

**PRE MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**

Council President Judi 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, Mr. Trzcianka, and Mrs. Montell (Not Present: Mrs. Villella)

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Christner, Street Foreman Michael Josapak, Mayor Gagliardi

Acknowledgement of Recordings

VISITORS - None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

BOROUGH SECRETARY

Ordinances - Mrs. Rakovan stated that two ordinances were advertised for adoption at Wednesday meeting. The first one is for the police changes and the other is for the MS4 changes.

Ambridge Water Authority – Mrs. Rakovan contact Ambridge Water Authority regarding the increase in their rates and obtaining the engineering study that supports the increase. She read an email received from Ambridge Water Authority that stated an engineering study hasn't been done since the last time they sent one to Baden. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she emailed back that she does not recall when the last study was received. Mrs. Hrotic responded that she does not recall when the last study was done either and would have to look into it.

West View Water - Mrs. Rakovan noted that she spoke to Ken Howard with Bankson Engineers about river access. Mr. Howard agreed that during the meeting regarding the sale of the property conversation took place regarding maintaining river access for the residents and fire department. Mrs. Rakovan stated that Mr. Howard assured her that once the construction plans are approved by the State they will have the attorney right up an agreement regarding the river access. The time frame for the agreement will be spring 2015.

Visit Beaver County PA – Mrs. Rakovan informed Council that Visit Beaver County PA will not include library information because they have extended membership to the Beaver County Library Association.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Josapak stated that the new truck is in. They are keeping up with grass cutting and installing new water meters as needed. He commented that he will need to purchase about twenty-five more meters to keep in inventory. Next week they will start the quarterly readings.

CEO

Mr. Napolitan stated that Council has a copy of his report.

POLICE CHIEF

Part Time Officers - Chief Christner noted that the Mayor asked that he bring the officers that they interviewed and would like to hire on Wednesday. There are three officers he'd like to hire but only two were able to attend the meeting. The names of the two individuals that attended the meeting were Ron Costanza and Joshua Causer. The third person was Mark Young but he was unable to attend the meeting. Chief Christner noted that he had their applications for Council to review.

SOP – Chief Christner asked for the status of the SOP approval. He asked if Council and the attorney have reviewed and approved it. Mrs. Rakovan noted that council is waiting for the written letter from the Police Bargaining Unit stating that they approve the SOP. Chief Christner commented that he thought last time (meeting) we were waiting for Council approval. Mr. Stuban stated that the minutes clearly state that Chief Christner commented that he will type something up for council as documentation that the police department approved the manual. Chief Christner stated that he will get Sgt. Alvarez to type something up.

Tasers – Chief Christner stated that they have two Tasers which they got when Colaizzi was still chief. They need to be replaced. Brand new they are about \$800 each plus the cost of batteries which are expensive. Chief Christner can purchase two used but in excellent condition Tasers plus the batteries for a cost of \$250 each. He asked that Council authorize the purchase of the Tasers during Wednesday's meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Trzcianka reported that there were 8 calls last month. Four in town and four out of town. There are four guys taking their fire fighter one test.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration / Finance – Michael Stuban

MS4 Ordinance – Mr. Stuban noted that discussion has taken place regarding the MS4. He stated that during the recent municipal authority conference he (and Mr. Trzcianka) was told that Chester Engineers is actively involved with the MS4. Mr. Stuban was told by the engineers that the acreage is not limited to over 1 acre. Mr. Stuban stated that they have seminars and there are potential law suits for not following the MS4. Mr. Trzcianka added that DEP actually wants municipalities to form Stormwater Authorities. No one in Pennsylvania has done this yet however Mr. Trzcianka stated that there is a lot to the MS4 and allowing water to run onto the streets is not permitted. It is way more involved than the few paragraphs in the ordinance. As renovations and new construction is taking place, the MS4 must be followed but we don't have to go after everyone like Ambridge did.

Complaint Policy – Mr. Stuban noted that it was passed out last month for council review and he asked that it be adopted at Wednesday's meeting.

Police Ordinance – Mr. Stuban stated that the police rank ordinance will need to be adopted on Wednesday.

330 State Street – Mr. Stuban stated that Council needs to decide what to do with the property. He stated that Tom Turney is interested in the property. Mr. Besong stated that used oil was dumped behind the building and a twenty inch screw drive went all the way down into the ground and it is filled with oil. Mrs. Montell noted that soil testing was already done because she saw them doing it quite a few years ago. Mr. Kotula commented to Mr. Besong to be cautious on what is being said if there are no concrete facts to back up the comments because potential buyers may be scared away. Mrs. Rakovan commented that she remembers when the testing was done and all came back clean. Discussion followed. Mr. Stuban asked Council what they wanted to do with the property and a decision needs to be made because we are now in violation with the building codes. Mr. Kotula commented that he too knows individuals who are

interested in the building. Discussion took place tearing the building down and selling it versus selling it as is. Further discussion followed which included if sold as is that the violations be taken care of within a certain time frame. Mrs. Montell commented that during paperwork signing the realtor advised her that the property is valued at \$120,000. Mrs. Montell felt that the property should be sold for more than \$30,000. Mr. Stuban commented that it appears that the intention is to put out for sealed bid as is and if we are not happy with the bids we can reject them and then tear the building down.

