away to see what their accuracy was – the Public Utility Commission has variance that is allowable – that variance is 96% to 104% and all six meters fall within that range

DEC 14 – met with PennDOT and went over the **PAVING PROJECT** that will be done in the borough in 2024 – tentative streets to be paved are the 100 block of E. Christiana Street, Forshey Street and part of Wall Street

DEC 21 – we had a **WATER LEAK** on the 6-inch main line

DEC 27 – I got word that the owners of the **TRAILER PARKS** sent out another letter to their tenants stating that they are cancelling the \$13.00 monthly charge for excess water costs effective immediately

Ed Bennett commented just as an interesting fact that he recently found an old copy of a Morrisons Cove Herald dated in the mid 1980s that mentioned **MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS REMUNERATION** was \$10.00 per meeting. In 2024 council is still being paid \$10.00 per meeting. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that he had checked on a few local municipalities and Roaring Spring Borough was paying \$50.00 per meeting; Williamsburg Borough pays \$10.00 per meeting; and Duncansville Borough pays \$120.00 per meeting. It seemed to be the consensus of our council that they were satisfied with \$10.00 per meeting as the members were doing it as a community service and not for the money.

A spring clean up day has been scheduled in the spring of the even years. *On a motion by James Dell, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, the **2024 SPRING CLEAN UP DAY** was set for Saturday, April 27, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.*

CHARLES RICHARD BARR had been a Martinsburg Borough resident until 2010. He spent his entire thirty-four year teaching career as an art teacher K-12 in the Spring Cove School District. He passed away on May 27, 2022. Two of his paintings were recently donated to the borough and will be mounted up in the municipal building. Also a donation of \$2,000 from the Charles Barr Estate was received in November 2023 and was deposited into the General Fund. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, authorized to transfer the \$2,000 donation from the **CHARLES BARR ESTATE** to the Town Center Revitalization Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **2023 ANNUAL FIRE REPORT OF THE MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** was received. Volunteers are getting harder and harder to find. Neil Gartland was appreciative of the fire company’s help in watering the sod of the Martinsburg Youth Baseball field. The fire company is always there when you need them and they do an outstanding job.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:22 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary