

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 6, 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, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman P. Robert Dickson (*Linda Smith was excused; Ed Bennett was absent*)

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

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of August 1, 2016, were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Doug Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for August 2016 check nos. 8517-8531 in the amount of \$31,043.47 (including a transfer of \$12,000 to the Reserve Fund) was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. At the Police Chiefs' Meeting the county **TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT** was designated as Thursday, October 27, from 6-8:00 p.m. The **NEW POLICE CRUISER** had to be towed to Stuckey's today when it lost all power – it is still under warranty. There will be a news release later this week from the **BLAIR COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS** regarding a generator theft from an area work trailer – the insurance company will be offering a reward. Chief Hoover hopes to have a **NEW PART-TIME PATROLMAN CANDIDATE** for hire by the next council meeting – the department will be losing a lot of hours from one of our patrolmen.

Chief Hoover recommended that Martinsburg hold **TRICK-OR-TREAT** on the same night as the rest of the county. *Council on a motion by Paul Dickson, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved to have the 2016 Trick-or-Treat Night on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Manager Randy Stoltz reported:

AUG 2 - DEP announced a **"DROUGHT WATCH"** for 34 of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania including Blair County. The state is requesting that citizens reduce their water use by 5% through voluntary measures. Our well water is currently at normal levels.

AUG 14 – **ATTORNEY FREDERICK GIEG, JR.** passed away – Attorney Gieg had been the solicitor for the Borough of Martinsburg since 1977 and will be greatly missed.

AUG 16 – Annual **COMMUNITY FUND** Board Meeting – a goal was set at \$41,000 to help fund 15 organizations – this year's goal is up \$750 from last year and we added the "Scarlet Dragon Back Pack Program" which gives back packs of food to school children to eat on weekends when they don't get school lunches – we will be stuffing the 2,700 envelopes on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the park – the community fund is an easy way to give to 15 organizations by only writing one check – we have no paid staff so our only expense is for printing and mailing.

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- AUG 18 – attended an **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** meeting in Altoona – they are requesting that all municipalities verify locations of all fire hydrants with GPS readings and mark on a map the speed limits of all streets – their new system will be able to direct emergency responders onto the fastest routes.
- AUG 26 – met with Brad Koontz who is finishing up our audit for the \$100,000 **KEYSTONE GRANT** that was used for the street scape improvements in 2014.
- AUG 30 – hung a banner on W. Allegheny Street at Nicodemus Street for an upcoming **CRAFT SHOW** at the park.
- SEP 6 - presented a program on water conservation and water rates at **HOMEWOOD RETIREMENT HOME** – Homewood is our biggest water user – they will be paying \$29,000 more per year for water and sewer with our new rate increase beginning with the January 2017 bill.

Attorney Chris Jancula brought up the **SKATE BOARD ORDINANCE** that was tabled last month. Rob inquired if the word “hover board” could simply be included into our existing ordinance. Attorney Jancula explained that it wasn’t that simple. Also as they keep coming out with new types of skateboards the actual wording of “hover board” may not cover them all.

Attorney Chris Jancula reported that other municipal solicitors have already made changes to the **MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT** and it is still not complete. His is recommending that borough council rescind their previous motion to adopt it last month until the rest of the county has had time to review it and it’s in its final form. There is also a disagreement on the statute on advertising it. *Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler, rescinded last month’s the motion to adopt the mutual aid agreement. The motion passed unanimously.* The topic will remain under old business until it is adopted.

In regards to the **2016 REASSESSMENT**, the answer is “YES” we will be able to raise taxes for the 2017 budget if we need to but not more than 10%. Pursuant to the assessment law a countywide reassessment must be revenue neutral meaning each taxing district must vote to reduce its millage rate to a level that matches the tax levy of the preceding year. After the certification in November 2016 taxing districts will be able to calculate an equalized millage by dividing the 2016 tax levy by the new certified taxbase. A second vote on a “final millage” can be taken to raise additional revenue if needed but not more than 10% higher. Although a final millage will not be able to be calculated until after the final certification, we can still establish, advertise, and approve our budget in terms of tax dollars as long as we do not increase it beyond the 10% limitation.

Connie inquired how long we can keep the **LIQUID FUELS MONEY** and not use it. Manager Stoltz felt the State could question it if we were getting more than we need. The next paving project will be scheduled after the sewer line work is done. The sewer line project will hopefully be completed this fall.

Manager Randy Stoltz reported that audit of the \$100,000 **KEYSTONE GRANT** for the Revitalization Project has been completed by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz.

The large **RECYCLING DUMPSTERS** have been changed out to the small ones which should save a little on the expenses with Burgmeier’s.

Durban Metzler requested a short meeting of the **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** following the adjournment of the council meeting.

*Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Doug Smith, adopted the 2017 MMO for the NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN PMRS Plan No. 07-045-3N in the amount of \$19,509. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler, adopted the 2017 MMO for the UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN PMRS Plan No. 07-045-3P in the amount of \$21,142. The motion passed unanimously.*

Ralph Sheffy expressed interest in being on the AMBULANCE BOARD. His interest was appreciated but the position was abolished back when Dan Smouse went off council.

Minutes of the MARTINSBURG VOLUTEER FIRE COMPANY meeting of August 8, 2016 was included in the agenda.

The first draft of the 2017 BUDGET WORKSHEET was included in the council packet. A budget workshop will be held next month after the regular October meeting to get another month of figures to work with.

*The meeting ADJOURNED at 8:11 p.m. on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Rob Dickson. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary