

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

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, March 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 Edward L. Bennett, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Mark K. Gartland, and Councilman Charles E. Kensinger

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, Todd Bookhammer, Doug Ritchey, Beth Hoover, Reba Stuller, Sarah Detwiler, 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 for the month of February. He reported 21 calls in the borough itself. In the whole 16662 area they had (91) True Emergency/Light-Siren Calls and (24) 911 Non-Emergency Calls. The ambulance building is progressing well. They had an issue with the new cabinets that they are waiting on one smaller one so the refrigerator door can open.

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of February 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 February, 2026 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for February 2026, check nos. 12067-12101 in the amount of \$55,267.17 approved on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written. Mayor Richard Brantner and President Rob Dickson presented a Proclamation to Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily for her forty-years of service as of February 18, 2026.

Chief Justin Davis presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The department handled 128 complaints in January 2026.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

FEB 7&8 – had high winds - spent time **PLOWING** drifts

FEB 10 – T. L. Long replaced a **SEWER LATERAL** at 600 W. Allegheny Street

FEB 12 – put **HELP WANTED LABORER** on Facebook and gave the ad to the Morrisons Cove Herald to advertise

FEB 16 – listening ad looking for **WATER LEAKS**

FEB 18 – **JANE STAILY** has 40 years of service in at working for the borough on this day

FEB 18 – ran the **STREET SWEEPER** on Market and Allegheny Streets

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2026 – PAGE 2

FEB 20 – had an AMERICA 250 committee meeting

FEB 21 – SEWER BACK UP at the carwash

FEB 24 – installed cabinets at the AMBULANCE BUILDING

FEB 25 – Dusty and I attended a class for our CONTINUING EDUCATION credits

FEB 28 – repaired a WATER LEAK

Councilman Neil Gartland reported that he has been noticing a lot of SEWER LINE REPAIRS in town recently. Manager Brantner, Jr. explained that a lot of sewer lines were installed in the 1950s using orangeburg pipe and it is starting to get old.

Attorney Nathan Karn had nothing to report other than there will be a brief EXECUTIVE SESSION later on this evening to discuss the Kevin Smith litigation.

Councilman Neil Gartland noticed someone SOLICITING near Blair Street after dark one evening. He recommended when the solicitation ordinance committee meets they consider setting start and end times on when they can go door to door.

A SPRING CLEAN-UP event will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026 for borough residents only. Invitation flyers will be mailed out at the beginning of April. You must have a flyer to participate.

The Morrisons Cove Memorial Park submits an application to PennDOT each year for the Agricultural Parade and the application needs to be in about six weeks prior to the event. Part of the process is the inclusion of a letter from the Borough of Martinsburg approving the road closings. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, to allow the pertaining streets to be closed for the 2026 AGRICULTURAL PARADE on July 7, 2026 subject to the Morrisons Cove Memorial Park obtaining the necessary PennDOT permit(s). Council's letter of approval through this motion will be attached to the permit. The motion passed unanimously.*

BARGAIN DAYS this year is scheduled for Friday, July 3, 2026. Sarah Detwiler recommended it be held in June and not July because it's too hot. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. explained that it use to be scheduled and taken care of by the Morrisons Cover Herald office years ago and it has always just been the Friday before the park July celebration. Now people just do it that Friday on their own. No one schedules or decides when it will be.

The American 250 Committee recently held their committee meeting here in the conference room. They are a local group of people planning local events for the 250th anniversary of the United States which occurs on July 4, 2026 marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. They are requesting a monetary donation from the borough to help with the extra fireworks they plan to have during the park's celebration week. Charles Kensinger was for anything that uplifts our community. *Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Mark Gartland to allocate \$3,000 (\$1,500 for each of the two FIREWORKS evenings) during the July Celebration week at the Morrisons Cove Memorial Park as part of the added fireworks shows in celebration of our country's 250th anniversary. The motion passed unanimously.*

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2026 – PAGE 3

The examination report of the **HIGHWAY LIQUID FUELS** Tax Fund of the Borough of Martinsburg for January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 has been received.

Minutes of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** for their February 9, 2026 meeting was included in the agenda packet. The fire company held their annual appreciation dinner catered by Frederick's Meat Market. The official fire company fund drive starts in April. Mayor Richard Brantner and the council commended the volunteer fire company for their commitment. The volunteer firemen membership has dropped throughout the years so they are always looking to recruit new members.

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

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:37p.m. on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Mark Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary