

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 5, 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, Pro-tem Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell and Councilman Darin B. Meck (*Vice-Pres. Durban Metzler and Mayor Richard Brantner were absent*)

In addition to council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Attorney Nathan Karn, and Anna Baughman

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of August 7, 2023 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for August 2023, check nos. 11124-11152 in the amount of \$77,166.11 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.*

**MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER** was absent but his report was presented as written.

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. He reported that he now has two employee applications that he is doing background checks on and one letter of intent from someone currently attending the police academy on a part-time basis which takes about one year to complete. Two copies of the police policy are in the borough office for council to review.

Charles Kensinger had a suggestion after reading this month's police report and seeing seven **ORDINANCE** violations. He suggested that maybe he Morrisons Cove Herald could do a highlight of one of our ordinances each month. He also suggested that council should spend a few minutes at each monthly meeting to discuss one of the borough ordinances. Charles Kensinger was appointed to come up with an ordinance for each month. The borough website already does have some of the more frequently enforced/violated ordinances and an annual borough newsletter highlighting some of the ordinances has already been previously discussed. All of the ordinance discussion is to try to help alleviate some of the work of the police department.

**BOROUGH MANAGER** Rich Brantner reported:

AUG 9 – poured a **SIDEWALK** on W. Allegheny Street where we dug up a water leak a few months ago

AUG 14 – Gary Hooder attended a class for his **CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS**

AUG 22 – started to fill the tank in **CURRYVILLE** and then need to get some lab tests before customers start to drink the water

AUG 23 – the **E. CHRISTIANA STREET** water line project started – had to shut off water for the tie in then had about 25 residents on a boil water notice

AUG 29 – replaced a **FIRE HYDRANT** at 300 N. Market Street

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily reported that **DRAFT NO. 1 OF THE 2024 BUDGET** was prepared.

**ATTORNEY NATHAN KARN** had nothing to report.

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – PAGE 2

Safety Commissioner Charles Kensinger took notice that the speed limit on S. Market Street is 35 m.p.h. and the **SPEED LIMIT** on N. Market Street is only 25 m.p.h. The same is on Allegheny Street. W. Allegheny Street is 35 m.p.h. and E. Allegheny Street is only 25 m.p.h. He questioned how that ever came to be. It has been a while since a traffic study has been done. It was suggested that maybe we should request one from PennDOT. He did take notice that the new **PEDESTRIAN CROSS WALK** signs seem to have helped. He would like revisit discussing the **SOLAR SPEED SIGNS**. Manager Brantner mentioned that the solar speed signs are already in the 2023 Highway Liquid Fuels Budget this year. A committee including Charles Kensinger as co-chairperson, James Dell as co-chairperson, Ed Bennett, Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. and Chief Kerry was appointed to review the solar powered speed signs. Attorney Nathan Karn advised it need put on the agenda to further discuss since the enactment of the new Sunshine Law.

*Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell, adopted the 2024 MMO for the **NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN** PMRS Plan No. 07-045-3N in the amount of \$34,058.00. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell, adopted the 2024 MMO for the **UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN** PMRS Plan No. 07-045-3P in the amount of \$16,827.00. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell, approved Thursday, October 26, from 6-8 p.m. as **TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT**. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chief Hoover was requesting approval to purchase a shed for the police department for the shooting range. They use to have two sheds there until one of the local officers took the one back when his employment was moved to another police department. Lakeview Sheds has a repossessed shed in great condition that would be suitable. They were also offering a 5% discount until the end of August that of which they offered to hold that price until this evening. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Janet Blattenberger approved to purchase a **10'X12' SHED** from Lakeview Sheds in the amount of \$3,847.50 to be paid for from the Police Pistol Range Fund. The motion passed unanimously.* Monies in this account is comprised solely of donations made to the police department – no tax payer money.

Chief Hoover was also requesting to purchase a patrol rifle at an excellent price so that each police car has one. Base Camp Guns has a 556 caliber A. R. based short barreled rifle with a silencer on it which is very important when being discharged in close quarters. *Council on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by James Dell, authorized the purchase of a 556 caliber A. R. based **SHORT BARRELED RIFLE** with a silencer from Base Camp Guns in the amount of \$2,400.00 to be paid for from the Police Pistol Range Fund. The motion passed unanimously.* Base Camp Guns is donating a free electronic site to our police department.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. has contacted Jake Decker of PennDOT on the blacktop at the square. He also was in contact with Representative Jim Gregory who also contacted PennDOT and seems to think PennDOT may be able to schedule it possibly as soon as next spring. PennDOT is done paving in October each year and it is a little late to schedule it for this year. The topic will be put on the agenda for next month for further discussion. It was the consensus of council to wait and see what Representative Gregory's contact does and if that doesn't get PennDOT moving Senator Judy Ward will be contacted.

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – PAGE 3

There was an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** on personnel matters from 7:54-8:25 p.m.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:25 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary