

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Rich Brantner, Jr. 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, Councilman David L. Harker, Councilman P. Robert Dickson, and Councilwoman Linda K. Smith (*Doug Smith was absent*)

In addition to the council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Sgt. Justin Davis, Attorney Chris Jancula of Gieg Law Offices and Jackie Rhule of the Martinsburg Library

Jackie Rhule, Library Director to the **MARTINSBURG LIBRARY**, was present to request an increase in the borough's allocation to the library. Without the support of the borough the library could not continue offering their free services. She passed out a statistics sheet to the council members. The Martinsburg Library has the highest amount of check outs in all of Blair County after Altoona, Hollidaysburg and Tyrone. According to results of an online survey 95% of the online surveys were satisfied with the library services. The places that needed improvement were the children and youth programs and requests for an increase in library hours. The library has a \$90,000 budget. Three municipalities currently support the library: Martinsburg Borough \$3,500; North Woodbury Township \$4,000; and Huston Township \$1,100. Jackie suggested that an increase from \$3,500 to \$4,042 would be more proportionate of the Martinsburg Borough's contribution rate to the library. This past year the library had to use their reserve fund to cover a loss of \$8,900. An increase to the borough's allocation would help tremendously. There was also some talk about the library's internet service. It was suggested they contact Only in the Cove and check out their internet service.

[Jackie Rhule left at 7:21 p.m.]

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of August 6, 2018 were approved with a correction to page 2 changing "Dusty Miller" to "Dusty Russell" and two other minor typos on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by David Harker. The motion passed unanimously.*

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** will be held later in the meeting to discuss legal matters.

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for August 2018 were presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for August 2018 check nos. 9296-9337 in the amount of \$49,552.82 was approved on a motion by Durb Metzler, seconded by Rob Dickson. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. August was a very busy month. Last Friday was Betty Burns' last work day as she is now retired.

Chief Hoover recommended that Martinsburg hold **TRICK-OR-TREAT** on the same night as the rest of the county. *Council on a motion by Rob Dickson, seconded by David Harker, approved to have the 2018 Trick-or-Treat Night on Thursday, October 25th from 6-8:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chief Hoover has an interview scheduled for later this week for a **NEW PART-TIME PATROLMAN** and was asking council permission to send him to psychological evaluation and testing prior to the next meeting. This patrolman candidate is in his late 20's and does not have his number yet. He is a graduate from Johnstown. *Council on a motion by Rob Dickson, seconded by Ed Bennett, approved to have this **PART-TIME PATROLMAN CANDIDATE** sent for psychological evaluation and testing subject to Chief Hoover approving of him after the interview. The motion passed unanimously.*

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

AUG 7 – **SPRAYED WEEDS** along curbs and sidewalks

AUG 22 – met with Donnie from the Hollidaysburg Ambulance and went over some maintenance issues at the **AMBULANCE BUILDING** that need some attention such as painting, flooring, duct work, etc.

AUG 23 – trimmed trees at the **AMBULANCE BUILDING**

AUG 27 – had a **WATER LEAK** at 406 W. Allegheny Street

AUG 27 – Jane Staily received a phone call from the Spring Cove School District office saying that they were going to pass a Resolution to take one-half of the **REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX**

AUG 28 – had a **WEBINAR** through DEP for the Disinfection Requirement Rule Plan that we need to submit to DEP by October 29, 2018

AUG 30 – dug up and replaced a **SEWER LATERAL** at 308 N. Wall Street that has been giving us problems with roots

SEP 4 – all six Spring Cove School District municipalities met to talk about the Resolution the school district wants to put in place to take one-half of the **REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX**

Manager Rich Brantner reported that the Spring Cove School District was proposing to take one-half of each of the district municipalities' **REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX**. They can legally do this. According to the law they can share in the real estate transfer tax but nowhere in the law does it say it has to be 50%. Until now they weren't aware that they could do this. According to the school district only 11 of the 501 school districts in Pennsylvania do not share in the real estate transfer tax and Spring Cove is one of the eleven. Council would like to send a representative to the upcoming school district meeting. The real estate transfer tax is a much larger portion of our budget than it is of the school district's. *Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Linda Smith authorized Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. and President Connie Lamborn to attend the school district meeting on Monday, September 10th to represent Martinsburg Borough's concern of losing 50% of our real estate transfer tax. The motion passed unanimously.* Real estate transfer tax income is dependent upon the sale of property and is not consistent but can average as much as \$30,000 per year for Martinsburg Borough. If we do end up losing 50% of our real estate transfer tax council may have to consider either raising real estate taxes or start collecting the \$52 Local Service Tax (\$47 would go to the municipality; \$5 would go to the school district).

Attorney Chris Jancula reported that the county did approve of the **TAX EXEMPTION** for 114 W. Penn Street but it will not be effective until January 1, 2019 for the Borough/County

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Real Estate Tax and July 1, 2019 for the School Real Estate Tax. The 2018 School Real Estate Tax was paid in discount. An executive session will be needed to discuss the 114 W. Penn Street property. Attorney Matt Gieg, Manager Rich Brantner, Councilman Rob Dickson and Councilman Durban Metzler met with Steve McKnight of the ABCD Corp. on Friday at 2:00 p.m. to hear his suggestions and recommendations for the 114 W. Penn Street property.

Linda Smith reported that the **REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE** will soon be planting mums in town center.

The Recycling Committee met and discussed the composting site. T. L. Long Excavating had a place to haul some of the larger composting material for a cost of \$1,950. The committee is recommending increasing the cost of the compost keys in 2019. Since 2014 the borough has had more composting expenses than income so the increase should help compensate the loss. There are about 102 residents that have composting only keys. *Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Rob Dickson, authorized to pay T. L. Long Excavating \$1,950 for hauling out the large **COMPOSTING MATERIAL**. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Ed Bennett, approved to increase the cost of the 2019 **COMPOSTING KEYS** from \$10 to \$20 and for those who are discounted for also having recycling those keys will increase from \$25 to \$30 (\$20 recycling; \$10 composting). The motion passed unanimously.* Linda Smith suggested selling the compost material but there is not enough room to rotate it properly.

Mayor Rex Hartman and Councilman David Harker now have their student identification numbers for **NIMS**.

Stone was put on the **114 W. PENN STREET** lot today. It took more tons than anticipated. No shrubs have been planted yet since at least one person interested in the lot was thinking of maybe planting trees instead if they purchased it.

Manager Rich Brantner expressed the need for the borough to have their own **BUCKET TRUCK** for putting up things such as banners, Christmas lights and working on the signal light. The municipal authority could also use it at the sewer plant and to trim trees at the water tank. Rich found a used one at Burchfield's. *Council on a motion by David Harker, seconded by Durban Metzler, authorized to purchase a used 2002 Chevrolet C3500 29-foot **BUCKET TRUCK** from Burchfield's for a cost of \$14,000 to be paid for from the Equipment Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

There was some discussion of adding a second building code firm for the residents of Martinsburg Borough to use. *Council on a motion by Rob Dickson, seconded by Ed Bennett, approved of using **PMCA** as our second building code inspector in addition to the already approved **MDIA**. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by David Harker, adopted the 2019 MMO for the **NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN** PMRS Plan No. 07-045-3N in the amount of \$21,433. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Linda Smith, adopted the 2019 MMO for the **UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN** PMRS Plan No. 07-045-3P in the amount of \$17,661. The motion passed unanimously.*

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Council was informed that Attorney Lee Oswalt, the borough's **ZONING SOLICITOR**, will be retiring at the end of this year. Another attorney will need to be appointed when he resigns.

Minutes of **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** for the June 11 and August 13, 2018 meetings were included in the meeting packet.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** was held from 8:34 – 9:31 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:32 p.m. on a motion by Rob Dickson, seconded by Connie Lamborn. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary