

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 6, 2026

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, July 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, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Mark K. Gartland and Councilman Charles E. Kensinger
[Pro-tem Neil Gartland was absent]

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

President Rob Dickson asked if anyone wished to speak.

KERRY HOOVER was present as one of the board of directors of the Martinsburg Sportsman Club. He reported that the club was recently approved for a **GRANT** through the Pennsylvania Game Commission that they applied for to be used for upgrades to the police pistol range to add a 12x40 roofed carport (an estimated cost of \$5,000) at no cost to the borough. On other business he mentioned that his name was recently brought up in some discussion and felt that lack of communication always ends with causing problems. He prepared **LETTERS** and distributed them to each of the council members.

DOUG RITCHEY reported that he was having two large **TREES** taken down on his property by Lofty Heights. He wasn't taking them down just to take them down rather they were already causing damage to his property. One that blew down was 280 years old.

Gary Waters of **AMED** reported that in the month of June 2026 they had 37 calls. Everything has been going well and they are prepared for the Agricultural Parade.

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of June 1, 2026 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Mark Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for June 2026, check nos. 12204-12237 in the amount of \$105,951.34 (including \$73,000 of transfers to the Reserve Fund) approved on a motion by Mark 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 had 158 **COMPLAINTS** for the month of June 2026. Met with the Chiefs of Police of Blair County. Education **PAMPHLETS** about e-bikes and electric scooters were made by Amy Hockenberry and printed at Cove Printing for distribution. June was mostly a **TRAINING MONTH** for the department. Officer Brittany Diehl attended training in Dallas Texas all expenses paid for by a Blair County Grant other than her work hours. Patrolman Troy Jarrett attended a field sobriety check point. Chief Davis mentioned that council may want to increase the police training budget line item for next year. Chief Davis thanked Todd Bookhammer and the borough crew for their help on putting up the **NO PARKING SIGNS** for the Agricultural Parade.

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BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

JUN 9 – Thank you to the **GARTLANDS** for spraying the borough lot at no charge

JUN 10 – had a **LEMC** meeting at the Blair 911 center

JUN 15 – received the court order for the **KEVIN SMITH LAWSUIT** from Attorney McGee

JUN 18 – we had a **BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE** meeting for the borough and had great participation

JUN 23 – Chief Davis and I had a meeting with Gary Watters from AMED on the **AGRICULTURAL PARADE** – we wanted them to know what to expect since this was their first parade here – AMED has been more than cooperative

JUN 25 – had Guyer Brothers come in with their vac truck and suck out the media in the **BRINE TANK** at the water plant

JUN 26 – put new media back into the **BRINE TANK**

JUN 29 & 30 – dug up and fixed the sewer line coming out of the **WATER PLANT**

JUL 6 – they are working on installing the **CAMERAS** at the signal light

Attorney Nathan Karn reported that the Martinsburg Municipal Authority has applications into **PENNVEST** for several projects. They were recently contacted regarding the life of the authority. Pennvest could not find documentation that the municipal authority ever renewed their **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**. The authority needs to outlive the life of the loan if they are awarded. The municipal authority's prior solicitor Gieg Attorneys did not complete the process of renewing the Articles of Incorporation when attempted to renew it a few years ago. Attorney Karn will be starting the process all over again to avoid missing any steps in the process. This should not affect the July 2026 round of Pennvest funding. The Martinsburg Municipal Authority at their July 2026 meeting will pass a resolution to ask the borough council to extend the Articles of Incorporation for another 50 years. It will then be placed on the council's August agenda to approve extending the Articles of Incorporation for 50 more years.

Charles Kensinger reported that a group met to discuss **E-BIKES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS**. This is becoming an issue everywhere not just in Martinsburg. Mayor Brantner put out some educational information on the subject on his Face Book group to educate the public. It was intended to educate the parents what the laws are. Since the post there have been less sightings of the bikes and scooters in the past three weeks.

A **2028 SPRING CLEAN UP COMMITTEE** was appointed to include: Darin Meck-Chairman, Mark Gartland, Richard Brantner, Jr. and Dusty Russell.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** will be held following the adjournment of the meeting this evening to discuss the law suit by Kevin Smith. The Blair County Court of Common Pleas ruled in favor of the Borough of Martinsburg and North Woodbury Township and dismissed the lawsuit filed by Kevin L. Smith and the Hollidaysburg American Legion Ambulance Service (HALAS).

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At the last Bicentennial Committee meeting it was discussed that a few fund raisers may take place to raise money for events. Cash transactions as well as checks will most likely be received and as it stands cash cannot be sent to PLGIT so it was suggested that a new account be opened at a local bank. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Mark Gartland, authorized to close the Christmas Lights Fund (e.g. Bicentennial Fund) PLGIT Account and transfer those funds into a new account for the BICENTENNIAL FUND at First National Bank with check signers the same as all other accounts: Rob Dickson-Pres, Darin Meck-V. Pres, Neil Gartland-Pro Tem, M. Jane Stail-Borough Sec./Trea. The motion passed unanimously.*

Timothy Stone was hired and his start date was April 23, 2026 and he is almost past his 90-day probationary period. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. included his Probation Evaluation in the council packets. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, to officially continue TIMOTHY STONE'S full-time employment to include full-time benefits beginning on July 23, 2026 when his 90-day probationary period is over. The motion passed unanimously.* Council at their April 6, 2026 meeting has already approved to increase his pay from \$17.00 to \$18.00 per hour after his probationary period is over

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the ANNUAL OX ROAST was successful. They actually ran out of ox roast on Saturday. Three cows were donated – two from Forsheys and one from the Gerald and Linda Smith Farm. The fire company went through 1700 pounds of ox roast in two days and sold loose hamburger also. The basket raffle went well and the weather was perfect.

Reba Stuller commented on how nice the borough building DECORATIONS looks for the 250 Anniversary of our country.

Minutes of the June 15, 2026 meeting of the MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY were included in the council agenda packets.

Thank you's were received from the MORRISONS COVE MEMORIAL PARK for the 2026 Annual Allocations.

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The meeting ADJOURNED at 7:39 p.m. on a motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary