

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2023

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, February 6, 2023 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, President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell and Councilman Darin B. Meck

In addition to council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Lt. Justin Davis, Attorney Nathan Karn, Sandy Weyant, Fred Miller, Ray Benton, Dave Consiglio, Amy Webster, Jodi Stouffer, Cori Bulger Shirk and Anna Baughman of the Morrisons Cove Herald

A few **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES** running for various offices in the 2023 election were in attendance to introduce themselves and meet council following the adjournment of the meeting:

Fred Miller – Judge for Blair County Court of Common Pleas
Dave Consiglio – Judge for Blair County Court of Common Pleas
Ray Benton – Blair County Coroner
Dave Kessling - Blair County Commissioner
Amy Webster – Blair County Commissioner

Jodi Stouffer and Cori Bolger Shirk gave a little presentation on the history of the **INDIAN SCHOOL** that use to be in Martinsburg. They have been researching the school with the help of archivist Frank Vitale. A basic fact sheet was distributed to the council members.

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of January 3, 2023 were approved with a correction to delete the paragraph on page 3 regarding minutes of an old meeting of December 7, 2020, on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for December 21-31, 2022 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for December 21-31, 2022, check nos. 10933-10940 in the amount of \$3,290.18 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for January 2023 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for January 2023, check nos. 10941-10966 in the amount of \$63,726.47 was approved on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER (Sr.) presented his report as written. Charles Kensinger commended the mayor on activities and borough concern.

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. Chief Hoover reported that one **OFFICER WAS KILLED** and another injured in McKeesport while responding to a domestic dispute and asked everyone to keep them in their prayers. Attended a **POLICE APPRECIATION** event with coffee and donuts. Took the cruiser to **TEAM FORCE** on February 3 to transfer the equipment to the new car.

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2023 – PAGE 2

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

JAN 4 – took down the **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

JAN 7 – there was another scheduled **POWER OUTAGE** in the Martinsburg area from about 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

JAN 12 – along with Jane Staily participated in a virtual **BUDGET WORK SESSION** with the municipal authority's engineer to go over the 2023 Budget

JAN 17 – DEP came in for an **INSPECTION** at the wastewater treatment plant

JAN 19 – the municipal authority adopted their **2023 BUDGET**

JAN 25 – got about 3-4 inches of **SNOW**

JAN 26 – the borough's **NEW TRUCK** arrived at Stucky's – it was ordered a year and a half ago – it is now at Keith's getting the dump bed and plow installed

JAN 31 – met with Megan Zimmerman and her geologist Gary Calvert on the **W. PENN STREET LOT**

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that his son Jordan Brantner is interested in filling the vacancy on the **HOLLIDAYSBURG AMBULANCE BOARD**. They meet the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Mark Gartland is interested in filling the vacancy on the **ZONING HEARING BOARD**.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the municipal authority is planning to put the water line replacement project on **E. CHRISTIANA STREET** out for bid again. Prices of everything are up and will never be what they were a few years ago. Bids are due March 16.

Durban Metzler inquired why the **PENNDOT** crew was surveying on W. Allegheny Street in hopes they may be replacing the culvert below the ambulance building.

THANK YOU for funeral flowers were received from Cindy Myers on the passing of her husband James Myers a previous councilman for two terms from January 1984 through January 1992; and from Brian Miller on the passing of his father Wilbur L. Miller.

Attorney Nathan Karn from Every Black Attorneys was introduced as the borough's **NEW SOLICITOR**. Attorney Karn had nothing to report but was looking forward to working with everyone.

Ed Bennett reported that the **RECYCLING GRANT** in the amount of \$1,373.01 was received on January 30, 2023. This grant is applied for annually.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. is still holding off on selling the **OLD DUMP TRUCK** by putting it out for bid until the new truck is received. The new truck is expected to arrive mid-March.

Chief Hoover reported that so far only two applications for hire have been handed out in response to the help wanted ads. Ads have been placed in various local papers. Other local municipalities are also hiring for more officers. There is a section on the Chiefs of Police website for help wanted ads costing \$200 for 90 days and the site has 14,000 followers which is a good circulation for hiring. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Charles Kensinger, council approved to advertise immediately on the Chiefs of Police website for **HELP WANTED** at a cost of \$200 for a 90*

day period for a full-time officer and part-time officers both in the same ad with no deadline for receiving applications but stating until the position is filled. The motion passed unanimously.

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2023 – PAGE 3

Eight police departments in the south end of Blair County are all in the same position as us with needing a new police reporting system. cNET sponsored by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association is the cheapest program they looked at. It runs through J-net the state access program that we already use. A demo of the program was presented a few weeks ago. We had been paying \$1,542 per year with the newly revised rate of \$1,620 per year due in May for 2023. cNet is only \$1,083.64 per year which is based on how many officers your department has. cNet provides several different payment options. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler, approved to purchase the CNET PROGRAM plan that provides a one-year subscription for the first year only and the one time cost of the program upfront totally \$10,478.08 to be paid for from the American Rescue Plan. The motion passed unanimously.*

We are another year into the equipment budget of the Highway Liquid Fuels Fund with more money than when originally budgeted for the purchase of the new truck. *On a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, the payment of the NEW TRUCK will be \$25,000 from the Highway Liquid Fuels Fund; \$15,000 from the Equipment Fund; and \$20,000 from the American Rescue Plan. The motion passed unanimously.*

Council is in the process of hiring a full-time police officer and some part-time police officers but the wages were never determined. *Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell, approved POLICE WAGES to pay the Martinsburg Borough part-time police officers \$20.00 per hour with no benefits and the new full-time police officer \$20.00 per hour with benefits effective immediately. The motion passed unanimously.*

As the planning stage continues for the Zimmermans as they prepare to start building a new dental office on W. Penn Street their geologist Gary Calvert in regard to the soil contamination issue on that lot is recommending the borough pass an ordinance banning well drilling on the borough. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Durban Metzler, authorized Attorney Nathan Karn to prepare an ordinance to be advertised stating that there be NO NEW WELL DRILLING in the borough of Martinsburg. Current existing wells can still be used for watering but not as drinking water. The motion passed unanimously.*

Gary Calvert recommended testing the wells on the W. Penn Street lot again at an estimated cost of about \$4,081.00. *Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved to proceed with the recommended WELL TESTING on the contaminated lot on W. Penn Street by paying for one-half the cost of the estimated \$4,081.00 to retest the wells with the Zimmerman's paying the other half. The motion passed unanimously.*

Attorney Nathan Karn informed council of ACT 151 OF 2022 which is amendments to the breach of personal information notification act that goes into effect May 22, 2023, which is now made explicitly applicable to municipalities. It mostly covers those employed at the municipality and requires encryption if not already done. There is a notification process if a breach occurs. It could entail come software expense.

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2023 – PAGE 4

Minutes of the regular meeting of December 12, 2022 of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** were included in the agenda packet.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:05 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary