

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 3, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, October 3, 2022 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, Pro-tem Charles E. Kensinger Councilman, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell, and Councilman Darin B. Meck (*Durban Metzler was absent*)

In addition to council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Attorney Matt Gieg, Mia Metzger, Danette Feathers of the Martinsburg Community Library, Jay Reilly and Robert Craig of the Hollidaysburg EMS, Sandy Weyandt, and Anna Baughman of the Morrisons Cove Herald

ROBERT CRAIG, the new chief of the Hollidaysburg EMS and his supervisor Jay Reilly attended to update council on their staffing. They explained the difference between Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support. Mayor Brantner commended them on his recent experience with the ambulance service. Having them located in town gets our town a quicker response with also helps out our police department.

DANETTE FEATHERS is the director of the Martinsburg Community Library. She thanked council for their annual support and passed out a fact sheet on the library listing their programs for October. Council was pleased with her report.

[Danette Feathers left at 7:15 p.m.]

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of September 6, 2022 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for September 2022 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for September 2022, check nos. 10807-10842 in the amount of \$244,098.97 (including a transfer of \$110,000 to the Reserve Fund) was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER (Sr.) presented his report as written.

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The police department participated in the disaster drill at the Blair County Airport with other departments. Chief Hoover reported that the drill was very interesting and many different scenarios were presented. Blair County is meeting with all of the police departments and the Blair 911 Center to explain the availability of a grant for new radios available to all departments in Blair County. Grant writers are preparing the application due in October 13, 2022. Our police radios are mostly original and beyond their life span and parts can no longer be obtained for them. Tablets are also available for the cruisers but since we do not have enough room to mount them hand-helds may be an option.

*Due to the time pressures in filling out the grant application, council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved to **AMEND THIS EVENING'S COUNCIL AGENDA** to include the PCCD Police Radio Grant Program. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell, authorized the Martinsburg Borough Police Department to participate in the **BLAIR COUNTY RADIO GRANT PROGRAM** through PCCD and to authorize Chief Kerry Hoover to execute any or all grant documentation as a department applicant. The motion passed unanimously.*

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

- SEP 7 – had a hole develop in one of the vessels at the **WATER PLANT** so we had a certified welder come in and repair the vessels at the water treatment plant
- SEP 9 – toured various **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS** in the area along with Gary Hooder to look at some different ideas for how to remove rags and disinfectant wipes from our treatment plant – it is an ongoing problem at the wastewater treatment plant
- SEP 15 – received the Bill of Sale from Bill Replogle for the purchase of the **NEW HOLLAND TRACTOR** from the W. Gene Henry Estate
- SEP 23 – started putting **NO. 3 VESSEL** back together at the water plant so we can put it back into service
- SEP 30 – installed **STOP SIGNS** and slow children at play signs on South First Alley

Janet Blattenberger inquired about Martinsburg Borough getting involved in the **LERTA PROGRAM** of reduce real estate tax for businesses. It was further explained that this program is more to attract new business and since the borough is already built out unlike Williamsburg Borough and its surrounding townships, we unfortunately have no room for expansion for new development. This program could be looked into further if a situation would arise.

Janet Blattenberger mentioned a traffic situation she encountered on **SOUTH FIRST ALLEY** during the fire company's chicken barbeque that is set up in the alley for dinner pick-ups. It seemed the consensus of council not to address the minor issue since the events are only a few times a year.

Attorney Matt Gieg introduced his guest as his friend's daughter Mia Metzger, a fifth grade student at Spring Cove Elementary School. He reported that the **W. PENN STREET PROPERTY** agreement with the geologist was prepared addressing that the geologist Mr. Calvert would invoice the borough and the borough would then invoice out 50% of the environmental cost to Jonathan and Megan Zimmerman, owners of the lot. Chief Hoover presented the school districts agreement for the borough to sell the **OLD 2103 FORD POLICE CAR** to the Spring Cove School District. The agreement is date October 17, 2022 the date of the school workshop meeting before the meeting. *Council on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by James Dell, approved of the agreement to sell the **2013 FORD EXPLORER** for \$9,000 to the Spring Cove School District subject to allowing our police department to continue using it until the new car arrives no later than April 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.*

Attorney Matt Gieg reported that he has prepared and advertised **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-639 ADDING THE THREE STOP SIGNS** to South First Alley and is ready for adoption this evening under new business.

Charles Kensinger reported that Garman Brothers is planning to do the concrete work tomorrow for the **W. GENE HENRY MEMORIAL**. The unveiling ceremony of the monument will be brief and should be done this month. Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, approved the date of Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 10 a.m. as the unveiling ceremony for the W. Gene Henry Memorial and the community is invited. The motion passed unanimously.

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, authorized to send a donation of \$300.00 to **MOM'S PETS** for the work she did on trapping and moving the feral cats from Locust Street to be paid for from the General Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

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An ad for the sale of the **OLD 1974 FORD TRACTOR**/Frontend Loader 4500 Series has been advertised two times in request for bids to be received by 4:00 p.m. on November 7, 2022. The minimum bid amount is \$3,000.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. is waiting on Bettwy for prices on a few more **SECURITY CAMERAS** for the 2023 Budget.

*Council on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, adopted **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-639 ADDING STOP SIGNS** to South First Alley and repealing and replacing all prior stop sign ordinances and listing all of the stop signs in the Borough of Martinsburg. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved to advertise the **2023 BUDGET WORKSHOP** for Monday, October 17, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. at the municipal building. The motion passed unanimously.*

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the **RECYCLING KEY CARD PROGRAM** may need an increase in price to sustain the expenses of the program. Burgmeier's Hauling has increased their monthly fee from \$720/mo. to \$869.40/mo. since last year and now there is an additional \$41.40 fuel charge added to the monthly invoice. Manager Brantner, Jr. suggested a \$10 increase to cover the expenses. Charles Kensinger felt the recycling center was a great service to the community and wished to continue the program. *Council on a motion from Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, authorized to increase the **2023 ANNUAL RECYCLING KEY CARD PROGRAM** from \$25/year to \$35/year effective March 1, 2023 (due date changing from January 1 to March 1 beginning in 2023). The motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes of the regular meeting September 12, 2022 of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** were included in the agenda packet. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the fire department just had a successful chicken barbeque. Dutch Meal tickets are now on sale at \$14.00 each.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:07 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary