

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 1, 2023

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, May 1, 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: President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Charles E. Kensinger, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell and Councilman Darin B. Meck (*Mayor Richard Brantner and Councilman Ed Bennett were absent*)

In addition to council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Attorney Nathan Karn, Sandy Weyandt, and Anna Baughman of the Morrisons Cove Herald

The MINUTES of the meeting of April 3, 2023 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The LIST OF BILLS for April 2023, check nos. 10996-11043 in the amount of \$159,206.28 (\$80,000 was transferred to the Reserve Fund) was approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER (Sr.) was absent but his written report was presented.

Chief Hoover presented the POLICE REPORT as written. April was a busy month with the onset of the nice weather. This month's police report was printed from the new program. It is easier to read. The police department participated in the Drug Take Back program on April 22. They collected 66.1 lbs. of medications over the past five months. The drugs are taken into the courthouse, weighed and then the DEA takes it.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

APR 4 – had a POWER OUTAGE in the area due to the high winds that caused issues at the water plant

APR 5 – Congressman John Joyce came in and wanted to look over the projects that the municipal authority put GRANTS in for – he said he is going to do all that he can to see these projects through – grants being an elevated tank at the airport and a transmission line from Hershberger Well out to the water plant

APR 6 – Renee and I worked on submitting the report for the ARPA MONEY that has been spent so far

APR 14 – office personnel and the public works crew completed CPR CLASS AND AED TRAINING at the borough building

APR 17 – Jane and I had a meeting with April Ressler from The Teeter Group to go over the INSURANCE POLICY with the borough and municipal authority that renews in June

APR 20 – finished SWEEPING the streets and the borough's parking lot beside Pizza Star and Mamies

APR 26 – received a partial operations permit from DEP for the interconnect to CURRYVILLE – the full operation permit will be received when the construction is complete

A **POLLUTION EXPOSURE POLICY** was recommended by The Teeter Group for the borough's oil/fuel storage tanks. They are working up a quote for consideration next month.

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We were recently notified by First National Bank that retro effective April 1, 2023 the Equipment Fund interest rate will go up to 4.75%. They will just need to change the account to a money market and it will be 100% collateralized. *Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Durban Metzler, approve to retain the **EQUIPMENT FUND** at First National Bank as long as the interest rate remains comparable to PLGIT. The motion passed unanimously.*

Our current **1991 STREET SWEEPER** was bought used in 2003 and the hopper is rusting badly. The Blair County Planning Commission is working with Manager Brantner, Jr. on USDA grants available for a new street sweeper. If the grant is awarded the borough would need to pay 30% of the cost of the sweeper. Two letters of support were received from North Woodbury Township and Roaring Spring Borough offering to pay for a certain amount of hours of street sweeping which will help get the grant. The 30% of the cost amounting to about \$60,000 could be paid for from the remaining ARP money. Attorney Karn was asked to prepare a resolution for consideration for adoption next month as part of the grant process. Attorney Karn will contact the county representative to see what all needs included in the resolution.

Janet Blattenberger inquired about the **TRADITIONS RESTAURANT** plans to build an addition. Manager Brantner, Jr. informed her they do already have availability for water and sewer there.

The Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company's **SIREN** is currently not working. They are working with Penelec to get it fixed. The new siren will be remotely operated.

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily reported that the **2022 ANNUAL AUDIT** was completed by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz and was properly advertised. The 2022 annual audit for the municipal authority will take place at the end of May by Young, Oakes, Brown & Company.

Council is continuing to extend the deadline for **EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS** for part-time and full-time police officers.

*Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Charles Kensinger, approved to advertise to move the **REGULAR JULY COUNCIL MEETING** from July 3 to July 10, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** sold over 500 chicken halves at their annual chicken barbeque. The 2023 Annual Ox Roast has been moved from the usual July date to June 16 and 17.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:41 p.m. on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Janet Blattenberger. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary