

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 4, 2026

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, May 4, 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
[Councilman Ed Bennett was absent]

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Justin Davis, Attorney Kaitlyn Edmiston of Evy Black Attorneys, Amy Hockenberry, Dustin Russell, Beth Hoover, Reba Stuller, Sandy Weyandt, Steve Vernon Kensinger, Sarah Detwiler, Troy Jarrett, Taylor Jarrett & Blackley Potts, Gary Watters of AMED; and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald

President Rob Dickson asked if anyone wished to speak.

The MINUTES of the meeting of April 6, 2026 were approved on a motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The LIST OF BILLS for April 2026, check nos. 12136-12164 in the amount of \$102,125.23 (including \$60,000 of transfers to the Reserve Fund) approved on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written. He prepared a Proclamation for National Police Week May 10-16, 2026 and presented it to the Martinsburg Police Department.

Chief Justin Davis presented the POLICE REPORT as written. The department handled 153 complaints in April 2026. Chief Davis gave a few tours for the home school children and showed them some of the police equipment. He handed out color sheets to the younger children prepared by Amy Hockenberry and Jane Staily.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

APR 10 – a representative from each municipality in the Spring Cove School District except Huston Township met here at the borough building to discuss the REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX that the school board put on their agenda to discuss – we all agreed to have Rodney Green speak at the school board meeting – he is a Roaring Spring Borough Councilman and a former school superintendent.

APR 13 – attended the school board meeting along with Charles Kensinger and all the municipalities in the school district regarding the REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX – we were well represented – Rodney Green spoke and gave some key points on how it would affect all the municipalities' budgets – after some discussion amongst the school board members most of them gave their opinion and they were all in favor of not trying to take their ½%

APR 17 – received an email from Attorney Kyle McGee that on Monday, April 27th an argument on Preliminary Objections in the KEVIN SMITH LAW SUIT is scheduled at the Blair County Courthouse

APR 27 – replaced the HYDRANT on N. Market St. by Leidy's that someone hit – the hydrant was installed in 1915 – we have a \$2,000 insurance deductible on repairing/replacing it

APR 23 – picked up the NEW DUMP TRUCK

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APR 25 – had our **SPRING CLEANUP EVENT** – it was a wet but successful day – about 180 flyers were turned in which is about the same as the last event two years ago – we had to order two additional rollofs – we have a lot of different things we want to change for the next cleanup in two years

APR 27 – attended along with the mayor the Preliminary Objections at the Blair County Courthouse regarding the **KEVIN SMITH LAW SUIT**

APR 27 – put the new **HYDRANT** back into service by Leidy's Furniture on N. Market Street

MAY 1 – received notice that there is going to be an injunction hearing on May 8th in the **KEVIN SMITH LAW SUIT**

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that Burgmeiers is now only coming once a week to pick up the **RECYCLING**. They have gone from using rear loading equipment twice a week to front loading equipment once a week.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. inquired if any of the council members would be interested in riding in this year's **AGRICULTURAL PARADE** since the country is celebrating its 250 Year Anniversary. He needs to know by May 15th so they can get a trailer lined up.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. will continue to try to get the **SECURITY CAMERA PROJECT** at the town square started as per council approval at the October 6, 2025 meeting. He will be in contact with Cove Air.

KEVIN SMITH'S ongoing law suit against the borough regarding changing ambulance service from Hollidaysburg to AMED has cost the borough about \$3,000 so far with our insurance deductible and Attorney Karn's fees. This will be discussed in executive session following adjournment this evening.

Ordinance No. 2026-655 for regulating solicitation was properly advertised in the Morrisons Cove Herald on Thursday, April 16, 2026. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, adopted **ORDINANCE NO. 2026-655 Repealing Ordinance No. 2004-551 and re-enacting an ordinance regulating canvassing, peddling and/or SOLICITING.** The motion passed with a roll call vote as follows: YAY from Rob Dickson, Darin Meck, Neil Gartland, James Dell, Mark Gartland and Charles Kensinger; No NAYS.*

*Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, adopted **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0504-01 setting the SOLICITATION PERMIT FEE under the Solicitation Ordinance No. 2026-655 to \$150.00.** The motion passed unanimously.*

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the chicken barbeque was successful. The **FIRE COMPANY** sold 705 tickets which is the most they've done in a while. The fire company's annual ox roast is coming up in mid-June. Hind quarters of beef are usually used for the ox roast but this year the fire company bought two beef and one other was donated. They will also be selling frozen hamburger patties at the ox roast this year.

Gary Watters of **AMED** reported that they had twenty-five (25) calls in April in the borough making a total of seventy-one (71) calls total in the 16662 area for April.

Mayor Rich Brantner prepared and presented a Proclamation to Chief Justin Davis and Officer Troy Jarrett honoring the Martinsburg Police Department during **NATIONAL POLICE WEEK** which is being observed May 10 through May 16, 2026.

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Office Troy Jarrett was called to retrieve and save some DUCKLINGS that were trapped in the storm sewer on S. Market Street. Three ducklings did not survive.

Council Charles Kensinger expressed his appreciation for our POLICE DEPARTMENT and how we have only had excellence in our department which not all communities can say. He felt it was important to recognize our police department.

Reba Stuller also praised our POLICE DEPARTMENT and suggested they should fine the people who blow grass clippings onto the road and also fine the people who park the wrong direction.

There will be an EXECUTIVE SESSION following the adjournment of the meeting to discuss the ongoing law suit by Kevin Smith.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 7:43 p.m. on a motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary