

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**MAY 5, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, May 5, 2025 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with a moment of silence for Janet Blattenberger who passed away on April 27, 2025 and then prayer by Richard Brantner, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Richard A. Brantner, President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Edward L. Bennett, Pro-Tem Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Neil E. Gartland and Councilman Darin B. Meck (*Janet Blattenberger passed away April 27, 2025*)

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Justin Davis, Attorney Nathan Karn, Amy Hockenberry, Dustin Russell, Todd Bookhammer, Sandy Weyandt, Reba Stuller, Tracey Davis, James and Lisa Davis, Rodney and Debra Harper, Kerry and Beth Hoover, and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald.

With the unfortunate passing of Janet Blattenberger on April 27, 2025 there is now a vacancy on council. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Neil Gartland, appointed MARK K. GARTLAND to fulfill the remainder of her vacancy ending January 1, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.* Mayor Richard Brantner administered the Oath of Office to Mark Gartland.

Mayor Richard Brantner prepared a Proclamation of Promotion recognizing JUSTIN L. DAVIS as the new Chief of Police of the Martinsburg Police Department that was effective May 3, 2025. Justin gave an appreciation speech highlighting a few of his most memorable moments working for the borough over the past twenty-two years and thanking all those who have helped him through the years.

*The MINUTES of the meeting of April 7, 2025 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

The FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS for April 2025 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The LIST OF BILLS for April 2025, check nos. 11706-11745 in the amount of \$84,519.96 (including transfers to the Reserve Fund totaling \$49,000) approved on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Neil Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written.

Police Chief Justin Davis presented the POLICE REPORT as written. The department handled 117 incidents in April which is above average activity. The medication dispenser box was emptied and taken to D.E.A. There was a total of ninety-two pounds of medication in it.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

**APR 8** –met with April Ressler of THE TEETER GROUP to review the borough's insurance package

**APR 22** –the borough crew and a few municipal authority members attended a FLAGGER TRAINING course – the course is required every three years

**APR 23** – had a WATER LEAK on the 6-inch main up behind Long's Outpost

**APR 25** – put BANNERS up in town

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 5, 2025 – PAGE 2

**APR 28** – had a **STORM** come through and knocked out about ¼ of the borough's power along with the water plant, wastewater plant and the Hoover Drive Lift Station

**MAY 3** – had a **WATER LEAK** at Penn and Maple Street

Attorney Nathan Karn reported that on April 24, 2025, the Board of Commissioners of Blair County held a public hearing regarding the decertification of **EXPLORE ALTOONA** as the County's designated tourism and promotion agency. On May 1, 2025, at a duly held public meeting, the Commissioners voted to decertify Explore Altoona. The County is working to certify a new agency, and we will update you as warranted. Please note that, to the extent you have had dealings with Explore Altoona, that entity is no longer certified.

The **COMCAST AGREEMENT** was signed last month. We need to see what the next step is.

The **AMBULANCE COMMITTEE** met a few weeks ago. They will be getting together with Hollidaysburg Ambulance soon.

Correspondence was received from the Spring Cove School District regarding replacing the delinquent per capita tax collector Statewide with Keystone Collections Group. *Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, approved the Agreement between Martinsburg Borough and **KEYSTONE COLLECTIONS GROUP** appointing Keystone Collections Group as the exclusive collector of the borough's delinquent Per Capita Tax. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, adopted Resolution No. 2025-0505-01 supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States **SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL** (250 years). The motion passed unanimously.*

There will be a **RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE** for Chief Kerry Hoover at the Martinsburg Firehall on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 1-4:00 p.m. The public is invited.

The next **SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES BOROUGH'S ASSOCIATION** dinner meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025 at Marzoni's. Reservations must be in by May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the fire company's **CHICKEN BARBEQUE** will be held on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** will meet following the adjournment of the meeting.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary