

**REGULAR MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 15, 2014**

NOTE: No Monday Pre-meeting due to lack of quorum.

Council President Judi Montell called the Regular 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: Mrs. Michaels, Mr. Stuban, Mr. Trzcianka, and Mrs. Villella and Mrs. Montell
(Not Present: Mr. Mutschler, Mr. Besong)

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Dave Christner, Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Foreman Mike Josapak, Solicitor James Amato, Engineer Tony Sadaka and CEO Jim Napolitan

Visitors Signed In: Patsy Borriello, John Shelkons, Mark Kolakowski, Kevin Blanarik, Vanessa Varecha, Tristan Katterson, Harold Stanton, Gil Smith and Joe Bergandy

Acknowledgement of Recordings

MINUTES

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Dave Trzcianka, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of December 16th, 18th 2013 and January 6th 2014.

BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Dave Trzcianka, second by Kim Villella, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

VISITORS

Fireman Matt Loftus gave a presentation on the organization, apparatus and equipment, funding, fundraising and volunteers of the Baden Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department strives to meet all certifications which helps assist in obtaining financial aid and grants to maintain, update and purchase equipment and apparatus. Council and the audience was very captivated with the presentation, commenting that it was impressive and eye opening to see all that the Baden Volunteer Fire Department does to support themselves and our community.

RESOLUTIONS

- None

ORDINANCES

- None

BIDS

- None

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Secretary

Elaine Rakovan noted that this is an early meeting for the month so there will still be bills coming in for payment. She stated that water bills are being processed this week and they will be mailed by Friday. The yearend reports are being worked on and she will be filing with the state by months end.

Public Works

Foreman, Michael Josapak addressed Council in regards to West View Water needing water service to their facility that they will be building along the water front. Mr. Josapak asked that the engineer get involved so that this matter may be addressed properly.

MOTION by Dave Trzcianka, second by Donna Michaels carried unanimously to authorize the engineer and solicitor to assist in the West View Water service request.

CEO

Jim Napolitan reported that he had one call concerning a complaint regarding downspouts from a neighboring property directing water onto the complainant's driveway. He contacted the neighbor and the situation was resolved.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Christner gave an update on the rash of burglaries that have taken place recently within the borough. An arrest of juveniles was made. There was no forced entry, but the two juveniles were accessing open doors and windows to get into the homes. One juvenile is from Harmony Township and the other is from Baden. Both have been in trouble with the police in the past.

President Montell asked if the matter should be put in the newspaper so that residents would be aware of what is going on and then take the appropriate action to lock doors and windows. Chief Christner noted that yes it would help but commented that now days most people lock their doors and windows. He stated that if council wants him to write something up he has no problem in doing that. He reminded Council that no one is making a forced entry. The windows and doors of the homes and cars have been unlocked making easy access for the juveniles. The juveniles were caught by accessing the iPhone and iPad pings that took the police to the location of the stolen items.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tim Firich noted that in the month of December the Fire Department responded to 14 fire calls. He commented on the New Year's Eve fire at the flower shop and the New Year's Day fire in Aliquippa. There were over 18 firemen at each fire and it consumed 18 hours of a 48 hour period. By January 9th of this year the department has responded to 14 calls.

Before going into committee reports Mrs. Montell commented that she did make changes to the committees.

Budget & Finance – Michael Stuban
 Public Safety – Kim Villella
 Library – Kim Villella
 Public Works – Dave Trzcianka
 Building, Property and Grounds – Kevin Mutschler
 Recreation & Communications – Donna Michaels
 Sanitation, Recycling and Municipal – Donna Michaels
 Community Relations – Robert Besong

Mrs. Montell stated that she wrote up a brief summary of each committee in case there are questions regarding their duties.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance – (Michael Stuban)

No financial report due to early meeting and the statements have not been received yet.

He noted that secretary, Elaine Rakovan was in contact with the Humane Society and they have an agreement for animal control services for the borough. A one year agreement will cost \$1,800.

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Dave Trzcianka, carried unanimously to sign the one year agreement with the Humane Society for animal control at a cost of \$1,800 per year.

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Donna Michaels, carried unanimously to sign agreement with Emerick Janitorial for monthly cleaning of the borough building.

Michael Stuban commented on the 2014 CDBG Applications. Discussion took place regarding what projects may be funded. Due date is the second week of February. It was noted to try for funding to purchase a generator for the Prospect water tank. If possible the generator will be number one on the funding list.

Public Safety – (Kim Villella)

Mrs. Villella noted that she will meet with the Mayor and Police Chief to get a good game plan for public safety for the coming year.

Library – (Kimberly Villella)

Mrs. Villella stated that the investigation on the legal entity of the library has been completed. The library is a non-stock corporation and a political subdivision of the Borough of Baden. So the library is not a non-profit. They are revising the by-laws so that they will coincide with the borough code and she will have a copy next week for council to review. The library audit has been completed and a copy is on file in the library for public review. The new school board member appointed as representative to the library board is Kelly Smith. For the month of December there were over 100 participants in the activities that were available at the library. This included rainbow laminations, Christmas ornaments, and lunch with Santa. Starting this year the library will offer Lego club, yarn crafters, edible crafts... and a book club. Mrs. Villella also noted that the library received a \$4,000 grant from Laughlin. This is \$1,000 more than in past years. The money will be used to purchase a new drop off box for the books.

Public Works – (Dave Trzcianka)

Mr. Trzcianka reported that the office is receiving a lot of calls from residents complaining about their alleys having pot holes and mud. The public works department is well aware of the situation. The gravel pile is depleting. He noted that it's an alley and due to weather changes it is going to get pot holes and mud, but again it's an alley. Salt on dirt roads that are slippery due to snow will turn that snow to mud. He felt that some sort of policy needs to be made regarding this matter.

Mr. Trzcianka noted that he will be meeting with Mike Josapak to review and make plan for this year.

Mr. Trzcianka spoke on behalf of the fire department noting that the fire department has 50 pagers for the firemen. The cost is \$500 each and they were paid for by the fire department. There are 37 radios for the firemen at a cost of \$700 each and they were paid for by the fire department. The fire department does fundraisers. He commented that the fire department is an entity like public works and police department and he feels that the fire department should be treated the same.

Building, Property & Grounds – (Kevin Mutschler)

President Montell commented that this is a new committee and it shall oversee borough properties including parks. They shall also report on all maintenance requirements for all borough owned buildings. Guidelines and community room rentals will also be enforced by this committee.

Recreation & Communications – (Donna Michaels)

Mrs. Michaels noted that newsletter articles are due immediately.

Sanitation, Recycling & Municipal – (Donna Michaels)

Mrs. Michaels reviewed the new service of curbside pickup of TV's, Computers, and Chemicals... She noted that a report on this service will be available soon.

Community Relations – (Robert Besong)

President Montell commented that this new committee shall be responsible for the development of policy and proposals concerning the preservation and improvement of life in the Borough of Baden. This committee shall also discuss issues and explores ways to improve relations with the Ambridge Area School District.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amato had nothing at this time.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Sadaka highlighted his report. He noted that Insight Pipe completed the State Street storm sewer liner. Everything looks good so the invoice for this project may be paid.

Mr. Sadaka noted that the water tank inspection was completed and he felt that council should take some action on the repairs and recommendations that the inspector recommended.

Mr. Sadaka also commented that any CDBG projects must be voted upon at the next meeting.

Mr. Stuban asked if Baden is first on Youngblood's list of project for this year. Mr. Sadaka stated that they assured him that Baden is first on the list. Discussion took place as to whether the agreement with Youngblood included damages for not completing the project on time. Mr. Sadaka stated that he does not know if that was included in the agreement but he will work to make sure that this does not happen.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gagliardi thanked the fire department on their very professional and educational presentation. It gave great insight into the workings of the fire department.

Total fines collected for last month was \$476.46. Total calls were 138. Mayor Gagliardi gave an overview of the calls.

President Montell asked about the fines for traffic tickets. Chief Christner stated that the cost has gone up to approximately \$190, but the borough will only see \$12.50 for each ticket.

Old Business Not on the Agenda, New Business or Unfinished Business

MOTION by Dave Trzcianka, second by Donna Michaels carried unanimously to have Kighthawk Security update our camera system.

It was noted by Dave Trzcianka that Blind Dog the other interested party to install the cameras was not bonded.

Mr. Stuban addressed the Police Grievance regarding the police needing to pay 5% into their pension.

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Donna Michaels carried unanimously authorizing the solicitor to handle any matters regarding the police grievance/arbitration.

Mr. Stuban commented that the current Code Enforcement Officer has been discussing with some council members about retiring. Mr. Stuban wanted council to be aware of this and to start thinking about a replacement for when this may occur.

Mrs. Rakovan informed Council of the income surveys that are required to complete the CDBG Funding. She noted that we are at the point where our recommended projects are not falling under the income requirements. This must be considered when looking for possible fundable projects.

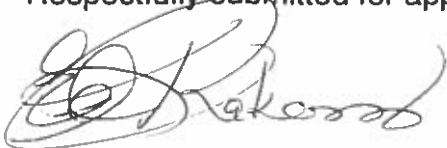
PRESIDENTS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
February 17, 2014