Intern – Mr. Stuban commented that last month discussion took place regarding getting interns to work within the borough. We were given information that the students would be seniors around 18 years old. Mr. Stuban stated that he read in Ambridge Connection that the students are 9th or 10th graders so the information presented at last month's meeting was not 100% accurate. He stated that he is glad that the police and public works department was not included however currently it was agreed that there be an intern in the office. Mrs. Montell asked Mrs. Rakovan if she spoke to the representative. Mrs. Rakovan stated yes and she was waiting for the paperwork to be emailed to her. Discussion took place regarding what duties the intern would do since they would not have the skill level to work on what was initially planned (calendar and newsletter). Mrs. Rakovan commented that she will follow council's wishes regarding the intern. Mr. Stuban commented that filing is not a skill and we can't have them work with confidential papers. Mr. Besong was not in favor of the intern. Mrs. Montell and Mr. Kotula were not aware of the young age of the intern. Mrs. Montell stated that when she spoke the school representative this program was extended to local businesses and not municipalities. Mr. Stuban noted that Una Bella Beauty and Wellness, Ambridge Library and Baden Library, Old Economy Village, Ambridge Credit Union and Baden Borough. Mr. Stuban noted that this might be good in the future however we don't have a curriculum for an intern at this time. Mrs. Montell stated we should be able to put an age requirement of at least 16. Mayor Gagliardi questioned the child labor laws and liability issues. It was agreed by council that at this time an intern is not a good idea.

Public Safety Meeting - Mr. Stuban noted that last week there was to be a public safety meeting to go over the applications for part time officers however Mrs. Villella was unable to attend for personal reasons. The chief was supposed to supply copies of all the applications to each councilmember. Mr. Stuban commented that he was the only one who received copies and he did not receive all of the applications. The three that Chief Christner presented to council this evening were not even in the application copies that he got in his mailbox. Mr. Stuban asked that council hold off on hiring the part time officers until public safety has time to review and interview the applicants. Mr. Stuban again stated that the Chief was to make copies of all applications for all of council. Mr. Stuban asked why would he be given applications but the three that the Chief want to be hired are not in the applications that he was given. Mr. Besong commented that the Mayor and Chief should be trusted. Mr. Stuban commented the Public Safety Committee should be involved in the hiring process like they always did in the past. Discussion took place regarding the time frame and need for part timers. Mr. Stuban noted that Wednesday's meeting can be recessed to another date. Mayor Gagliardi stated that he understands the concern however the Chief and himself spent a lot of time going over and interviewing the applicants. He stated that council needs to understand that the chief is very knowledgeable of who he wants in the department. The Mayor stated that Council should have confidence in the chief and that delaying the hiring is just a procedure. The Mayor asked if council is going to tell the Chief who they want to hire. Mr. Trzcianka asked the Mayor why public safety wasn't told about the interviews. The Mayor stated that it was their (chief and mayor) job. Mr. Trzcianka stated that it is the job of public safety (councils) to hire and fire. Words got louder between Mr. Trzcianka and the Mayor who stated that it is none of your (Councils) business what we do. Mr. Trzcianka stated that yes it is council's business. Mayor Gagliardi stated no it's not. Mr. Trzcianka stated that council approves the bills. Mayor Gagliardi stated that all you (Mr. Trzcianka) wants to do is put your 2 cents in and to stay out of the police department. Further words were exchanged. Chief Christner asked to speak and commented that since he has been chief this is how they hired part timers. He also commented that the reason for losing part time officers is because they are leaving for full time positions which he feels is a good thing because it shows that Baden hires good officers. Chief Christner stated that if you (Mr. Trzcianka) would have called and said that you wanted to be there for the interviews it wouldn't have been a problem. Mr. Trzcianka stated that minutes say that council was to receive the

applications so we can interview. Chief Christner explained to Mr. Stuban why he put the applications only in his mailbox stating he thought that he and the committee would review them. He also noted that the reason for not having some of the applications is because they came in late. Mr. Stuban again stated that Council job is to do the hiring. Council's job is to do the interviewing. Mr. Stuban also noted that all three that were presented may be the same three that he would pick but it is up to council who is hired. Mayor Gaglairdi stated to Chief Christner to give all applications to council and let them extend their meeting and hire whoever they want. Chief Christner stated that two part time officers have been working hard because Spencer has been off. The three he has chosen are professionals with full time experience who don't want four days a week and will be happy with four days a month. He likes to hire guys out of the academy because he can mold them how he wants them. Chief Christner stated that he has no problem with council being involved in the process. Mr. Stuban stated that this can be done with 10 days. Discussion continued. Chief Christner stated that he will give all of the applications to council for review.

Building, Properties and Grounds - Bob Besong

Paper Street off of Bauman Avenue – Mr. Besong stated that he and Mrs. Montell went up to the property along the paper street on Bauman Avenue. Mr. Besong addressed who has ownership of the alley because a tree in the alley has limbs falling off and one almost killed a little girl. Mr. Stuban asked Mr. Josapak if we maintain the alley. Mr. Josapak stated no. Mr. Besong stated that John Peoples cut a tree down on the alley a couple of years ago. Mrs. Montell commented that a private driveway is on the alley. Mr. Stuban stated that the borough does not maintain the road so it goes back to the property owners. Discussion took place regarding who is responsible for the alley. Mr. Trzcianka made a comment about opening the alley. Mr. Stuban noted that this is not possible because of the time limitation on vacating the alley. Conversation took place on how to get vacated alleys onto a deed and who is responsible if someone gets hurt. Mr. Trzcianka asked if this was the same property that the road crew filed a grievance over. Mrs. Montell stated yes. Mr. Trzcianka stated it was already said from the last problem that it is not ours. Mrs. Rakovan was asked to check with Mr. Amato regarding the process of paper alleys.

Door Access – Mr. Stuban asked Mr. Besong if he came up with the door access list as discussed at last month's meeting. Mr. Besong said that he checked his mailbox and he doesn't have the list. Mr. Stuban said to Mr. Besong that he was supposed to make the list. Mr. Stuban said that he made up his own list just in case. Mr. Besong said he just wanted to know who has what keys. Mr. Stuban asked that council review the list for next month.

Community Relations – Ted Kotula

Mr. Kotula stated that he would like to put some signs up that direct to Baden. He was thinking to put one up on 989. Mr. Besong stated that the State would have to put them up. Mr. Kotula said that he will look into it.

Mr. Kotula stated that he was speaking with the secretary about having a Facebook page for Baden. Council liked the idea.

Mr. Kotula wants to have a meeting with residents a week prior to council meetings so that council may have input from the residents regarding what is important to them. He also wants to reach out to the businesses too.

Mr. Kotula is looking into the mile post sign designs and costs.

Public Safety / Library – Kim Vilella

Mrs. Vilella not present.

Public Works – Dave Trzcianka

Mr. Trzcianka stated that the new dump truck has been lettered as well as the backhoe and bucket truck. He noted that the backhoe and bucket truck will have magnetic signs.

Mayor Gagliardi asked where the incident report was for the garage door. Mr. Trzcianka believed one was done. Mr. Stuban stated that the policy was not adopted until after the incident. Mayor Gagliardi asked what the outcome was regarding the matter. Mr. Trzcianka commented that they are waiting to hear from the union to set up a meeting. Mayor Gagliardi also asked for an incident report to be filled out regarding this matter.

Mr. Kotula asked about North Avenue being repaired where the waterlines broke. He was concerned about the stones and gravel being an accident hazard for pedestrian. Mr. Josapak stated that pricing is being gathered. Mr. Trzcianka stated that the engineer is also looking into it. Mr. Kotula asked that the rocks be cleaned up to make it a bit safer for pedestrians.

Mr. Kotula asked about the curbs on Center Street. Mrs. Montell noted that the Ordinance states that curbs are the responsibility of the property owner.

Mr. Besong spoke about the resident on Bauman Avenue who wants the yellow line back up on the street. She also complained to Mr. Besong that the girls in the office were mean to her and told her that the borough did not have enough money to buy the paint. Mr. Josapak commented that it is illegal to put up a single yellow line.

Mr. Kotula asked about the library wall repair. Mr. Josapak stated that he is working on getting exterior siding to you cover the wall.

Recreation and Communications - Donna Michaels

Library Wine and Cheese Fete - September 27th.

Applefest – October 11th from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Mrs. Michaels noted that the Applefest now has a website at www.badenapplefest.com.

Halloween Parade – October 25th. It will start at 10:30 am.

Newsletter – Please have all articles in as soon as possible.

Mr. Stuban commented that when there is an event planned that requires the use of the community room to please notify the office immediately so that they can reserve the community room for it.

Recycling and Waste Management – Donna Michaels

Mrs. Michaels is watching and keeping track of garbage and recycling.

Mayor's Report – Sam Gagliardi

Nothing to report

President's Report – Judi Montell

Nothing to report

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Michaels commented that she will be attending the PSAB Conference.

Mr. Kotula asked for input regarding a video that Ambridge Connection is having done for each municipality. He asked if there are certain landmarks that they want in the video to please let him know as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
October 13, 2014