

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2020

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, January 6, 2020 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Richard Brantner, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Richard A. Brantner, Sr., President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Edward L. Bennett, Councilman David L. Harker, Councilman Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman Darin B. Meck and Councilwoman Linda K. Smith

In addition to the council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Sgt. Justin Davis, Attorney Chris Jancula, Lou Kensinger, Renee Gunnett, Magisterial District Judge Andrew Blattenberger and Brian Hess of the Morrisons Cove Herald

Prior to the meeting, Magisterial District Judge Andrew Blattenberger administered the **OATH OF OFFICE** to the following elected officials:

Richard A. Brantner, Sr.	(2 years of a 4 year term)	Mayor
David L. Harker	(2 years of a 4 year term)	Borough Council
P. Robert Dickson	(4 year term)	Borough Council
Darin B. Meck	(4 year term)	Borough Council
Charles E. Kensinger	(4 year term)	Borough Council

[Andrew Blattenberger, Lou Kensinger and Renee Gunnett left at 7:10 p.m.]

The meeting was then **CALLED TO ORDER** by Mayor Richard Brantner, Sr. Mayor Brantner assumed the chair for the purpose of designating officers.

Nominations were taken for the office of **PRESIDENT**. *Rob Dickson was nominated on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously. Nominations were closed on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Charles Kensinger, the motion passed unanimously. **ROB DICKSON** being the sole nominee was voted president.*

Nominations were taken for the office of **VICE-PRESIDENT**. *Durban Metzler was nominated on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously. **DURBAN METZLER** being the sole nominee was voted Vice-President.*

Nominations were taken for the office of **PRO-TEMPORE**. *Ed Bennett was nominated on a motion by David Harker, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously. Nominations were closed on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Linda Smith, the motion passed unanimously. **ED BENNETT** being the sole nominee was voted Pro-Tempore.*

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*The following council members were appointed to retain their **COMMISSIONS:***

- SAFETY -Ed Bennett
- STREETS -Ed Bennett
- FINANCE -Rob Dickson
- PROPERTY -Linda Smith
- WATER/SEWER -Durban Metzler

The following **STAFF APPOINTMENTS** were made and approved on motions as follows:

Title	Appointee	Motion by:	Seconded by:	Vote:
CHIEF OF POLICE POL. DEPT. OPEN RECORDS OFFICER FIRE MARSHALL	-Kerry Hoover	<i>motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Linda Smith, passed unanimously</i>		
POL SERGEANT	-Justin Davis	<i>motion by David Harker, seconded by Ed Bennett, passed unanimously</i>		
SOLICITOR	-Gieg Law Offices LLC	<i>motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler, passed unanimously</i>		
BOROUGH MANAGER EMER. MGMT COOR DEPUTY OPEN RECORDS OFFICER ZONING OFFICER	-Richard Brantner, Jr.	<i>motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Linda Smith, passed unanimously</i>		
BOROUGH SECRETARY BOROUGH TREASURER OPEN RECORDS OFFICER CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE PENSION PLAN ADM.	-Jane Staily	<i>motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Linda Smith, passed unanimously</i>		
DEPUTY EMER. MGMT COOR.	-Dustin Russell	<i>motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Charles Kensinger, passed unanimously</i>		
ENGINEER	-Stiffler, McGraw & Associates	<i>motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously</i>		
ZONING SOLICITOR	-Atty. Shawn Sullivan	<i>motion by David Harrker, seconded by Linda Smith, passed unanimously</i>		
BUILDING CODE INSPECTOR	-MDIA	<i>motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Durban Metzler, passed unanimously</i>		
	-PMCA	<i>motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Durban Metzler, passed unanimously</i>		
AUDITOR for fiscal year ending 12/31/2019	-Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz	<i>motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler, passed unanimously</i>		
RECEIVER OF TAXES FOR EIT & LST	-Blair County Tax Coll. Bureau	<i>motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler, passed unanimously</i>		

Appointments to the following **BOARDS** were made and approved on the following motions:

ZONING HEARING BOARD:				
Jon Keim	(3 yr ending 1/2023)	<i>motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Charles Kensinger, passed unanimously</i>		
Joe Logan	(3 yr ending 1/2023)	<i>motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler, passed unanimously</i>		

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PLANNING COMMISSION:

Nathan P. Ormsby (4 yr ending 1/2024)

motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler, passed unanimously

Darin B. Meck (4 yr ending 1/2024)

motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Ed Bennett, passed unanimously

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:

Jeffrey S. Reid (5 yr ending 1/2025)

motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Linda Smith, passed unanimously

VACANCY BOARD:

Vacant since Jan 2016

The following COMMITTEES were appointed as follows:

PENSION COMMITTEE

-Rich Brantner, Jr., Jane Staily, and Durban Metzler

EMP. MED. REIMB. COM.

-Rich Brantner, Jr., Rob Dickson

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & REGS MANUAL

-Rich Brantner, Jr., Jane Staily, and Linda Smith

REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

-Rich Brantner, Jr. and Linda Smith

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

-Linda Smith and David Harker

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COM.

-Durban Metzler, Rich Brantner, Jr., Linda Smith,
and Charles Kensinger

POLICE PERSONNEL REVIEW COMMITTEE-Rob Dickson, Durban Metzler & Ed Bennett

COMMITTEE FOR TROOPER LANDON WEAVER MEMORIAL

-Kerry Hoover, Rich Brantner Sr., Rich Brantner Jr.,
Jonathan & Megan Zimmerman

GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

-Rich Brantner, Sr.

A motion was made by Durban Metzler, seconded by Darin Meck, approving to maintain the following DEPOSITORIES at First National Bank. The motion passed unanimously:

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

GENERAL FUND RESERVE

PAYROLL

EQUIPMENT

RECYCLING

TPR LANDON WEAVER

A motion was made by Ed Bennett, seconded by Linda Smith, approving to maintain the following DEPOSITORIES at PLGIT. The motion passed unanimously:

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

HIGHWAY FUND

CHRISTMAS LIGHT FUND

MEDICAL CARE REIMB PLAN

REVITALIZATION PROJECT

POLICE PISTOL RANGE FUND

The MINUTES of the regular meeting of December 2, 2019, were approved with the correction that Linda Smith is councilwoman not councilman, on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

The FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS were presented by Treasurer Jane Staily for December 2019.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for December 2019 check nos. 9826-9847 in the amount of \$40,964.21 was approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER, SR. reached out to the members of the Martinsburg Then, and Martinsburg Now Facebook page for **SUGGESTIONS** in making the town a better place. He printed out their responses for council. Some of the items suggested were that people were dissatisfied with Atlantic Broadband and Penelec and there was a request to have sidewalk from the borough to Tradition Restaurant and Dollar Store for the elderly to commute to these places. Martinsburg Borough does not have a sidewalk ordinance and much of the distance requested is not in the borough. **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY** is January 9, 2020. Mayor Brantner encouraged people to burn blue lights that day.

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT**. Chief Hoover congratulated all of the new elected and re-elected officials. December was a busy month for the department. The unveiling of the **TROOPER LANDON WEAVER MEMORIAL** signs and lights was held on December 6, 2019 at the town center parking lot. Chief Hoover praised our volunteer fire company for their work and dedication. They've had a very busy month with fires and incidents. He also commended the local employers that let the volunteer firemen take time away from their jobs to fight fires.

MANAGER RICHARD BRANTNER, JR. will relay council's appreciation to the volunteer fire company members.

DEC 3 – repaired a **WATER LEAK** at 304 W. Allegheny Street

DEC 6 - along with Brian and Dusty attended the **TROOPER LANDEN WEAVER MEMORIAL DEDICATION** at the town center parking lot

DEC 6 – had T. L. Long Excavating push back the **COMPOST PILE** – it looks really nice now

DEC 12 – repaired a **WATER LEAK** on Oakdale Road

DEC 18 – **DUSTY RUSSELL** started classes on getting his sewer license – the classes will run for ten weeks

DEC 26 – had a **WATER LEAK** on Well No. 1 between the pump house and the well

DEC 29 – there was a **TRAILER FIRE** on N. Third Alley with an unfortunate fatality

*Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Ed Bennett approved to pay the invoice for \$880.00 from the Reserve Fund to T. L. Long Excavating, Inc. for pushing back the **COMPOST PILE** in December. The motion passed unanimously. It took them eleven hours with a track hoe to push the pile back.*

Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. will contact **ATLANTIC BROADBAND** about all the comments on unsatisfactory cable service. Ed Bennett reportedly likes his Atlantic Broadband internet service. He felt he was getting better service and a lower price than what he was getting from CenturyLink but he is also a fairly new service and probably has newer equipment in comparison to a lot of the longtime customers complaining about their service. David Harker had an Atlantic Broadband technician at his house three times and it still doesn't work.

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Attorney Chris Jancula reported that Attorney Matt Gieg reviewed the **EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL AND BENEFITS MANUAL** with the updates that Connie Lamborn incorporated into it and did not find anything substantially wrong with it. It looks good enough to continue moving forward on it.

Attorney Jancula reported on the **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY** they were working on for the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Department. They can adopt it next month. It will spell out policies the members can follow to help use discretion in various circumstances such as crash scenes, fatalities, etc.

Attorney Matt Gieg has been working on renewing the Martinsburg Municipal Authority's **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION** to renew them for an additional 50 years. The borough ordinance that was done back in the 1980's by Attorney Frederick B. Gieg to renew the Articles of Incorporation is not being acknowledged by the Department of Community and Economic Development so a lengthy complicated order of steps must be completed before DCED will accept it. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Charles Kensinger, adopted Resolution No. 2020-0106-01 adopting the **ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT TO THE INCORPORATION** of the Martinsburg Municipal Authority extending the existence of the authority for a period of fifty (50) years from January 1, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.* The municipal authority will also be adopting a similar resolution at their next meeting.

Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. request council adopt a resolution to adopt the county emergency management plan so we don't have to create our own. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck, adopted Resolution No. 2020-0106-02 adopting the Blair County **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** Services Plan. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Linda Smith, approved to allow Manager Brantner proceed with setting up the biennial **SPRING CLEAN-UP** this spring. The motion passed unanimously.* Tipping fees are usually waved if we hold it on certain days of the year and the income from the scrap metal and donations usually pays for everything.

Minutes of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** meeting of December 9, 2019 were included in the council packets. Also included in the packets were the 2019 Annual Report of the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company.

A thank you note was received from **CONNIE LAMBORN** for the gifts and proclamation last month.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:17 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary