

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 11, 2016

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, July 11, 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, Pro-Tem Durban D. Metzler, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman P. Robert Dickson and Councilwoman Linda K. Smith (*Doug Smith was excused*)

In addition to the council, present were Manager Randy Stoltz, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Attorney Matthew Gieg, Attorney Chris Jancula, April Ressler of The Teeter Group and Brian Hess of the Morrisons Cove Herald.

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of June 6, 2016, were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for June 2016 check nos. 8441-8475 in the amount of \$223,084.48 (including a transfer of \$190,000 to the Reserve Fund) was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Rob Dickson. The motion passed unanimously.*

April Ressler, President of The Teeter Group, presented council with the **SAFETY DIVIDEND** in the amount of \$3,802.97 that was declared for the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Program through Keystone Insurers Group for last year. 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.

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The past month has been very busy. There were no major problems during the **JULY 4TH CELEBRATION**. The festival had a large crowd. Our police department may be losing two part-time patrolmen to other employment. Chief Hoover will be looking for part-time patrolmen applicants. It takes all of our officers as well as officers from other departments to manage the parade and fireworks nights. They were commended for doing a great job of traffic control during those nights. There are plans to make some changes for the end of the parade next year. The parade organizers do a fabulous job each year. The new fire truck was in the parade. The fire police were also commended for volunteering their time.

Connie Lamborn recommended that a **NIMS TRAINING** session be held this fall. Anyone with NIMS 100 and 700 does not have to retake it. They are now recommending everyone take NIMS 100, 200 and 700.

Manager Randy Stoltz reported that on June 14 they painted the **CROSSWALKS**, arrows and stop bars on the main streets; helped the **MORRISONS COVE MEMORIAL PARK** on June 15 by cutting down and hauling away the branches of two dead ash trees that were along S. Walnut Street; June 20 sold (7) of our **OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHT** pole decorations to the town of Glencoe, Oklahoma for \$400 – their town never had any decorations and they were glad to get our old ones which were in good shape since we only replaced them because we recently changed to all snowflakes to keep the style consistent; Ventura Construction, Stiffler McGraw Associate engineers and Manager Stoltz inspected the nine **ADA RAMPS** for completeness on June 27 – the ramps now need to be checked by the engineers and the results submitted to PennDOT for final approval; on June 29

Manager Stoltz contacted homeowners along Woodlawn Avenue and the 400 block of S. Market Street to explain an **INCOME SURVEY** - if 50% of the household incomes don't exceed the limit then we can apply grant money toward replacing the bad sidewalks to tie into the new ADA ramps that we just completed – eight people have not completed the survey yet; on June 30 painted the **CROSSWALKS** for the new ramps and the speed lines for the police department; **BARGAIN DAY** on July 1 was a success with beautiful weather and a large crowd of bargain hunters; the **AGRICULTURAL PARADE** was held on July 5 – we borrowed four sets of bleachers from the Spring Cove School District for the train passengers – there were 121 tickets sold and the passengers Manager Stoltz spoke with had a good time and appreciated the seating and the free pizza from Dan Replogle of Martinsburg Pizza – there were lots of candy and chocolate milk handed out during the parade – we ran the street sweeper the next morning to clean up.

Linda Smith complained about a **BURN PILE** near Spring Street but it would be a township issue as it appears it is located in North Woodbury Township

Secretary Jane Staily (also elected Tax Collector) presented a list of exonerations for per capita tax. This list has already been approved by the Spring Cove School District. ***Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved to EXONERATE the list of five tax payers from the 2015-2016 PER CAPITA TAX duplicate. The motion passed unanimously.***

Secretary Jane Staily included some printouts from the CD received from the Blair County Assessment Office of the preliminary values as a result of the **COUNTY-WIDE REASSESSMENT** being finalized this year. Each property is valued at 100% of the current Fair Market Value as of January 1, 2016. The preliminary Tax Duplicate for 2017 indicates that our combined millages for school, county and borough will reduce from 174.889 to about 16.0369 to generate the same amount of revenue from real estate taxes. Taxable value of Martinsburg Borough will increase from \$9,773,835 to about \$109,853,900*. This number* will change after the appeal process.

Attorney Matthew Gieg reported that he has prepared a draft **SKATE BOARD ORDINANCE** which may still not be in its final form. There was considerable discussion about the ordinance including whether or not foot propelled scooters should be banned. The ordinance does not address private property. Attorney Gieg felt the ordinance may need to exclude ADA devices and may need accurate definitions. Chief Hoover wants to repeal all prior skateboard ordinances and make this one all inclusive.

Attorney Matthew Gieg is working on a **MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT** for our police department using what Walt Piper from Roaring Spring Borough has been compiling from portions of other ones he has found. The agreement is mandatory under state law and will probably require an ordinance to participate. This agreement may also be necessary to apply for federal disaster aid. ***Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Linda Smith, authorized Attorney Matthew Gieg to prepare the necessary advertisement to legally enter into this agreement. The motion passed unanimously.***

Linda Smith reported for the **REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE** that the town center flowers are looking really nice. They are fixing up the grounds around the library also. She reported that the committee received a donation of \$200 for shrubs at the library. The watering schedule continues. Council commended the committee for how nice everything looks.

Manager Randy Stoltz reported that Burgmeier's Hauling has not yet taken out the three commingle bins yet. Fifteen 95-gallon bins will soon replace these three bins and will need to be emptied several times a week. Terry Decker Hauling accidently caused about \$700 worth of damage to our **RECYCLING** fence. Their insurance will be paying to fix it.

The **CABLE RATES** are to increase about \$3.00. The limited rate is no longer controlled by PUC.

A thank you note was received from the **AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE** for the borough's annual allocation of \$2,500.

Minutes of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUTEER FIRE COMPANY** meeting of May 9, 2016 was included in the agenda. Next year is the fire company's 125th Anniversary. A resolution is being considered for the occasion.

A thank you note was received from the George family of **ATTORNEY SULLIVAN'S** office for the pictures Manager Stoltz gave them for their 135th Anniversary celebration on July 5.

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

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary