

## PRE MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Council President Judy Montell called the Pre-Meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Baden Municipal Building, 149 State Street, to conduct business of general purposes.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**PRESENT:** Mr. Besong, Mr. Kotula, Mrs. Michaels, Mr. Stuban, Mrs. Vilella and Mrs. Montell (Not Present: Mr. Trzcianka)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Sam Gagliardi, CEO Jim Napolitan, Police Chief Christner

### Acknowledgement of Recordings

### VISITORS

Tom Turney from 336 State Street addressed council in regards to 330 State Street. Mr. Turney had supplied council with a letter showing and addressing his interest in the smaller parcel of the property. 330 State Street consists of two parcels. Mr. Turney asked if Council would be willing to rebid the property as two separate parcels. Mr. Turney commented that his interest is strictly to create a boundary.

Secondly, Mr. Turney asked that Council backup the Code Enforcement Officer so that he can do his job. Mr. Turney understood that there is issue with the magistrate but felt that council should go to a higher level (Representative Matzie, Senators...). He again emphasizes the need for council to give 110% support to Jim Napolitan the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Kostial addressed a question directly to Michael Stuban. Mr. Kostial commented that during the meeting with the auditor Mr. Stuban stated that he would get the name of where the history books were printed. Mr. Stuban commented that he has not had the time to check into this matter.

Ryan Eichhorn addressed Council in regards to property that he owns at 500 Berry Street. Mr. Eichhorn stated that he does not understand why he is having problems with the Building Inspector. Mr. Eichhorn commented that all he is doing is fixing up the building. (Fixing shingles, putting windows back in) He commented that our website stated that building permits are not required if nothing structural is being done. Mr. Eichhorn commented that nothing that he is doing is structural and he felt that a permit is not required. Mrs. Montell asked Mr. Eichhorn if he made any changes to the window or their size. Mr. Eichhorn stated no. He commented that he is putting everything back the same way with no structural changes. Mr. Eichhorn noted that he understood that there was concern about the curb and he explained that there were no sidewalks along his property and he was preparing the curb and framing for the sidewalk. Mr. Eichhorn explained how he was going to repair the curb and cold patch the road area.

Mrs. Vilella asked Mr. Eichhorn about how the Building Inspector treated him. Mr. Eichhorn stated that he was very rude and threatened him and continued to say that the Building Inspector has done everything except to try and work with him. The building inspector told Mr. Eichhorn that he needed drawings of the renovations and that he (the building inspector) has 15 days to review the permit application. Mr. Eichhorn commented that he spoke to an engineer and architect who both told him that he does not need engineered drawings to put shingles on your house and windows in. Mr. Eichhorn wants to know what he is doing wrong by trying to enhance the community.

Mrs. Villella asked if Mr. Eichhcorn got a letter listing the citation. Mrs. Montell noted that council has a copy in their packet.

Mr. Stuban commented that this was brought up during the previous meeting that Mrs. Villella was not present at. Mrs. Villella did note that she had read the emails. Council did have a lot of concerns and contacted the solicitor and engineer over this matter because of road damage issue. Mr. Stuban also noted that by law the building inspector does have 15 days to process a permit.

Discussion took place regarding the citation that noted to stop working. Mrs. Villella asked if the windows and roof are done. Mr. Eichhcorn stated no because he was told to stop. Mr. Eichhcorn commented that he came in for a permit for the electric and plumbing and at that time the building inspector told him to do whatever he needed to do but do not put drywall up in the house. Mr. Eichhcorn then noted that someone complained to the office and now the building inspector is denying what he told him.

Mr. Besong noted that he has received complaints about the building inspector. Mrs. Villella commented that Mr. Eichhcorn should not be stopped from doing the basic renovations that do not require a permit. Mr. Eichhcorn commented that for all the houses that he has renovated he has never had issues with permits. Discussion followed. Mrs. Villella stated that she feels he does not need a permit especially since it is a safety issue and that Mr. Eichhcorn has three days to continue to work because she has done a lot of research on this.

Mrs. Montell stated that the solicitor and engineer have been contacted to put some input into this matter. Mr. Eichhcorn commented that Mr. Luff has done nothing but given him problems. Mr. Turney asked to speak and stated that Mr. Luff should be present to give his input and his side of the story for credibility purposes. Mr. Luff has a job to do too. Council's concluded that they will have the building inspector attend the Wednesday meeting to further address this matter.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

### **BOROUGH SECRETARY**

Mrs. Rakovan commented that the engineer for West View Water called her and stated that they have some easements that need to be signed by the borough and Municipal Authority. She felt that the engineer and solicitor may need to review the documents because she is not sure how much of the borough property will be impeded. She also commented that she will let Mr. Mutschler know about this matter too.

The appointed board list has been handed out to council. Mrs. Rakovan noted that the yellow highlighted positions are due for appointment/reappointment. Mrs. Rakovan asked that if a new person is being appointed to please supply the address and phone number information for the individual.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Josapak had to leave the meeting to salt the roads.

Mrs. Rakovan did note that North Avenue did get paved during the past week.

### **CEO**

Mr. Napolitan noted that council has a copy of his report. He also commented that Mr. McKee did replace his sidewalk and a permit was done.

### **POLICE CHIEF**

Chief Christner commented that the SOP is complete and bounded.

Chief Christner noted that generally when part time officers are sent for psychological exams the borough is billed for the testing. One of the part time officers had to pay the bill out of his own pocket and he asked that council approve to reimburse him.

Chief Christner noted that the police received approximately \$600 from the county for drug arrests. The money will be placed in the Drug Investigation Account.

Mrs. Montell asked about the Legion Auxiliary giving another \$500 for the AED's. Chief Christner confirmed the donation and noted that we are up to \$1,000 to purchase the AED's. He stated that he would like to get with Dave Trzcianka to start purchasing them. The goal is to get one AED for each car. Mr. Kotula asked that a thank you be sent to the Legion Auxiliary. Chief Christner stated that he already did.

Mr. Stuban asked about the Prevention Network. Chief Christner gave an overview of the Prevention wanting a Baden Police Officer to work at their facility during their regular hours. Discussion took place regarding having a part time officer fill the position and the cost for the service. Mr. Stuban noted that \$25/hour was discussed and agreed upon by the committee. We need to make sure that the officer does not go over 28 hours per week and an agreement be written up. Chief Christner questioned the work hours. Mrs. Villella stated that it all has to do with payroll taxes. Mr. Stuban noted that when an employee works a consistent 32+ hours per week they can be considered a full time officer and this is not what the borough wants. Chief Christner noted that there can be two part-time officers on rotating shifts to meet the needs of the Prevention Network.

Mayor Gagliardi felt that \$25/hour is too low. Discussion followed which included charging a realistic fee. It was also noted that Ambridge Area School District only pays \$28/hour for their officer and one car on a daily basis. Mrs. Villella stated that a contract needs to be written up with minimum and maximum guaranteed hours. She emphasized that we need to make sure that the costs to the borough are covered. The police committee and attorney would need to work together to write up an agreement. It was noted that another part time officer may need to be hired.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Not present.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Administration & Finance (Michael Stuban)**

CDBG - Mr. Stuban asked council if any of them had project ideas for the CDBG funding for next year. He stated that Mr. Josapak gave him a list of streets that need paved. He will present this at Wednesday meeting. The Municipal Authority is looking at submitting the storm sewer on Schiller Street for funding.

Storm Sewer behind Anderson's Candy - Mr. Stuban noted that we may also want to consider the storm sewer at Anderson's Candy as a possible project idea. Mr. Stuban gave an overview of the storm sewer that is backing up onto the Anderson property. There is no information at this time as to who is responsible for the sewer. Council will need to further look into this matter. Mayor Gagliardi explained how the Baden Academy wants to lease the property behind Anderson's Candy to make a bus turn around. This led to discussion regarding the traffic problem in front of the Baden Academy. Chief Christner stated that the traffic has caused a major safety issue and has been addressed with the Academy. Leasing the Anderson property would hopefully resolve this matter. Discussion took place the possible sewer being put in by Kubia when they built the homes on the hill. All of the storm sewers from the Franklin and Virginia Avenue area drain into the sewer behind Anderson's. Mrs. Michaels felt that the school should have their own security guard addressing the traffic area. Mrs. Villella felt that the Sister of St. Joseph should address this matter because it is their tenant causing the traffic problem.

Budget – Wednesday a motion will be made to advertise the budget. The Water Budget will need a rate increase. Ambridge Water raised their rates in July of this year and

unfortunately we must pass the increase onto our residents. The engineer is doing a study to determine increase amount. The General Fund will not have a tax increase. Mrs. Villella asked about the \$10,000 increase on the salaries. Mr. Stuban noted that this is the actual increase in accordance with the contract. She also questioned the Public Works insurance. The adjustment will take it from \$50,000 to \$42,000. Mrs. Villella asked about the Part-Time Police being broken out and lowered. The combined amount is \$4,238 lower than last year's budget. Mr. Stuban explained that they are budgeting for 300/8hour shifts. Mr. Stuban stated that the breakout of the part time officer salary is based upon the part timers covering the time that full time officers take off. Breaking it out would give more insight for council to see when part time officers are covering for a full time officer who takes off. Chief Christner asked if council wants less officers patrolling. He stated that the schedule calls for Friday has 3 to 11, Saturday 3 to 11 and Midnight always, Sunday daylight and night-turn always and Monday always daylight. There are not enough full timers to cover these shifts. Mr. Stuban noted that this is a scheduling issue then. There are seven days a week with an officer per shift. This is 21 shifts per week. There are four officers that work five shifts each that cover 20 of the 21 shifts. This leaves 1 open shift. The rest has to do with scheduling that council may not control. The Mayor is in charge of scheduling. Mayor Gagliardi stated that he would have to do away with the power shifts. Mrs. Villella stated that there is extra money in the budget to cover the power shifts. Chief Christner stated that the contract states that we can't force the officers to do a rotating scheduling. Fortunately the officers don't have a problem with doing this. Mrs. Villella stated that the reason why the sergeant position was created was to have a second in command person on an opposite shift. Both the Mayor and Chief disagreed however Sergeant Alvarez agreed to the shift rotation. Chief Christner explained that a part time officer now needs to slip into the rotation that Sergeant Alvarez was originally in. The cost increase to do this will be approximately \$2,000. Mayor Gagliardi asked that the police budget be increased by \$2,500 to \$3,000.

Chief Christner commented that since he has been chief he has never been over on the budget. The part time officer budget may have been over, but the overall police budget was never over.

Mayor Gagliardi stated that he will take the Power shift out on Friday night to save the budget. Mrs. Villella commented to the Mayor that he can't play games like this. Money has been allotted for the Power Shift. Mr. Stuban stated that they will review the budget and see what can be done. The Mayors concern was to not jeopardize public safety.

#### **Building, Property & Grounds (Bob Besong)**

Nothing to Report

#### **Community Relations (Ted Kotula)**

Community Room Floor – Wants to strip and wax the floors.

Utility Billing Software – Three companies were looked at and a motion will be made on Wednesday to proceed with new billing software.

Code Book - Mrs. Montell asked about updating the borough code. Mr. Stuban noted that money will be set aside for this project. Mrs. Rakovan explained that General Code will do all of the ground work to recodify the borough code book. Cost will be approximately \$13,000 from start to finish.

Baden Walk Signs – Mayor Gagliardi asked if CDBG Funding could be used for this project. Mr. Kotula gave an overview of the sign options and mapping.

#### **Library (Kim Villella)**

Mrs. Villella commented that she will have her full report on Wednesday.

Mrs. Villella commented to Mr. Stuban about using the Transportation Grants to fund borough projects (i.e. Borough garage, walking/biking trails...)

**Police Department (Kim Villella)**

Mrs. Villella commented that she already addressed the police issues.

**Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)**

Mayor Gagliardi asked where the public work foreman's salary falls. He was told that he is budgeted under the water fund. One office clerk and the foreman are paid for out of the water fund.

**Sanitation, Recycling & Municipal (Donna Michaels)**

Mrs. Michaels has nothing to report.

Mr. Napolitan addressed the garbage men throwing cans and getting trash on the streets. Mrs. Michaels commented that she is trying to stay on top of the complaints.

**Recreation & Communications (Donna Michaels)**

Mrs. Michaels had nothing to report.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Gagliardi thanked council for the input on the budget and he hopes that the increases are made where they requested.

Mayor Gagliardi asked Mr. Stuban about getting the policies put into a binder so that they would be easily accessible.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Kotula asked if we could put the website address and "like us" on Facebook noted on our agendas. He also noted that he wants to get a price to purchase a banner that says the same to hang across State Street.

Mrs. Villella asked that the secretary call Joe Luff and ask that he attend Wednesday's meeting.

**President's Report**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Kotula carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan  
Borough Secretary  
December 15, 2014