

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2026**

The reorganizational meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, January 5, 2026 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 Brantner, Councilman P. Robert Dickson, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilman Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Mark K. Gartland, Councilman Neil E. Gartland, and Councilman Darin B. Meck

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, Dustin Russell, Amy Hockenberry, District Magistrate Andrew Blattenberger, Beth Hoover, Reba Stuller, Sandra Weyandt and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald

Prior to the meeting, Magisterial District Judge Andrew Blattenberger administered the **OATH OF OFFICE** to the following elected officials:

Charles E. Kensinger	(4 year term)	Borough Council
Mark K. Gartland	(4 year term)	Borough Council
James C. Dell	(4 year term)	Borough Council
Edward L. Bennett	(4 year term)	Borough Council
Richard A. Brantner, (Sr.)	(4 year term)	Mayor
M. Jane Staily	(4 year term)	Tax Collector

[Andrew Blattenberger, left at 7:10 p.m.]

The meeting was then **CALLED TO ORDER** by Mayor Richard A. Brantner, assuming the chair for the purpose of designating officers.

Nominations were taken for the office of **PRESIDENT**. *Rob Dickson was nominated by Charles Kensinger. No other nominations were made. A roll call vote was taken for Rob Dickson: 7 yays [James Dell, Rob Dickson, Neil Gartland, Charles Kensinger, Darin Meck, Ed Bennett and Mark Gartland] no nays, no abstentions. **ROB DICKSON** was voted in as President by majority vote.*

The meeting was taken over by President Rob Dickson.

Nominations were taken for the office of **VICE-PRESIDENT**. *Darin Meck was nominated by Mark Gartland. No other nominations were made. A roll call vote was taken for Darin Meck: 7 yays [James Dell, Rob Dickson, Neil Gartland, Charles Kensinger, Darin Meck, Ed Bennett and Mark Gartland] no nays, no abstentions. **DARIN MECK** was voted in as Vice-President by majority vote.*

Nominations were taken for the office of **PRO-TEMPORE**. *Neil Gartland was nominated by James Dell. No other nominations were made. A roll call vote was taken for Neil Gartland: 7 yays [James Dell, Rob Dickson, Neil Gartland, Charles Kensinger, Darin Meck, Ed Bennett and Mark Gartland] no nays, no abstentions. **NEIL GARTLAND** was voted in as Pro-Tempore by majority vote.*

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The following council members were appointed to retain their COMMISSIONS:

SAFETY -Charles Kensinger
 PROPERTY -Darin Meck
 STREETS -James Dell
 FINANCE -Rob Dickson
 WATER/SEWER -Neil Gartland

The following **STAFF APPOINTMENTS** were made and approved on motions as follows:

Title	Appointee	Motion by:	Seconded by:	Vote:
CHIEF OF POLICE POL. DEPT. OPEN RECORDS OFFICER FIRE MARSHALL	-Justin Davis	<i>motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Ed Bennett, passed unanimously</i>		
SOLICITOR	-Evey, Black Attorneys LLC	<i>motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously</i>		
BOROUGH MANAGER EMER. MGMT COOR. DEPUTY OPEN RECORDS OFFICER ZONING OFFICER	-Richard Brantner, Jr.	<i>motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by Charles Kensinger, passed unanimously</i>		
BOROUGH SECRETARY BOROUGH TREASURER CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE PENSION PLAN (updated State language for forms) OPEN RECORDS OFFICER	-Jane Staily	<i>motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously</i>		
DEPUTY EMER. MGMT. COORDINATOR	-Dustin Russell	<i>motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Mark Gartland, passed unanimously</i>		
ENGINEER	-Stiffler, McGraw & Associates	<i>motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Darin Meck, passed unanimously</i>		
ZONING SOLICITOR	-Atty. Shawn Sullivan	<i>motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Charles Kensinger, passed unanimously</i>		
BUILDING CODE INSPECTORS:	-MDIA -PMCA	<i>motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by Charles Kensinger, passed unanimously</i> <i>motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by Charles Kensinger, passed unanimously</i>		
AUDITOR for fiscal year ending 12/31/2025	-Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz	<i>motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Neil Gartland, passed unanimously</i>		
RECEIVER OF TAXES FOR LST:	-Blair County Tax Collection Bureau	<i>motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Mark Gartland, passed unanimously</i>		

Appointments to the following **BOARDS** were made and approved on the following motions:

ZONING HEARING BOARD:				
Joe Logan	(3 yr ending 1/2029)	<i>motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Mark Gartland, passed unanimously</i>		
*Gordon Hockenberry	(3 yr ending 1/2029)	<i>motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Mark Gartland, passed unanimously</i> <i>[*replacing Mark Gartland who is now an elected councilman making him no longer eligible to hold a position on this board]</i>		
Alternate1	(3 yr ending 1/2027)			
Alternate2	(3 yr ending 1/2028)			

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PLANNING COMMISSION:

William C. Lewis (4 yr ending 1/2030) *motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Neil Gartland, passed unanimously*

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:

Walter D. Foor (5 yr ending 1/2031) *motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Neil Gartland, passed unanimously*

VACANCY BOARD:

Vacancy since Jan 2016

The following COMMITTEES were appointed:

PENSION COMMITTEE	-Rich Brantner, Jr., Jane Staily
EMP. MED. REIMB. COM.	-Rich Brantner, Jr., & Rob Dickson
REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE	-Rich Brantner, Jr.
RECYCLING COMMITTEE	-Ed Bennett and James Dell
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COM.	-Ed Bennett and Rich Brantner, Jr.
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	-Rob Dickson, Darin Meck, Neil Gartland
GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:	-Richard A. Brantner, Sr.

A motion was made by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Mark Gartland, approving to maintain the following DEPOSITORIES at First National Bank. The motion passed unanimously:

-GENERAL FUND CHECKING	-GENERAL FUND RESERVE
-PAYROLL FUND	-EQUIPMENT FUND
-RECYCLING FUND	

A motion was made by James Dell, seconded by Neil Gartland, approving to maintain the following DEPOSITORIES at PLGIT. The motion passed unanimously:

-BUILDING MAINTENANCE	-HIGHWAY FUND
-POLICE PISTOL RANGE FUND	-BICENTENNIAL (CHRISTMAS LIGHT) FUND
-MEDICAL CARE REIMB PLAN	-REVITALIZATION PROJECT

A motion was made by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, approving the following as check signatories. The motion passed unanimously:

-P. Rob Dickson - President
-Darin B. Meck – Vice-President
-Neil E. Gartland -Pro Tem
-M. Jane Staily –Secretary/Treasurer

The MINUTES of the regular meeting of December 1, 2025, were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

The FINANCIAL AND TREASURER’S REPORTS were presented by Treasurer Jane Staily for December 2025.

The LIST OF BILLS for December 2025 check nos. 11990-12025 in the amount of \$85,693.67 (including Transfers to the Reserve for \$72,000) was approved on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

The MAYOR'S REPORT was presented as written.

Chief Justin Davis presented the POLICE REPORT. The department handled 103 complaints in December and has handled 1,208 for the year. Patrolman Troy Jarrett will be completing his 90-day probationary period on January 6, 2026. Chief Davis recommended council continue his employment as a full-time officer. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, approved to continue the employment of Patrolman TROY JARRETT as a full-time officer. The motion passed unanimously.* Chief Davis mentioned that Patrolman Jarrett has made more arrests in his 90-day probationary period than a lot of officers he knows. He recently arrested an individual on an outstanding warrant and was also in possession of crystal meth at the time of the arrest. He handled the incident extremely well. Chief Justin Davis recently downloaded some data from the solar speed signs and included the data at the end of his report. He reported that the solar speed signs are working. Citations are down due to the signs reminding people to slow down.

BOROUGH MANAGER RICHARD BRANTNER, JR. reported:

DEC 2 – got about 2-3 inches of SNOW

DEC 3 – Rob Dickson and I attended the SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES BOROUGH ASSOCIATION meeting

DEC 16 – a resident on S. Walnut Street was having SEWER PROBLEMS where their pipe was crushed

DEC 17 – T. L. Long Excavating replaced the SEWER LATERAL on S. Walnut Street where the pipe was crushed

DEC 22 – had to replace the Cl₂ BOOSTER PUMP at the Hershberger Well

DEC 23 – had to get a new FLOW METER put in at Hershberger Well

DEC 24 – had to pull a pump at BLANK BOOK LIFT STATION that wasn't pumping

DEC 26 – dealt with SLEET and freezing rain, putting salt and anti-skid down

JAN 1 – AMED started handling ambulance calls in the Martinsburg area

JAN 2 – the CHRISTMAS LIGHTS were turned off

JAN 5 – the borough's cleaning lady Christine Zimmerman cleaned the AMBULANCE BUILDING

AMED will be responding to calls from the fire station in Martinsburg for a few weeks until things get in order at the ambulance building. AMED's membership letters give residents three ways to enroll: scan the QR code; visit the website; or call (814) 943-8993.

The interior of the ambulance building is in need of painting before AMED can move in and Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. recommended Brent Baker do the work. *Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, to authorize BRENT BAKER to paint the interior for a cost not to exceed \$3,000 for paint and labor. The motion passed unanimously.* Charles Kensinger also highly recommended Brent Baker.

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Our current **SOLICITATION ORDINANCE NO. 551** was adopted on November 1, 2004. As it is currently written the solicitation permits are currently issued by the police department and is good for one year. The department charges \$20 for the permit. Chief Davis would like to see the permits be issued through the borough office as they have more regular hours than the police department. Attorney Nathan Karn advised that to make the changes requested council would need to advertise to amend the current ordinance. Costs of the permit need to correlate reasonably and short or long term permits can be a choice if council chooses. Council cannot bar solicitation. It was the consensus of council to research what other communities are doing and charging. President Rob Dickson appointed a committee to review the ordinance and come back with some recommendations. The committee will consist of: James Dell, Charles Kensinger, Justin Davis, and Rich Brantner, Jr.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss the litigation from **KEVIN SMITH** following will be held following the adjournment of the meeting.

The minutes of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** for the December 8, 2025 meeting were included in the agenda as well as the fire company's 2025 Annual Report.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:51 p.m. on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary