

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2026

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, April 6, 2026 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. prayer by Richard Brantner, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Richard Brantner, President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Darin B. Meck, Pro-tem Neil E. Gartland, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilman James C. Dell, and Councilman Mark K. Gartland [*Councilman Charles E. Kensinger was absent*]

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Justin Davis, Attorney Nathan Karn and Kaitlyn Edmiston of Evy Black Attorneys, Amy Hockenberry, Dustin Russell, Doug Ritchey, Beth Hoover, Reba Stuller, Sandy Weyandt, Gary Watters of AMED; and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald

President Rob Dickson asked if anyone wished to speak.

Gary Watters of AMED gave a report on the ambulance for the month of March 2026. They had forty (40) calls and their average response time was 6.14 minutes. The number of calls was down but the Altoona Emergency Room was also seeing their calls were down. They have been busy the past few days though.

The MINUTES of the meeting of March 2, 2026y 2, 2026 were approved on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Mark Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.

The FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS for March 2026 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

The LIST OF BILLS for March 2026, check nos. 12102-12135 in the amount of \$73,701.99 approved on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written.

Chief Justin Davis presented the POLICE REPORT as written. The department handled 137 complaints in March 2026.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

MAR 4 – had A Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) MEETING at the Blair County 911 Center

MAR 5 – attended a MANAGER ROUND TABLE discussion – the main topic was emergency service such as police, fire and emergency medical services

MAR 6 – a SEWER LATERAL was replaced at 307 N. Mulberry Street

MAR 7 – had a WATER LEAK on Woodlawn Avenue

MAR 11 – met with the committee and Chief Davis to review the PEDDLERS ORDINANCE

MAR 13 – The Village at Morrisons Cove Home had a WATER LEAK on their 3-inch service going into their one building

MAR 14 – the fire company had a big BARN FIRE at Frederick's farm

MAR 14 – had a WATER LEAK on S. Mulberry Street

MAR 19 – held a BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE meeting

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APR 1 & 25 – streets and intersection were SWEPT

APR 2 – attended a meeting with the Personnel Committee to conduct two interviews for the LABOR POSITION

Doug Ritchey said he received his 2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT and that the water looked good. He also received his SPRING CLEANUP flyer.

Attorney Nathan Karn had an update to the SOLICITATION ORDINANCE when we get to new business.

The MARTINSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY held their regular meeting on March 17th. They are still waiting on DEP permits to proceed with their various project. They will not have everything together for the next Pennvest meeting but should be ready for the one after that. They have already qualified for the \$1.7 million grants for the water tank and transmission line projects. The project will most likely be ready to start next spring.

An EXECUTIVE SESSION will be held this evening to discuss the Kevin Smith and Hollidaysburg Ambulance law suit.

The SPRING CLEANUP EVENT will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026 from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Volunteer help is always needed and the dumpsters have already been lined up.

A letter dated March 2, 2026 was received from Blair County stating the county was directed to distribute a portion of its liquid fuels tax monies to the local municipalities for qualifying projects and expenditures. Martinsburg Borough is eligible to receive \$11,500.54 of it. This money can be used towards the purchase of our new truck. *Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Mark Gartland, approved to make an application to receive approval from PennDOT for the \$11,500.54 forced distribution of COUNTY ACT 32 LIQUID FUELS TAX Monies from Blair County to be used towards the purchase of our new truck. The motion passed unanimously.*

President Rob Dickson suggested that council consider building a GARAGE STORAGE BUILDING since our garage is currently really full. The additional building is necessary to store and protect our equipment. A metal 24' x 32' pole barn could be built near the compost gate area. Garman Construction with the help of our men could drill the post holes and it could be built for about \$13,000 and the engineering prints would cost an additional \$2,000. Since the entire project is estimated at \$15,000 Attorney Nathan Karn stated that three phone quotes will be required. President Dickson reported that with the unexpected \$11,500.54 aid coming from the county to help with our truck purchase this year will make the building project not very expensive budget wise. *Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, motioned to approve the project to build a NEW GARAGE STORAGE BUILDING and engineering plans. The motion passed unanimously.* The building could be expanded larger in the future if needed.

The solicitation ordinance committee met to review how to change the existing ordinance. A new ordinance was prepared spelling out the days, times and conditions for solicitation within the borough. Attorney Karn had one update to the draft ordinance included in the agenda packet for Section 4 Condition of Permit to interject for clarity "...except *no canvassing, peddling and/or soliciting may occur* on Sundays or any holiday...". *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by James Dell, authorized to advertise ORDINANCE NO. 2026-655 FOR CANVASSING, PEDDLING AND/OR SOLICITING for consideration for adoption next month. The motion passed unanimously.*

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An EXECUTIVE SESSION for personnel, legal and real estate was held from 7:32-7:50 p.m.

Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, approved to hire TIMOTHY STONE as a laborer at a rate of \$17.00 per hour to be increased to \$18.00 per hour after his ninety (90) day probationary period. The motion passed unanimously. Timothy Stone can start work after giving his current employer a two-week notice.

Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. received a phone call from the school district informing him of the school's intent to take their half of the REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX to try to balance their budget. Apparently, they are the only school district in the county that does not receive ½% of the real estate transfer tax. Currently the borough receives the full 1% as do the other five Spring Cove School District municipalities. The school has this topic on their agenda for their next meeting to discuss. It is a tax that is hard to budget each year because it is generated on the sale of real estate. We get an average of about \$53,000 each year collecting the full 1%. It was the consensus of borough council to allow Manager Brantner to attend a school district meeting to discuss it with them.

The borough AUDIT for fiscal year end December 31, 2025 has been completed by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz. The required annual ad will be placed in the Morrisons Cove Herald.

The MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY will be holding their chicken barbecue on Saturday, April 18, 2026. The fire company works well with AMED.

A letter was received by council from Richard Brantner, Jr. advising them that he has accepted the appointment to serve as the LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORINATOR (LEMC) for Huston Township in addition to his current position as Local Emergency Management Coordinator for Martinsburg Borough.

A THANK YOU letter was received from the Morrisons Cove Memorial Park for the \$3,000 donation towards the Cove Carnival Fireworks Shows this year. The donation was made to increase the show for the country's 250th Anniversary Celebration this year.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 8:10 p.m. on a motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary