

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2022

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, March 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, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell, and Councilman Darin B. Meck (*Ed Bennett was absent*)

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

Don Corl of the Blair County Tea Party was present to recommend to council an alternative draft of the **2ND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY RESOLUTION** supporting the amendment. The original draft was put together by solicitors from across the county to be voted on by municipalities in Blair County. The Tea Party felt the original draft was too weak. Don Corl was asking council to table the resolution until they come up with one acceptable to the Tea Party. Attorney Matt Gieg recommended council approve the original draft as it covered what the referendum on the November ballot stated.

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of February 7, 2022 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for February 2022 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for February 2022, check nos. 10618-10636 in the amount of \$64,713.28 (including a transfer of \$60,000 to the Reserve Fund) 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. The mayor commended the borough crew for the good job of snow removal this year. It was good to see the street sweeper out today. Our community is fortunate to be able to have the new fire hall addition built with the \$750,000 donation from W. Gene Henry. Mayor Brantner applauded everything Ukraine's President Zelenski is doing during the war waged by Russia. Mayor Brantner recommended making a motion in support of Ukraine. *On a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, council commended the **UKRAINIAN** people for their courage, resilience and unity in fighting for their democracy against evil forces invading their country as our thoughts and prayers go out to the Ukrainian people and their President Zelensky. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. Chief Hoover said he also supports the **UKRAINE MOTION**. February has been fairly busy. A lot of properties are becoming violators of our **NUISANCE ORDINANCE**. The department is delaying the citations until at least April 24th if they don't take advantage of the free spring clean-up on April 23rd.

Durban questioned if the borough would be willing to haul for people who do not have a way to get their junk to the **SPRING CLEAN-UP** location at the borough garage. Manager Brantner did not feel the borough could afford to start picking up because they'd have to do it for everybody. He did suggest that there are scrap guys that will come and pick up metal free of charge.

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BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

FEB 9 – had a meeting with the owner of the **CAFÉ** across from the fire hall on her parking

JAN 7 – **PLOWED SNOW**

FEB 16 – attended a **WATER TRAINING CLASS**

FEB 16 – Jane Staily completed her **ICS 100**

FEB 17 – **BRIAN MILLER** attended a training class

FEB 17 – Mayor Richard Brantner (Sr.) completed his **ICS 100**

FEB 23 – Darin Meck, Charles Kensinger and James Dell completed their NIMS, **ICS 100** and all passed

FEB 25 – the borough crew dealt with some **SNOW AND ICE**

FEB 26 – the fire company had their ribbon cutting and **OPEN HOUSE** – the firemen are pleased on how the building turned out – they now have a lot more room for maintenance of the trucks

Manager Brantner is still trying to get Burgmeier Hauling to participate in our **SPRING CLEAN-UP** day with a shredding event. Our 2022 gasoline budget line items did not allow for the current high price of gas. Its been increasing sometimes as much as \$.20 a day and sometimes it is raised twice a day.

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily reported that Ritchey, Ritchey, Koontz has started the **AUDIT** for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

Attorney Matt Gieg reported that there has been no update on the **POLICE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT** yet. He has prepared the resolution for the **2ND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY** matter. He recommended it be passed in two motions. It was the consensus of council to take the recommendation of their solicitor and follow suit with the other municipalities.

*Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Charles Kensinger, adopted Resolution No. 2022-0307-01 a Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement pursuant to a referendum question approval under 53 Pa. C.S.A. 2306 declaring Martinsburg Borough a **SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY** in the municipality and prohibiting the use of taxpayer resources to enforce any legislation passed after November 2, 2021 that would infringe upon an eligible citizen's right to bear arms. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by James Dell, authorized President P. Robert Dickson and Borough Secretary/Treasurer M. Jane Staily to **EXECUTE** Resolution No. 2022-0307-01 a Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement pursuant to a referendum question approval under 53 Pa. C.S.A. 2306 declaring Martinsburg Borough a **SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY** in the municipality and prohibiting the use of taxpayer resources to enforce any legislation passed after November 2, 2021 that would infringe upon an eligible citizen's right to bear arms. The motion passed unanimously.*

Charles Kensinger reported that Franklin Bronze Plaques has completed the **W. GENE HENRY MEMORIAL** plaque. He and Mayor Brantner will be picking it up next week. The plaque weighs about 100 lbs. and will be put on display at the municipal building. The granite has been ordered and won't be ready until about June. The fire department and the park have given substantially to this memorial as well as individuals. The committee will prepare to have recommendations for the placement of the memorial next month.

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MR. CORL was thanked for coming out and it was suggested that his committee get ahead of the issue next time before it gets as far as the ballot. Mr. Corl responded that they felt the resolution could still be amended.

Minutes of the MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY of the regular meeting of February 14, 2022 were included in the agenda packets.

A copy of the audit report for the HIGHWAY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND for the period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020 was received.

Attorney Matt Gieg reported that the most recent AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN regulations have changed. They loosened up the regulatory uses to where you can almost just put the money into your general fund and spend it now. The money must be pledged for use by 2024 and spent by 2026. Status on the generator purchase is that expected time of arrival is around August 2022. The availability on a lot of things is still unpredictable.

Jim Dell attended the SCCBA DINNER MEETING held on March 2, 2022. The program presenter was James Hudack, Executive Director of the Blair County Department of Social Services. He discussed the Blair County Demolition Fund Guidelines.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 8:25 p.m. on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary