

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, November 3, 2025 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: President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Edward L. Bennett, Pro-tem Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Mark K. Gartland, Councilman Neil E. Gartland, and Councilman Darin B. Meck (*Mayor Richard Brantner was absent*)

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Justin Davis, Attorney Nathan Karn and Kaitylyn Edmiston of Evy Black Attorneys, Patrolman Tom Lykens, Patrolman Troy Jarrett, Dustin Russell, Amy Hockenberry, Todd Bookhammer, and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald

Also in attendance were members of the surrounding communities regarding the ambulance service renewal:

Jacquelyn Baker	Linda Dilling	Eric Keim	Kim Sellers	Reba Stuller
Kristina Baker	Matt Elliott	Lou L. Kensinger	Jordan Settle	Gary Watters
Michael Barnes	Allen Garman Jr	Homer McCready	Kevin Smith	Sandy Weyandt
Kathie Burchfield	Dustin Holland	Karen Nicodemus	Lisa Keim Smith	John [<i>illegible</i>]
Gerald T. Corbin	Beth Hoover	Kristina Pollard	Robert Smith	
Sarah Detwiler	Dave Hoover	George Replogle	Peggy Steinfurth	
Craig Dilling	Candy Keim	Linda Robison	Susan Stern	

Before giving the audience a chance to speak President Rob Dickson pointed out the facts regarding choosing AMED over Hollidaysburg for the upcoming **AMBULANCE CONTRACT** and announced that no questions would be answered this evening.

- The current ambulance contract with Hollidaysburg runs out December 31, 2025
- A committee was appointed to review the upcoming ambulance contract
- We did solicit proposals from two area ambulance services for a new ten year contract
- Two proposals were received: Hollidaysburg and AMED
- AMED submitted a more professional proposal than Hollidaysburg
- The committee appointed to review the proposals came back with a recommendation to council - they chose AMED
- AMED is an authority and is more transparent as they adhere to the Sunshine Act so all their meetings and finances are made public whereas Hollidaysburg's meetings and finances are all private
- AMED's services were not inferior to Hollidaysburg's but AMED's proposal would mean a savings of \$15,500 per year to the Martinsburg Borough tax payer's annual budget as they propose to pay \$1000 per month for building rental and will not be taking the annual \$3,500 allocation
- As elected officials and stewards of the tax payer's money it is council's duty to choose not only the most qualified service but also the most financially efficient service as well
- Borough council works hard to keep the tax millage down for the tax payers and as a result Martinsburg Borough remains one of the lowest borough tax millages in Blair County

Various people including Kevin Smith, George Replogle, Homer McCready, and Christina Pollard, Kristina Baker, Craig Dilling, Eric Keim, Kim Setters, Gerald Corbin and Matthew Elliot volunteered to speak and were given three minutes each to speak regarding the renewal of the upcoming ambulance service contract for the Borough of Martinsburg. Kevin Smith alluded that he felt council and Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. did not go by the law in appointing the review committee and to how they went about coming to the decision to choose AMED over Hollidaysburg. Matthew Elliot has been working with AMED for nineteen year and suggested that the community was mostly uneducated on how emergency services actually work.

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2025 – PAGE 2

Both ambulance services cover several counties. AMED is already coming into the Martinsburg area quite a bit to cover when Hollidaysburg can't. Citizens should work together and are fortunate to even have an ambulance located right in town as not all communities do. Most of the other speakers were in favor of keeping Hollidaysburg Ambulance.

The MINUTES of the meeting of October 6, 2025 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

The MINUTES of the special meeting of October 14, 2025 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The LIST OF BILLS for October 2025, check nos. 11923-11962 in the amount of \$142,262.13 (including transfers to the Reserve Fund totaling \$35,000) approved on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Police Chief Justin Davis presented the POLICE REPORT as written. The department addressed 99 complaints in October 2025. Officer Troy Jarrett graduated from the police academy and has passed his MPOETC test. He started his full-time status with the Martinsburg Police Department on October 8, 2025.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

OCT 14 – replaced the FIRE HYDRANT at Freightliner Lane

OCT 21 – the borough crew cleaned out the SALT SATURATOR TANK at the nitrate removal plant

OCT 22 – received the report from the cleaning of the BASINS at the wastewater treatment plant and they hauled out about 30 tons of sediment, grit and rags – the plant was built in 1991 and this is the first time we have had the basins cleaned

OCT 29 – BLACKTOPPED some water leaks

OCT 30 – rode around in the borough truck along with the fire company to help keep the community safe during TRICK OR TREAT

Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. contacted Linda Smith of the MARTINSBURG FOOD BANK to see how they are doing since the Federal Government shut down in regards to the interference of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. She said they are doing well and have been receiving a lot of donations.

ATTORNEY NATHAN KARN had nothing to report. He introduced Attorney Kaitly Edmiston as a new addition to Evey Black Attorneys.

Charles Kensinger as chairman of the Ambulance Contract Review Committee addressed those present about how the committee came to the conclusion to recommend AMED for the new ambulance service. Councilman Kensinger initially thought Hollidaysburg would be the one to have it again. He believes in loyalty but loyalty to a point. During the review of the proposals AMED's professionalism stood out and they had a detailed training program. AMED being

bigger is advantageous financially and structurally. AMED is an authority which makes them more transparent than Hollidaysburg as AMED’s meetings and budget are open to the public. ***Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Neil Gartland, adopted Resolution No. 2025-1103-01 a Resolution approving an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the Altoona Logan Township Mobile Medical Emergency Department (AMED) to provide emergency medical services to the Borough of Martinsburg. The motion passed with six (6) yays and one (1) nay from Ed Bennett.***

Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Darin Meck, approved to advertise the 2026-5 BUDGET for the 10-day public inspection period to be considered for adoption at the December meeting. The motion passed unanimously. There is no tax increase in the 2026-5 Budget.

Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, approved the following 2026 EMPLOYEE PAY RAISES as follows. The motion passed unanimously.

Manager	\$2.00
Police Chief	\$2.00
Borough Sec./Trea.	\$2.00
Working Foreman	\$1.50
Clerk	\$1.50
STP Operator	\$1.00
Laborer	\$1.00
Part-time Patrol	\$1.00
Flaggers	\$1.00

The Borough Code was amended a few years ago approving that **REAL ESTATE TAX** can be adopted by resolution if there is no tax increase. Resolutions do not need to be advertised. A resolution for the 2026 Real Estate Tax with no increase for 20265 will be prepared for the December 2025 meeting:

- ***Resolution No. 2025-1201-01 REAL ESTATE TAX FOR 2026 as 1.967 mills***

Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, approved to advertise the 2026 TAX ORDINANCES as follows with no tax increases for 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

- ***Ordinance No. 2025-652 PER CAPITA TAX FOR 2026 as \$5.00***
- ***Ordinance No. 2025-653 EARNED INCOME TAX FOR 2026 as ½ of 1%***
- ***Ordinance No. 2025-654 LOCAL SERVICES TAX FOR 2026 as \$52***

Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, approved to advertise the 2026 REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING for Monday, January 5, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, approved to advertise the 2026 BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING DATES as follows. The motion passed unanimously.

JAN 5	APR 6	JUL 6	OCT 5
FEB 2	MAY 4	AUG 3	NOV 2
MAR 2	JUN 1	SEP 8 (Tue)	DEC 7

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2025 – PAGE 4

Council on a motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by James Dell, approved to donate \$500.00 to the 2025 COVE CHRISTMAS LOVE PROGRAM. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY were included in the agenda packet. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that it has been a quiet month for the fire department. He thanked council for the decision last month to increase the fire company's annual allocation from \$10,750 to \$16,125 beginning next year.

The next SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES BOROUGH ASSOCIATION dinner meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at Marzoni's in Duncansville. Anyone interested in attending reservations need to be in by November 21, 2025.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 7:52 p.m. on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Mark Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary