

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, August 7, 2017 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, Sgt. Justin Davis, Rich Brantner, Jr., Attorney Matt Gieg and Attorney Mike Gieg of Gieg Law Offices, Gary Hooder and Brian Hess of the Morrisons Cove Herald

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** was held for personnel matters from 7:05-7:28 p.m.

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of July 10, 2017, were approved with the correction that the second sentence be stricken from the Police Report on page 1, on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** were presented for July 2017, as prepared by Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for July 2017, check nos. 8856-8893 in the amount of \$56,630.80 (including a transfer to the Reserve Fund in the amount of \$15,000) was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Rob Dickson. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The new **PATROLMAN BRYCE YOUNG** received his MPOETC number in mid-July – he is now in full uniform. The Ford Motor Company has been having problems with the exhaust in their **2010-2014 FORD EXPLORERS** and our police department has one of them – our patrol cars for the most part sit idle when running which is worse if the exhaust is faulty. Chief Hoover is currently using a carbon monoxide detector in that car and is waiting to see what Tri Star is doing about it – Attorney Matt Gieg suggested he could write a letter to the dealership owner to also see what they are willing to do about it – he will prepare a letter and let the chief review it before sending it out.

Durban Metzler reported that he has been receiving complaints about the **DAIRY SHOW TRAFFIC** coming from the park speeding and they suggested installing a rumble strip. This has always been frowned upon in the past as it makes snow and ice removal extremely difficult in the winter.

Linda Smith commented on how difficult it is to see oncoming **TRAFFIC AT THE INTERSECTION** of E. Allegheny Street and S. Walnut Street when the homeowners park their vehicles too close to the intersection coming onto S. Walnut Street from E. Allegheny Street. There is nothing prohibiting this.

Manager Randy Stoltz reported that on July 20 we received the addendum for additional funding from the **INDUSTRIAL SITES REUSE PROGRAM** in the amount of \$15,682 grant and \$5,228 match – this will be used for the additional drilling of six test wells on the site at 114 W. Penn Street – this brings our total grant to \$29,730 and total match to \$9,911; the drilling company will not be able to drill until August 21 because they are on vacation – this is only ten days before the Business In Our Sites signing deadline so Manager Stoltz sent a request to extend the BOS program until October 31 hoping we will be able to make a decision by that date which would allow a vote at the November 6

council meeting; July 20 and 21 **PAINTEd THE PARKING LOT LINES** at the ambulance building and the borough building; July 24 an informational sign was installed at the main park entrance at Walnut Street below the Acorn Cove playground – the sign describes various historic items in the park – the sign is located along the proposed **MARTINSBURG HISTORY HIKE** route in conjunction with Blair Counties Walk Works program; July 25 two representatives from Labor and Industry were here to review the file copy of plans for commercial construction that took place since their last visit in 2013 – they review all of the plans and then choose three to visit and inspect the properties for any accessibility violations of the building code – they then will produce a report that is sent to a L & I **UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE** Building Inspector Supervisor who will produce another report and send his findings to the highest elected official in the borough namely the mayor – if there are any findings that do not meet the building code the property owners are not required to correct them – this whole procedure is an attempt of L & I trying to inspect the inspectors and these findings can be used to take away the inspectors’ certifications; July 27 Manager Stoltz updated the borough’s **ENERGY CHOICE** program – our current electric cost per kilowatt hour is locked in at \$0.0664 until June 2019 – the new agreement will lock us in at \$0.0550 per kwh until June 2022 – the monthly savings for our 2222 kwh will be about \$25.00 or \$300 per year – the monthly savings for the Municipal Authority’s 62,166 kwh will be about \$708.69 per month or \$8,496 per year – the street lights are currently locked in at \$0.04650 and our new cost will be \$0.0457 and runs until year 2022.

Attorney Matt Gieg reported that more time is needed to consider the Option to Purchase Ground for the **114 E. PENN STREET PROPERTY**. The current agreement expires August 18, 2017. The owners have agreed to extend the Option to Purchase keeping the price the same to give us more time to do the soils tests. This agreement doesn’t affect the price. The additional soils testing is still no guarantee but is a step to protect the borough to fully evaluate the conditions if we wish to proceed. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler, council approved to execute the Addendum to extend the Option to Purchase to November 20, 2017 for the 114 E. Penn Street property subject to first receiving the executed copy back from the current owners. The motion passed unanimously.*

Ed Bennett receive a complaint from an E. Julian Street resident about his **PAVEMENT WEARING** away in front of his driveway. Manager Randy Stoltz responded that his pothole is on the list to be repaired. He was waiting until he had enough places to patch before picking up a whole load of blacktop so the blacktop doesn’t get wasted.

The joint **MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT** is still on hold. The attorneys holding it up are now saying they don’t even know what the issue is. We approved to ratify the agreement on August 1, 2016 then had to rescind the motion on September 6, 2016 because a few of the other attorneys from other municipalities were not ready to adopt it. Chief Hoover reported that there is also a County mutual aid agreement in the works.

Many of the borough officials still need to be **NIMS** certified. Chief Hoover may try to set up a course for it this fall.

The issue of **OVER-TIME FOR POLICE OFFICERS** still needs to be resolved. The old 1999 police manual states that over-time for police officers is not allowed. The manual is outdated and needs to be looked at and changed. The Huston Township police agreement could also be revised to include over-time. Attorney Matthew Gieg recommended that a committee get together and share information with the chief.

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President Connie Lamborn reported that the personnel committee started meeting in March of this year to discuss a **NEW BOROUGH MANAGER** as a replacement for Randy Stoltz when he retires. In June the committee sent out requests for applications in the borough employees' paychecks and received two worthy applicants. On Monday, July 17, 2017 both of the applicants were interviewed. Jeff Reid, the president of the Martinsburg Municipality, was also included in the applicant review. The personnel committee's recommendation for the next borough manager is Richard A. Brantner, Jr. to be hired at \$21.50 per hour. *Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Doug Smith, approved to hire **RICHARD A. BRANTNER, JR.** as the next borough manager at \$21.50 per hour. The motion passed unanimously.*

Blair County 911 was contacted about the specifics on changing a street name in regards to the idea of renaming a borough street after **STATE TROOPER LANDON WEAVER** who died in the line of duty on December 30, 2016 but they have not yet responded.

Minutes of the July 10, 2017 meeting of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** were included in the council agendas.

Flowers were sent on behalf of the Martinsburg Borough Council and Municipal Authority to the John K. Hite funeral. **JOHN K. (JACK) HITE** served as borough manager for five years and also served as engineer for the borough for a lot of years.

LAND O'LAKES sent a donation of \$500 for the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company which is a matched donation from the Phil Kulp Farm.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:27 p.m. on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Doug Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary