

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**APRIL 7, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, April 7, 2014 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Randy Stoltz and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Rex L. Hartman, President Connie S. Lamborn, Vice-President Durban D. Metzler, Pro-Tem Edward L. Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman Shawn D. Daughenbaugh, Councilwoman Linda K. Smith, and Councilmen Daniel R. Smouse

In addition to the council, present were Manager Randy Stoltz, Secretary Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Rich Brantner, Jr., Attorney Frederick B. Gieg, Jr., Attorney Matt Gieg, Attorney Chris Jancula, Ryan Brown of the Altoona Mirror, and Brian Hess of the Morrisons Cove Herald, and seven members of the Revitalization Committee: Joyce Hoover, Roseanne Conrad, Renee Krider, Nelly Shultz, Cindy Wareham, Jim Laird, and Richard Bice.

Renee Krider of the **REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE** inquired if council felt the committee should continue with their beautification project since Jessica Sheets was no longer with GAI. Jessica was the group's visionary for the project but was let go from the firm with no replacement. Jim Laird wanted council to convey to him what they envisioned as the future look of the borough if it was different from the town center improvement photos in the comprehensive plan. He had a real concern for placement of trees throughout the project as he was a managing landscape architect. He heard of our project through Jessica Sheets. Manager Stoltz and council maintained that they have always been concerned with what the Pennsylvania D.O.T. would permit as far as trees along the state highway right-of-way. Mr. Laird's thoughts were to approach private property owners and get their permissions to place trees on their properties set back far enough to not require state guidelines. The current grants will be upgrading the town center sidewalks with a façade application pending. Any plans to place anything that needs installed before the new sidewalks will soon need to be put into a plan drawing as well as the committee's ideas for placement of lights, pots, banners etc. so prices can be sought. The committee has council's support. Janet Blattenberger would like to see the post office property clean up their shrubbery. Manager Stoltz has already been in contact with the owners in hopes that once the clock is installed they will do something about the shrubbery.

*[The committee left at 8:02 p.m.]*

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of March 3, 2014, were approved with a correction to the bottom of page 2 that the SCCBA meeting is on April 17 (not April 2) on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** were presented for March 2014 as prepared by Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for March 2014 check nos. 7444-7478 in the amount of \$41,797.72 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Shawn Daughenbaugh. The motion passed unanimously.*

President Connie Lamborn announced that there would be an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** following the adjournment of the meeting this evening to discuss legal matters.

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written.

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Manager Randy Stoltz reported that they are continuing to work on the **NEW COMMUNITY MAP** – a letter of introduction has been forwarded to the company so they can begin contacting businesses to see if they are interested in placing an ad on the map; Jane Staily and Randy Stoltz met with Dave Frederick on March 18<sup>th</sup> concerning the borough employees' **HEALTH INSURANCE** – the current plan with Highmark will continue until December 2014 – Dave Frederick will be getting us quotes for several new plans prior to the expiration date; Jane Staily and Randy Stoltz met with April Ressler of the Teeter Group to review the Borough's **PROPERTY INSURANCE** – we verified all of the listed property and building contents for the borough and municipal authority – The Teeter Group also carries our workers' compensation insurance which we will be required to change companies since our current company will no longer be offering workers' compensation – we will be getting prices for separate policies for the borough and the volunteer fire company and also if a carrier is available a price with the fire company on our policy; the **SIDEWALK PROJECT** went out for bid on March 20 – the bids are to be awarded near the end of April; there was a potentially devastating fire at the Cove Shoe Factory on March 24 – Manager Stoltz wanted to thank the **FIRE COMPANY** for their quick response and work to put out the fire; on March 27 attended an **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING** for damage assessment at the 911 Center; March 31 mailed fliers to Martinsburg Borough residents for the upcoming **COMMUNITY RECYCLING EVENT** to be held on Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – volunteers are needed to help unload vehicles at the cleanup; and on April 3 a zoning hearing was held for the Morrisons Cove Memorial Park to address their request for a special exception to allow for a **BICYCLE PARK** to be constructed on a vacant tract of land near the basketball courts – the request was approved.

Secretary Jane Staily reported that a document was received from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs to establish TALX as our unemployment representation. Since they already handle the unemployment issues and claim there is no fee for them to continue handling the claims Attorney Frederick Gieg, Jr. recommended appointing them. *Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Dan Smouse, approved to establish **TALX UCM SERVICES, INC.** as the unemployment representative for the Borough of Martinsburg by appointing them as **POWER OF ATTORNEY** for the Unemployment Compensation Account. The motion passed unanimously.*

Attorney Frederick Gieg, Jr. prepared the **TAX COLLECTOR ORDINANCE** for advertisement. *Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Linda Smith, approve to advertise Ordinance No. 2014-599 authorizing the elected tax collector to charge service fees for certification of taxes paid on real estate and for duplication of tax bills. The motion passed unanimously.*

Information on the **AIRPORT HAZARD ORDINANCE** was received. This ordinance needs to be passed by June or July of this year. A hearing is required. This topic was tabled until Attorney Gieg and Manger Stoltz had time to collaborate on the requirements until next month's meeting.

Attorney Frederick Gieg, Jr. raised the question that depending on how the original contact with **GAI CONSULTANTS** was written for the Town Center Revitalization Project that maybe the borough should receive a rebate or at least a plan to replace what was promised by the services we were to receive from Jessica Sheets, their former visionary on the project, if they were not going to replace her in their firm. It is asking too much of the council members for them

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to now have to come up with a plan. Jessica Sheets was the main reason GAI was chosen for the project. Attorney Gieg will look into the contract with GAI to see how it is worded.

Attorney Matt Gieg thanked council for the card he received on the birth of his son **CHRISTIAN**. It was very meaningful to him. He also reported that the Blair County BAR Association hosts an **ANNUAL LAW DAY** with a ceremony. Matt chaired the event the past three years. This year it will be held on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1-2 p.m. in Court Room #2 at the Blair County Court House. Students, the general public and magistrates come to this event to celebrate our system of justice. This year's guest speaker will be Justice J. Michael Eakin of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the highest court in our state and it is quite an honor to have him speak. This event is open to all to attend. No reservations required.

Dan Smouse reported that the **HOLLIDAYSBURG AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION** just purchased a used ambulance from Portage. They are trying to get their equipment up to date.

Manager Randy Stoltz reported that he has not received any information on the **RECYCLING GRANT** that was applied for. It was to be announced back in February. The **COMMINGLE RECYCLING BINS** at the recycling center will soon need to be pushed back. They keep moving forward a little more each time as the trucks empty them and place them back down.

Manager Stoltz reported that there will be two more meetings for the **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**. The next one is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and then there will be one on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Boosters meeting with a meal at 6:30 p.m. Good news for Martinsburg Borough is that two large commercial buildings have been purchased: Key State Ag bought the former Burchfield's building and Mingle Construction purchased the old Blattenberger Building. The borough is only one square mile in size with no room for growth and parking is a premium.

Chief Kerry Hoover reported that Fox's Pizza is planning their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cruise-In Event to benefit Fragile X Syndrome. *Council on a motion by Dan Smouse, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved of the **FOX'S CRUISE-IN EVENT** to be held on June 1, 2014 and approved their temporary road closing request for the event on W. Allegheny Street. The motion passed unanimously. Secretary Jane Staily will prepare a letter of approval for Michael and Stacy Kopco for the event.*

Shawn Daughenbaugh noted that the **COMPOST PILE** was in need of being pushed back. It was reported that Harry Longenecker had originally been planning to do it but was worried the rocks might damage his equipment. T. L. Long Excavating will be contacted to see if they can push it back.

Correspondence was received from the **BLAIR COUNTY CRIME SOLVERS** requesting a donation. The request was tabled until it is researched whether the borough is permitted to donate.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** will be held following the adjournment of the meeting to discuss legal matters.

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*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:00 p.m. on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Janet Blattenberger. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary