

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 4, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, August 4, 2014 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Randy Stoltz and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Rex L. Hartman, President Connie S. Lamborn, Vice-President Durban D. Metzler, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilwoman Linda K. Smith, and Councilman Daniel R. Smouse (*Shawn Daughenbaugh resigned last month-vacancy to be filled*)

In addition to the council, present were Manager Randy Stoltz, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Sgt. Justin Davis, Rich Brantner, Jr., Attorney Frederick B. Gieg, Jr., Attorney Matt Gieg, Attorney Chris Jancula, April Ressler of the Teeter Group, Loy and Betty Blattenberger.

April Ressler, President of The Teeter Group, presented council with the **SAFETY DIVIDEND** in the amount of \$2,491.08 that was declared for the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Program through Keystone Insurers Group for the period of June 1, 2013 through May 31, 2014. The dividend is paid to member policy holders in good standing based on earned premium and incurred losses. The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Safety Dividend is sold exclusively through Keystone Insurers Group.

Loy and Betty Blattenberger, Martinsburg Borough property owners and prior residents, attended the meeting to ask council to consider revoking the three \$15 parking tickets that were issued to **BOB WALLS** during the evening of the agricultural parade when Mr. Walls and two other family members' parked vehicles blocked the use of the ATM machine at the Altoona First Bank. The tickets were written after an ATM user complained. The Blattenberger's felt that since Mr. Walls made a monetary donation to the park he should not have to pay for the tickets. The council and mayor later in the meeting decided to stand behind the actions of our police department but also wanted to send Mr. Walls a letter of explanation encouraging him to come back to our community. The bank did post no parking signs up around the ATM that week following the incident. They also mentioned that one of the reasons our park is so pleasant is because we have such a good police department.

The Blattenbergers also wanted council to do something about the deteriorating condition of the **VACANT COMMERCIAL BUILDING** across the street from their property on W. Penn Street. Photos of the messy property were passed around for council to view.

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of July 7, 2014, were approved with a correction to the last paragraph on page 2 "The Revitalization Committee presented a design..." (not "...has not yet decided which design to use...") and a spelling error on Page 3, on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** were presented for July 2014 as prepared by Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for July 2014 check nos. 7624-7647 in the amount of \$28,747.58 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

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Mayor Hartman reported that the police department is losing the availability of some of the **PART-TIME POLICE OFFICERS** as they move around to employment at other departments. The department is requesting council approval to hire one or two more part-time officers to increase their availability, not to increase the budgeted amount of man-hours. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, authorized the Martinsburg Police Department to commence the process of hiring one or two additional part-time officers. The motion passed unanimously.* Once the candidates are selected by the police department they can be officially approved for hire at a future meeting.

Mayor Rex Hartman was approached with a request for **HANDICAPPED PARKING** on Highland Street for the Cove Shoe Factory as they have several handicapped workers. The request was tabled until it can be further investigated.

Sergeant Justin Davis presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. One of the borough patrolmen will participate in the **NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME** event in Duncansville this year.

Manager Randy Stoltz reported that he and Chief Hoover gave a **TOUR** of the municipal building to a group of scouts from the Everett area on July 9; a **STORM WATER PIPE** that carries water under S. Nicodemus Street was replaced on July 15 – the old pipe had separated and was allowing the soil to enter the pipe which resulted in the street starting to collapse above the pipe; Manager Stoltz mailed a **904 RECYCLING PERFORMANCE GRANT** application on July 22 – the weights of all of the recycling products we collect at our facility are put in categories and then inserted into a DEP formula which calculates the eligible grant award – we collected 69 tons plus on the commercial side we were able to claim Cove Shoe Company's cardboard so we had a total of 171.1 tons – Manager Stoltz is hoping to get about \$700 from the state; **PATRICK DAVIS** finished his Eagle Scout project on July 23 for the Martinsburg Municipal Authority by painting 108 fire hydrants and installing 30 marker flags; met with the Revitalization Committee on July 28 concerning the streetscape **BANNERS**; EADS finished the **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN** on July 31 – copies are available for review – Manager Stoltz requested council to write down any comments they had about the plan and they will be forwarded to the EADS Group – after the comments are addressed the plan will be ready for adoption; the **POWER POLE** at the corner of E. Allegheny St. and S. Market Street was changed on July 31 with no interruption of power – that section of sidewalk can now be replaced; received our first draft of the **COMMUNITY MAP** on July 31 to review for accuracy in hopes of finishing it up this month; and reported that we have had a great response to our offer for people to purchase **SOLAR STREET LAMP POSTS** – we will be placing 18 lights from the grant plus 28 purchased by the public so far for a total of 46 – most want donor tags placed on the poles.

*[Ryan Brown left at 8:04 p.m.]*

Attorney Frederick Gieg would like to prepare a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Loy Blattenberger as a show of respect to their request this evening explaining council's decision to stand by our police officers regarding **BOB WALLS' PARKING TICKETS**. The letter will also address the Blattenbergers' inquiry about the steps that are involved in our ordinance regarding enforcing the cleanup of the **VACANT PROPERTY** they were referring to. Attorney Gieg has prepared draft easement agreements for residents to sign to allow the borough to maintain and erect the solar light poles.

Durban Metzler reported that the Martinsburg Municipal Authority is checking into what it would take to help out CURRYVILLE with their water situation with DEP by taking on their 50 customers as long as it would not cost the authority and its customers anything.

A sample copy of the recommended STREET BANNER as recommended by the Revitalization Committee was projected onto the screen for council to see. The banner was burgundy with a yellow tree and white park bench with the words “Welcome to Martinsburg Inc. 1832” imprinted on it. *Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Linda Smith, approved of this design for the street banners. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,500 for a PLANTER to be built around the town center clock to be paid for from the streetscape grant money. The motion passed unanimously.*

Copies of the completed Martinsburg and North Woodbury Joint COMPREHENSIVE PLAN prepared by the EADS Group were distributed to council.

*A motion was made by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Dan Smouse, to authorize that the \$595 registration fee for the PATROL RIFLE INSTRUCTOR CLASS for Sgt. Justin Davis to attend be paid for from the General Fund Reserve Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Dan Smouse, seconded by Ed Bennett to officially accept SHAWN DAUGHENBAUGH’S RESIGNATION from council effective July 7, 2014, which was submitted last month. The motion passed unanimously.* According to the Borough Code council has 45 days to accept a council resignation then has 30 more days to fulfill it.

Both JUNIOR COUNCILMEN attended last month’s meeting for their last time. They were each issued a formal resolution for recognition of service.

*Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, adopted Resolution No. 2014-0707-01 in Recognition of CONNER JOHNSON for his year of service as Junior Councilman. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, adopted Resolution No. 2014-0707-02 in Recognition of TRISTAN GREENLAND for his year of service as Junior Councilman. The motion passed unanimously.*

Two AUDITS were received from the Department of the Auditor General:

-LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND for the period Jan 1, 2011 to Dec 31, 2012

-MTBG VOLUNTEER FIREMEN’S RELIEF ASSN for the period of Jan 1, 2011 to Dec 31, 2013

Manager Randy Stoltz was recently approached by the Lutheran Church thinking about leasing out the lower portion of their PARKING LOT to local restaurants for their employees and customers to use during the week and then open it back up on Sunday for church. The church has an overflow parking lot at the old grange hall for events during the week. Attorney Gieg thought the idea would be in need of a long term lease agreement but recommended that the borough stay out of it and let the lease be between the church and the restaurants.

Council expressed concern about the financial situation of the MORRISONS COVE MEMORIAL PARK and what part the borough would play if they close their doors.

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Letters of interest were received from three candidates to fill Shawn Daughenbaugh's unexpired term as follows: Stan Kennedy, Suzanne McNally and Doug Smith. *Council on a motion by Dan Smouse, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, appointed Doug Smith to fulfill the remainder of Shawn Daughenbaugh's unexpired term ending January 2016. The motion passed unanimously.* As all three were good candidates it was recommended that all three could run this spring for the three council positions coming up at the fall 2015 election if they were still interested in serving. Suzanne McNally will be asked to serve on the Vacancy Board.

Borough Secretary Jane Staily reported that she and President Connie Lamborn attended the **REASSESSMENT SEMINAR** at the Blair County Convention Center on June 10. Highlights of the seminar was that the reassessment for Blair County began in June 2014. Everyone reassessed should get notification by July 2016 of what their new assessments will be. Reassessment is revenue neutral meaning municipalities will be equalizing their millage once the reassessment is done maintaining their same budget figures. There are 65,000 residents in Blair County. After the reassessment it is anticipated that one-third that are currently over assessed will decrease; one-third that are under assessed will increase; and one-third will remain the same. Reassessment in the City of Altoona is in progress and the next area to be done will be Logan Township.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:52 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Janet Blattenberger. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary