

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2019

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, February 4, 2019 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, Vice-President Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Douglas D. Smith, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilman David L. Harker, Councilman P. Robert Dickson, and Councilwoman Linda K. Smith (*Connie Lamborn was excused*)

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, Jim Parks, Melvin Edwards and Brian Hess of the Morrisons Cove Herald

Jim Parks and Melvin Edwards were present to express their concern for the speeding traffic on Piney Creek Road in **HUSTON TOWNSHIP**. Jim Parks works for Huston Township and has been noticing the speeding early in the morning as well as cars passing the plow truck. Huston Township has a police agreement with the Martinsburg Police Department for a budgeted amount per year so a lot of our service is on an as needed basis. Our officers will make a point to patrol the area a few mornings to watch for speeders.

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of January 7, 2019 were approved on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Rob Dickson. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for December 21-31, 2018 were presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for December 21-31, 2018 check nos. 9467-9483 in the amount of \$4,989.02 was approved on a motion by Rob Dickson, seconded by David Harker. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for January 2019, were presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for January 1-20, 2019 check nos. 9484-9509 in the amount of \$14,781.34 was approved on a motion by David Harker, seconded by Rob Dickson. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. He had a few items to be discussed in executive session. He reported that the department is yet again losing another one of the part-time patrolmen. **BRYCE YOUNG** has taken a full-time position with Allegheny Township and is not permitted to work for another department the first year of employment.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

JAN 30 thru FEB 1 – there was a **WARMING SHELTER** set up for any power outages or furnace issues for the residents of Martinsburg due to the subzero temperatures

Every Tuesday for the next two months Dusty Russell will be attending **WATER CLASSES** to get him ready for his water test in March

JAN 25 – WATER LEAK at 201 S. Market Street

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JAN 19 & 20 – Borough crews dealt with about 8" of **SNOW AND ICE** with the temperatures falling rapidly; thanked all residents for moving their cars from the streets making it much easier to plow and thanked Doug Smith and Justin Davis for helping also

David Harker noted in the 2018 Annual Fire Report that we cannot enforce **SNOW REMOVAL ON SIDEWALKS** and inquired why. He was informed that the borough does not have a sidewalk ordinance; therefore, no one is required to put a sidewalk in but if you have one it is probably a good idea to maintain it for insurance purposes. Property owners are responsible for the right-of-way where the sidewalk is.

There was an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss legal matters on police issues from 7:22 – 7:43 p.m.

Durban Metzler reported on a matter of the Martinsburg Municipal Authority. The **OAK VIEW DEVELOPMENT** has been running into permit issues and increased costs.

Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Linda Smith, voted to accept the Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Estate for the 114 W. PENN STREET PROPERTY between the Borough of Martinsburg and ZFD Realty Group, LLC and to authorize President Connie Lamborn to execute the agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Matt Gieg contacted The Beard Legal Group and talked with Attorney Moran regarding the establishing of the **POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**. They offered to have one of their attorneys speak at the March 2019 council meeting in executive session. They did not talk about overall pricing but usually charge \$160 to \$170 per hour for municipal clients. *Council on a motion by David Harker, seconded by Doug Smith, approved to invite Attorney Moran of The Beard Legal Group to attend the March 2019 council meeting to discuss the Police Civil Service Commission with the expectation that they charge no more than \$170/hr. to attend. The motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes of the January 14, 2019 meeting of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** were included in the council agendas.

David Harker and his wife attended the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY BANQUET** on Saturday, February 2, 2019. He accepted a Certificate of Appreciation presented to the Borough of Martinsburg for supporting the fire company in 2018.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 7:50 p.m. on a motion by Rob Dickson, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary