

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, February 2, 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 James C. Dell, Councilman Mark K. Gartland, and Councilman Charles E. Kensinger (*Ed Bennett was absent*)

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Justin Davis, Attorney Nathan Karn and Kaitilyn Edmiston of Evy Black Attorneys, Amy Hockenberry, Beth Hoover, Reba Stuller, Sarah Detwiler, Vernon Steve Kensinger; Gary Watters and Sandra Mosel of AMED; and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald

President Rob Dickson had each member of the **AUDIENCE** introduce themselves and asked if anyone wished to speak.

Gary Watters of **AMED** gave a report on the ambulance service's first month. On January 1, 2026 AMED transitioned into the firehall until the necessary repairs to the ambulance building were completed. A written report for January 2026 inclusive of photos of the dire condition of the ambulance building before the repairs were made were passed out to the council members. AMED had to put \$23,753.28 worth of repairs into the building before it was fit to move in. They should be in by the end of the week. Gary Waters was asked about responses not being received yet on a few of the membership renewals. He will look into it. AMED averaged a response time of 6.75 minutes in the 16662 area. AMED is working with Saxton in regard to training their volunteers and working out response issues when they cancel calls. AMED averaged a response time of 6.75 minutes in the 16662 area.

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of January 5, 2026 were approved on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for December 21-31, 2025 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for December 21-31, 2025, check nos. 12026-12044 in the amount of \$19,847.92 approved on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Mark Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for January 1-20, 2026 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for January 1-20, 2026, check nos. 12045-12066 in the amount of \$63,139.29 (including a transfer of \$35,000 to the Reserve Fund) approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, 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 127 complaints in January 2026. Two of their calls were assists to AMED for cardiac arrests – they had very fast response times. Last Monday there were an attempted homicide around 5:17 p.m. here in town. Our department was assisted by Roaring Spring, North Woodbury, and

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Freedom Township and all of out officers were called in to assist. The arrest was quick and no one was harmed. She was placed in prison and was denied bail.

**BOROUGH MANAGER** Rich Brantner reported:

**JAN 2** – took down the **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

**JAN 15** – Jane and I had a meeting with the authority’s engineer to work on their **2026 BUDGET**

**JAN 16** – had a meeting with the **AMERICAN 250 COMMITTEE** to discuss some activities that will happen this year

**JAN 20** – the municipal authority passed their **2026 BUDGET**

**JAN 21 & 22** – got about 4-5 inches of **SNOW**

**JAN 24** – the county wanted all the municipalities to get a **DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY** signed and prepped for the upcoming snow event

**JAN 25** – we got about 12-14 inches of light fluffy **SNOW** – we started plowing at 3 a.m. Sunday morning and crews were out for almost 24 hours in shifts

**JAN 26** – hauled **SNOW** out of town center

**JAN 28** – hauled more **SNOW** away from town center

**JAN 31** – had a water meter freeze up in a meter pit at the **FAMILY DOLLAR STORE** – had problems getting it shut off at first – Todd and Dusy did a fantastic job considering the cold conditions – we all pretty much got cold showers that day - Manager Brantner, Jr. commended his men for working in frigid conditions with no complaints – the manager of Family Dollar was very appreciative

Mayor Richard Brantner also wanted to **COMMEND THE BOROUGH EMPLOYEES** for their commitment in working in such frigid conditions recently.

Neil Gartland reported on the meeting of the **MARTINSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY** from January 20<sup>th</sup>. They adopted their 2026 budget: Water Revenues \$1,041,157 and Water Expenditures \$638,006; Sewer Revenues \$597,321 and Sewer Expenditures \$576,110. Upcoming projects are the elevated water storage tank, waterline replacement on Christiana Street, additional water treatment, and Hershberger Well transmission line to be run to the treatment plant.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** will be held following the adjournment of the meeting this evening legal matters with Kevin Smith.

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Last month council approved to paint the interior of the ambulance building for a price not to exceed \$3,000 but it ended up taking more labor to prepare the walls than originally anticipated and the ceiling of the truck may also needed painting. ***Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, authorized to pay BRENT BAKER \$4,700 for the painting of the interior of the ambulance building. The motion passed unanimously.***

The 2026 Budget includes wages and benefits for an additional full-time labor to be hired this spring at a starting wage of about \$15 or \$16 per hours plus benefits. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. was requesting approval to advertise for the new employee. ***Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Mark Gartland, approved to advertise for a FULL-TIME LABORER position. The motion passed unanimously.***

Minutes of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** for their January 12, 2026 meeting was included in the agenda packet.

A **THANK YOU** letter was received from Sam and Rachel Wagner of 405 S. Walnut Street expressing their thanking the borough crew for their assistance in helping with their sewer line project. They were grateful for their guidance and for going beyond the call of duty. Charles Kensinger was impressed with the Wagner's letter and with the borough crew's assistance.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss legal matters with Kevin Smith will be held following the adjournment of the meeting this evening. Charles Kensinger inquired just how much this lawsuit is costing the borough tax payers. Manager Brantner, Jr. said the insurance attorney will cost \$2,700 not including our staff's time or our solicitor's time. He is trying to keep track of the time.

***The meeting ADJOURNED at 7:41 p.m. on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Mark Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary