

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, February 1, 2016 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 Douglas D. Smith, Pro-Tem Durban D. Metzler, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman P. Robert Dickson and Councilwoman Linda K. Smith

In addition to the council, present were Manager Randy Stoltz, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Attorney Matt Gieg, Attorney Mike Gieg, Richard Brantner Jr., Christine Wagner and Brian Hess of the Morrisons Cove Herald.

Appointed **AUDITOR CHRISTINE WAGNER** was officially sworn in by Mayor Rex Hartman. Christine was appointed by council to fill the first two years of the six year term of the elected auditor position until the next general election since no one was elected in the fall to replace Amy Kennedy.

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of January 4, 2016, were approved with a correction on page 2 changing **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE** to **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Rob Dickson. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** were presented for December 21-31, 2015 as prepared by Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for December 21-31, 2014 check nos. 8258-8273 in the amount of \$42,400.88 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Doug Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** were presented for January 1-20, 2016 as prepared by Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for January 2106 check nos. 8274-8394 in the amount of \$12,833.52 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR REX HARTMAN and council commended the borough crew for the good job they did on keeping the roads open during the recent 25-inch snow storm.

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The officers are currently working on their yearly **MPOETC UPDATES** – most of them are doing them online. Chief Hoover is working on updating the borough's skate board ordinance to include the new **HOVER BOARDS** that have come out – they are not safe for on the street or the sidewalk. The **NEW CRUISER** has arrived – it was put into service one hour ago – it has a few body changes from the other Ford Explorer and it does not have a light bar on top – the lights are in the car. Charges will be filed in the '**DOUGH THROWING**' incident – the investigation is ongoing as there may have been more damage than just the dough.

Manager Randy Stoltz met with General Electric on January 5th on the **STREET LIGHTS** – they recommend changing the 150 watt lights to 90 watts – same lumens and same amount of light for less wattage – Martinsburg Borough will be Penelec's first change out – 125 lights will be changed;

only six **CHRISTMAS TREES** were picked up this year but 16 more were dropped off at the borough garage; the 22 **SNOWFLAKE** light decorations were taken down; on January 22 Connie Lamborn, Durban Metzler and Randy Stoltz met with Roaring Spring Borough's cable committee – several questions came up – Altoona's **ATLANTIC BROADBAND CABLE CONTRACT** will be up the same time as ours – the cable company wants to decertify us, Roaring Spring Borough and the City of Altoona due to legitimate competition with dish networks – Manager Stoltz has been corresponding with the FCC but they are not answering his questions; on January 23 we received 25-inches of **SNOW**; on January 24th 65 loads of **SNOW WAS HAULED** from the square – trucks have difficulty turning at the square if the snow is not removed; on January 25 the Blair County Emergency Management declared a state of emergency and wants all municipalities to claim it as a disaster emergency – PEMA worksheets were sent out but the county is not enthusiastic that there will be money for the snow emergency; and the **COMMUNITY FUND** has raised \$36,471 which is 91% of its goal - \$4,000 more will need to be raised to reach the goal.

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily thanked council for appointing a third elected **AUDITOR**.

Attorney Matt Gieg will be working on the upcoming police agreement between **HUSTON TOWNSHIP** and Martinsburg Borough.

Connie Lamborn wanted to remind residents to keep the **FIRE HYDRANTS** clear of snow in case of emergency.

A **SWIFTREACH** call was launched on January 22 in preparation for the large amounts of snow expected with the storm. Chief Hoover also put the snow emergency parking instructions on the borough's website.

Durban Metzler reported that the municipal authority discussed increasing the **WATER RATE**. Currently Martinsburg has the cheapest rates around and hasn't increased rates since 2007. Manager Stoltz reported that the municipal authority is spending \$40,000 more each year to run the nitrate plant. The salt and electricity that it uses are costly. A notice of violation for noncompliance for exceeding our total system limit for water withdrawal was received from the **SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**. The authority has responded to them but they have not replied. It's hard to understand how they can fine us for putting better water quality back into the ground than we pumped out.

A **STATE AUDIT** for the Revitalization Project will cost around \$3,000 to complete. A CPA would need to be hired to do the audit.

Connie Lamborn was pleased with all of the recycling renewals at the **RECYCLING CENTER**. About 100 have not renewed yet this year.

Durban Metzler reported that the **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** may have another meeting this spring.

Janet Blattenberger questioned council again on their thoughts of limiting the hours of operation for **TRASH HAULERS** in the borough. Some of the haulers reportedly come early or late to beat the traffic. Paul Kane Trash Removal was the early hauler Janet was referring to. Manager Stoltz will be speaking with him when he starts putting the spring clean-up together.

Manager Randy Stoltz asked council to consider purchasing a **NEW SNOW PLOW** for one of the borough trucks. The ten year old plow was broken during this last snow storm. The cost of the necessary repair would be around \$2,500 just to weld it. Two quotes were received to purchase a new

plow: Boss \$5,350 and Keith's Truck Service \$5,140. *Council on a motion by Rob Dickson, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, to purchase the new snow plow for a cost of \$5,140 from Keith's Truck Service to be paid from the Equipment Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

Manager Stoltz recommended that this year's **SPRING CLEAN-UP** be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016 during the Great American Clean-up. In the past the Deckers and Kane trash haulers took the collected items and didn't charge but this year the landfill might charge \$30 per ton. The proceeds from the scrap metal collected may cover the cost of the landfill although we won't make as much as previous years since the cost for scrap metal is currently down. Clark usually brings the tandem trucks for the clean-up. Since the price of oil is down it is hurting the cost of recycling. A lot of things can be made cheaper than the cost to recycle it. The County will take the computers for no cost. Taylor Township will be having their clean-up day the same day as us. *Council on a motion by Doug Smith, seconded by Linda Smith, approved to hold our 2016 **SPRING CLEAN-UP** on Saturday, April 23, 2016. The motion passed unanimously.* Colored flyers will be mailed out with the Clean-up Day information for Martinsburg Borough residents only.

Stiffler, McGraw and Associates, Inc. has the paper work completed for the ADA ramp project. If it is advertised this month, the bids could be opened next month and the project could be done this year. *Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Doug Smith, authorized the **ADA RAMP PROJECT** to be advertised for bids to be opened next month. The motion passed unanimously.*

The borough was approached by Greg Cromer to see if we would be interested in purchasing an aerial photo he took of the Cove. A 44" x 75" print could be purchased for \$225 and could be framed for the conference room behind the projection screen. Someone else would have to frame it. Manager Stoltz has contacted Mark Smith and Picture Perfect for framing ideas. The best price would be from Picture Perfect for \$320. *Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Linda Smith, authorized to purchase the Cove **AERIAL PRINT** from Greg Cromer for \$225 and to have it framed from Picture Perfect for \$320 to be paid for from the Video Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S** meeting of January 11, 2016 was included in the agenda.

An invitation was received from the Blair County Conversation District to attend an **AGRICULTURAL WORKSHOP**.

A **BLAIR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT** workshop will be held on February 25 at Prime Sirloin.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:20 p.m. on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary