

REGULAR MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL APRIL 16, 2014

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Solicitor James Amato, Engineer Tony Sadaka and CEO Jim Napolitan

Acknowledgement of Recordings

VISITORS

John Shelkons from 785 Athalia Street Baden questioned Council in regards to the PUC Right of Way from the Pinny Street Bridge to the river. Mr. Stuban stated that to their knowledge nothing has been changed. In February 2006, West View Water wanted to buy the property from Baden Borough. Action of quiet title was done and Mr. Shelkons asked why. Mr. Stuban explained that the property was documented to be railroad property and the attorneys did what was needed to process the documents. Mr. Shelkon presented a copy of documentation that states that neither the borough or West View Water was not able to find the title. Mr. Shelkons stated that he found the deed and it had a restrict covenant stating the property will be used for dockage, public water transportation, public recreational purposes and for no other purposes. Mr. Stuban noted that West View Water is using the property for water transportation. Mr. Shelkons questioned if access for recreation is still permitted. Further discussion followed reviewing past conversations and decisions. Mr. Shelkons addressed his concern of the property being sold. Council informed him that there are no intentions to sale any further property along the waterfront. Mr. Trzcianka noted that the dock area and the property on the other side of the pump house are still owned by the borough. Discussion took place regarding the property lines, water access for the fire department and possible development. Mr. Shelkons wanted Council to recognize what the original deed of the property states that it is to be used for specific use and previously noted. Mr. Trzcianka asked if a meeting can be set up with, the Railroad discuss this matter. Further discussion followed that involved reviewing what documentation, meetings and discussions took place in the past.

Fred Strecker, 1134 Harmony Road addressed Council in regards to wanting to purchase the property along the waterfront. He further asked about having money to purchase the gas station on State Street, followed by properties between parcels not being taxed. He then asked how many parcels are owned by the borough. Mrs. Rakovan counted the parcel numbers and stated that there are 24. Discussion took place regarding the maintenance of the property. Mr. Stuban stated that the property is maintained where needed. Mr. Strecker questioned selling property to neighboring residents. Mr. Stuban noted that there may be 1 or no properties that would apply to what Mr. Strecker is asking. Further discussion took place. Mrs. Rakovan explained how paper alleys work and noted that on two occasions at the total expense of the resident(s) who live along a paper alley has Baden officially vacated the alley so that the resident may put the extra footage on their deed.

Laura Bain, Librarian for Baden Memorial Library introduced herself and gave Council an enthusiastic overview of what the Library has accomplished and the plans she has for the future. She thanked Council for their support. As part of her new position, she is doing outreach to the community and schools. Over the past year, the library has grown and there is more flow of people coming into the building. The use of the computers has doubled. Tutors are utilizing the library quiet rooms. On average there are 40 new patrons signing up

for a library card on a monthly basis. Laura has created a monthly activity calendar that she distributes to the schools and customers. There is a LEGO Club, Rainbow Looms and holiday and summer programs. There is an increase in volunteers. In the future, she would like to reach out to the teens and older population. She wants people to feel welcomed. She has been working with WQED to bring attention to the library. She hopes that something will take place over the summer. Laura noted that electronic devices (e-readers) for e-books are also available at the library too. Council thanked Laura for her presentation.

Mark Kolakowski from Center Street commented that he maintains his property and put up a fence. He asked that the borough maintain their property by the fire department. Council stated that they will have Public Works maintain the area. Mr. Kolakowski asked that council keep his name out of conversations with officials from Ambridge Borough. He stated that Kim Villella and Michael Stuban brought his name into a conversation regarding Mr. Kolakowski's comments during a previous meeting. Mrs. Villella asked to go on record that she has nothing to do with the police merger and she has not met with any official from Ambridge. Mr. Stuban noted that Mr. Kolakowski's information is inaccurate and no one talked to the council members from Ambridge. Mr. Stuban stated that Mrs. Villella and no one on council had anything to do with this. He is friends with Ambridge Councilman Mike Mikulich who at one time told Mr. Stuban that if he ever hears anything negative or positive about Ambridge to please let him know. Mr. Stuban noted that he gave Mr. Mikulich a copy of the minutes, which has nothing to do with the merging of police departments. Mr. Kolakowski noted that he has nothing to do with Ambridge politics and he is a resident of Baden.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of March 17th and 19th 2014.

BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Donna Michaels, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

RESOLUTIONS

- None

ORDINANCES

- None

BIDS

- Prospect Street Booster Station Emergency Generator

Frankl Electric Inc	Union Electric	R.E. Yates Electric	Turney Electric
\$92,985.00	\$94,890.00	\$98,935.00	\$113,400.00

Mr. Trzcianka commented that the bids came in too high.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to table the purchase of a generator for the Prospect Booster Station.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Finance – (Michael Stuban)

- Water Fund Balance \$229,459.94
- General Fund Balance \$192,128.12
- Utility Billing Guidelines – Mr. Stuban noted that they were passed out at last month's meeting for review.

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Donna Michaels, carried unanimously to adopt the Utility Billing Guidelines.

- Add-ons to Street Project – Fourth Street, Carl Street, Charles Street, Burkhardt and parts of Harmony Road.

Building, Property & Grounds – (Bob Besong)

Mr. Besong was not present.

Mr. Kotula addressed Council in regards to the Camera system for the borough building. The price last month for the camera system was a bit high. The list of locations for the cameras were reviewed and cut back to 10 cameras so that price came down to \$9,275 with smoke and heat detectors.

MOTION by Mr. Kotula, second by Donna Michaels, carried unanimously to purchase the camera system through Knighthawk Security at a cost of \$9,275.

Mr. Kotula covered the keyless entry system for the borough as discussed at Monday's meeting. The cost is \$8,150.

MOTION by Mr. Kotula, second by Donna Michaels, carried unanimously to purchase the keyless entry system through Reliance Systems at a cost of \$8,150.

Community Relations

Mr. Kotula noted that this is a new committee and he wants to bring the local businesses together to see what we can do to make our town better. By coming together with the borough for the benefit of all we will attract business to want to be a part of our community.

Mr. Kotula also noted that Council needs to know what's happening in Baden, good or bad so that it may be acted upon. It is about pinpointing our strengths and yet recognizing our weaknesses so that we may improve.

Library – (Kim Villella)

MOTION by Mrs. Villella, second by Donna Michaels, carried unanimously to advertise the Library Ordinance with the intention to adopt at next month's meeting.

Public Safety – (Kim Villella)

MOTION by Kim Villella, second by Donna Michaels, carried unanimously to purchase the AED equipment for the police department not to exceed \$1,600.

Mrs. Villella asked Council to look at amending the Police Ordinance. The original ordinance was written in 1956. It does not include a sergeant position.

Mrs. Villella asked the Mayor about three part time officers who are listed on payroll but have not been on the schedule. Mayor Gagliardi stated that these were one or two day a week officers but because of the conflict in scheduling we don't have time or the opportunity to put them on the schedule.

MOTION by Kim Villella, second by Donna Michaels, carried unanimously to hire part-time police officer James Brown III.

Public Works – (Dave Trzcianka)

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Villella, carried unanimously to have Widmer Engineering start the process to GPS the storm sewer inlets and outfalls to meet the DEP guidelines within the MS4.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to advertise for summer help.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Villella, carried unanimously to permit one or two road crewmembers to attend the dirt road seminar.

Mr. Trzcianka noted that he will put a work order in for the road crew to look at the curbs on Center Street.

Mr. Trzcianka commented about getting complaints about a tow truck driver parking his truck on Cottage Avenue. With the adoption of the new ordinance, the size of the truck is not permitted on that street. He asked that the Police or Mayor look into this matter.

Recreation & Communications – (Donna Michaels)

Mrs. Michaels thanked everyone who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.

MOTION by Mrs. Michaels, second by Mr. Stuban, carried unanimously to accept the resignation of Alan Hazelwood.

MOTION by Mrs. Michaels, second by Mr. Stuban, carried unanimously to appoint Bob Weber to the Parks and Recreation Board. Bob has always been a great help during community events.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Villella, carried unanimously to appoint John Shelkons to the Parks and Recreation Board.

June 27th – 5K Race (Organized by Fire Department)

June 28th – Town wide flea market

August 23rd – Community Days

October 11th – Applefest

Sanitation, Recycling & Municipal (Donna Michaels)

Mrs. Michaels had nothing to report under sanitation.

After the completion of the Municipal Authority renovations, Mrs. Michaels will tour the plant. Mr. Stuban invited the rest of Council to attend.

Mrs. Michaels reported that in the last three months of 2013 2,483 pounds of electrical and household hazard materials through the At Your Door Special Collections program.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amato had nothing at this time.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Sadaka had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gagliardi asked Mrs. Villella what happen with the proposed changes she wanted to make with the police department that she presented at Monday's meeting. Mrs. Villella commented that the Ordinance regarding police is out dated and she first wants to have the ordinance amended to reflect the changes. For example, the current ordinance does not have a sergeant position. Once the Ordinance is updated, the job descriptions and policies will be presented as one package.

Mayor Gagliardi stated that he wants what Mrs. Villella presented at Monday's meeting in writing. He asked her for this on Monday he never got it. Mrs. Villella commented that there is nothing in writing at this time. Mayor asked that it be given to him in writing. Mrs. Villella stated that she will state it publicly. She proceeded to say that the discussion that took

place on Monday was that the Police Department for the last three years has been over budgeted. Before any Councilmember would want to raise taxes they want to make sure that, they go through everything (all expenses). After looking at the statistics and studying the operations of the Police Department, we are first thankful that we live in a relatively safe community and have an excellent police department. On average the police department services one call per shift. We created a Sergeants position to assist the Chief of Police however on Monday through Friday the Chief and Sergeant are working the same shift. She stated that one officer should work each shift so that there is someone covering each shift 24 hours a day and 7 days per week. Currently we have one officer working on Saturday, which is one of the busier days. Additionally we go through part time officer's right and left. The intentions of Council are to have one officer on duty for each shift so that there is coverage 24 hours a day and 7 days per week, but also have two power shifts where two officers would be on duty. This would be Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM. Mrs. Villella asked if this clarified what she said on Monday. Mayor Gagliardi stated that he would like what she said on paper. Mr. Stuban commented that nothing is on paper yet. What will be on paper is what is put in the minutes. Mrs. Villella said to the Mayor that his input is vital, but when Mrs. Villella pleaded with him to meet with the safety committee, he said no. Mayor Gagliardi commented that Mrs. Villella never pleaded with him. Mrs. Villella stated that she has called the Mayor and asked him personally to attend the meetings. Mrs. Villella commented that we just want a more effective police department and for example, you don't put two managers on the schedule at the same time. Mayor Gagliardi said he wants to see it in writing.

Mayor Gagliardi addressed the neighborhood watch committee have access to and a company is willing to buy signs for our businesses to post in their doors free of charge. The company will supply 15 free aluminum signs for the businesses to post in their doors or windows.

Total fines collected for last month was \$7,367.34. There were 156 calls last month.

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

Mark Kolakowski stated that the only persons qualified to speak on behalf of the department is Office Shipley and himself (he did 27 years as a police officer). He justified the need for two officers Monday through Friday during business hours. He again commented that no one on Council is qualified to speak, to ask a police officer. He is a police officer. Mr. Kolakowski then noted that Fire Chief Trzcianka understands too because he works at the 911 Center. He then stated the need for more full time and less part time officers. Mr. Trzcianka noted that even with the total call the Mayor just gave today that is about 5 calls per day. The Police Chief is the one who recommended the power shifts and gave the days. Mr. Trzcianka asked Mr. Kolakowski who is wrong? Further discussion followed which included what the calls are. Mrs. Villella listed them as being opening the community room door, getting gas or taking the car to be washed. So the 156 calls are not criminal calls. Mr. Kolakowski mentioned being reactive and not proactive.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

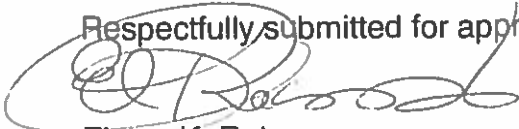
Nothing to report

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Donna Michaels carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
May 19, 2014