

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**MAY 8, 2017**

The rescheduled regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, May 8, 2017 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, Pro-Tem Durban D. Metzler, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, and Councilman P. Robert Dickson, and Councilwoman Linda K. Smith (Doug Smith was excused and Ed Bennett was absent)

In addition to the council, present were Manager Randy Stoltz, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Rich Brantner, Jr., Sgt. Justin Davis, Attorney Mike Gieg and Attorney Chris Jancula of Gieg Law Offices

*The MINUTES of the regular meeting of April 3, 2017, were approved, on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

*The MINUTES of the special meeting of April 11, 2017, were approved, on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Janet Blattenberger. The motion passed unanimously.*

*The MINUTES of the regular meeting of May 1, 2017, which was cut short due to the power outage after the rain storm, were approved, on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

The FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS were presented for April 2017, as prepared by Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The LIST OF BILLS for April 2017, check nos. 8758-8784 in the amount of \$41,053.64 (including a transfer to the Reserve Fund in the amount of \$30,000) was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Rob Dickson. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the POLICE REPORT as written. A FORENSICS TRAINING class was held at our facility on April 12 – the class discussed how to collect different kinds of evidence – the class was very worthwhile and there was no cost to the borough since it was held here. A resignation was received from PATROLMAN NATE HALE effective at the end of this month.

Janet Blattenberger brought up two yards that were in need of MOWING. Both yards were already being reviewed by the police department.

Manager Randy Stoltz reported that the SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE met on April 10 in our meeting room for an afternoon meeting – they requested the use of our building since we are centrally located – Manager Stoltz was not involved in the meeting; attended the special council meeting on April 11 at 9 a.m. to vote on changes to the BUSINESS IN OUR SITES program application – met with the Morrisons Cove Industrial Development Corp. and they have offered the borough a \$70,000 loan at 2.5% interest to be added to the BOS program to purchase the 114 W. Penn Street site; Manager Stoltz, Jane Staily and Kerry Hoover met with April Ressler of the Teeter Group on April 11 at 1:30 p.m. to review the PROPERTY INSURANCE COVERAGE; the POLICE had a meeting at 6 p.m.; the BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION used our meeting room on April 12 – they have been moving their meetings to different

location in the county; met with Josh Chestney of Stiffler McGraw Engineers on April 20 at the 114 W. Penn Street site and he started the **PHASE I STUDY; NEW WATER SERVICE** was installed for the house being remodeled at 705 W. Allegheny Street on April 20; mailed in an application on April 25 for the 2016 year **904 PERFORMANCE RECYCLING GRANT** – we had a total of 151.2 tons collected at our site – 114.3 tons commingled and 36.9 tons paper and cardboard; April 27 put up the Welcome to Martinsburg **STREET BANNERS; SOIL BORINGS** to start on May 10 at 114 W. Penn Street; May 12 is **SPRING COVE NIGHT** at the Altoona Curve game – they will be having a Spring Cove mascot bobble head give away that night for the first 1000 fans; the **COVE OUR TOWN** program is to be on WPSU channel 3 on May 18 at 8:00 p.m.; and there will be a **HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION** at PNG Ball Field on July 7 and 8 – we have handout information at our entrance door counter.

Janet Blattenberger reported that people are dumping near the lilac bush at the **COMPOST SITE** to avoid the mud. The whole pile needs to be pushed back again. Manager Stoltz will contact T. L. Long Excavating to see if they can do it for us again. Manager Stoltz reported that the railroad has a right of way back by the pile somewhere and we don't want to make them mad at us. The signs at the compost site need replaced also. The compost pile filled up fast with people taking trees and branches from the recent storm. Janet mentioned that the borough **SHRUBBERY** needed trimmed. Manager Stoltz does have it trimmed once a year. There was not enough storm damage with this last storm to warrant state funding for the clean-up.

Attorney Chris Jancula reported that he has been reviewing the **POLICE ISSUES**: 1) *language and probation of officers*; 2) *police compensatory time policy* and 3) *status of hiring a third full-time officer*. The current police manual is an old one. He would like council approval if they want him to continue researching these issues because the cost will be over and above the normal monthly retainer fee. Some of council weren't sure the borough even needed 24-hour coverage. Attorney Jancula suggested creating a committee to review the police employment issues and then only pointed questions could be asked of him to review as a way of saving on costs. A committee was appointed consisting of Mayor Rex Hartman and the three council officers President Connie Lamborn, Vice-President Doug Smith and Pro-tem Durban Metzler. Attorney Chris Jancula will only work on the police probationary language for now.

Linda Smith reported that the **REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE** has planted pansies. On May 26<sup>th</sup> the committee will take out the pansies and plant petunias and other flowers.

Phase I and Phase II and the Hazmat Study are being worked on for the **114 W. PENN STREET** property.

*Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Linda Smith, voted in favor of the **WALK WORKS PROGRAM** subject to council being involved in working out the details for the walking route. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler, accepted the letter of retirement with regret from **MANAGER RANDY K. STOLTZ** with his retirement effective February 20, 2018. The letter was necessary so that council can move forward on replacing him. The motion passed unanimously.*

The large **“BOROUGH OF MARTINSBURG” SIGN** from the municipal lawn was completely destroyed during the May 1<sup>st</sup> storm. Manager Randy Stoltz received a quote from Image Signs, the original vendor of the sign, which cost \$6,150 in 2007 but will now cost \$7,436.50 to replace. The borough’s property insurance through EMC will pay for the sign after the \$2,500 deductible is met. *Council on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, authorized to purchase the new sign from Image Signs in the amount of \$7,436.50, that of which all but the \$2,500 deductible will be paid by the borough’s property insurer EMC. The motion passed unanimously.*

Connie Lamborn attended the **SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES BOROUGH ASSOCIATION** meeting at Duncansville Borough on April 27. They had good speakers on the topic of blight.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:25 p.m. on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Rob Dickson. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary