

**REGULAR MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
APRIL 15, 2015**

(No meeting on Monday, April 13th – Lack of quorum)

Council Vice-President Donna Michaels 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. Besong, Mr. Kotula, Mrs. Michaels, Mr. Stuban, Mr. Trzcianka, Mrs. Villella and Mrs. Montell (Not Present: Mrs. Montell)

ALSO PRESENT: Solicitor James Amato, Mayor Samuel Gagliardi, Chief Christner

Acknowledgement of Recordings

VISITORS

Tom Turney from 336 State Street asked Council for an update regarding 330 State Street. Mrs. Rakovan stated that once the paperwork is approved by the DEP demolition will follow. Mr. Turney stated that he is soliciting for the June 6th community yard sale and he stated that the money that is collected is being documented and copies have been given to council and secretary. Mr. Turney stated that he will bring in \$1,000 in solicited advertisements and if he does not he will personally write a check out for the difference. Lastly Mr. Turney commented that he is not officially the tax collector because he first has to receive the actual bonding and is sworn in. He also noted that under Act 64 he will request that his wife be appointed by Council as the deputy tax collector. Mr. Turney also addressed the need for resolution/ordinance for fees that fall under the tax collector.

Fred Strecker from Harmony Road addressed Council in regards to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Besong made a motion to fire the Code Enforcement Officer. No second. Motion did not carry.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Villella, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of March 31, 2015 which includes the appointment of Tom Turney as tax collector.

The minutes of March 16th and 18th were tabled for approval at next month's meeting.

BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

RESOLUTIONS

None

ORDINANCES

None

BIDS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. April 8th letter of resignation from CEO, James Napolitan effective May 1, 2015

MOTION by Mr. Kotula, second by Mr. Stuban, carried unanimously to accept the resignation of James Napolitan.

2. April receipt of the Ambridge Water Authority water rates, fees and charges analysis report.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Villella, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor and engineer to review the report.

3. April email from Verizon requesting a lease agreement to place an antenna on the Harmony Water Tank Property. This is per the direction of Crown Castle who we currently receive lease payments from.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor to review the request.

4. April 14th letter from Tom Turney, appointed tax collector asking council to authorize the charges that are associated with his new duties as well as deputizing his wife, Joanne Catanzarite.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Villella, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor to write up for review an ordinance/resolution regarding setting fees for the tax collector and borough.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

SECRETARY

1. Received the resignation of CEO, James Napolitan effective May 1, 2015.
2. 2014 Audit is still being conducted.
3. Gathering 2014 data for the police consolidation analysis.
4. FEMA Flood Ordinance has been reviewed and recommendations given by the FEMA Rep.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Villella, carried unanimously to authorize the advertisement of the FEMA Flood Ordinance.

5. The Baden Parks and Recreation Board is asking for the release of their 2015 funding.
6. The police arbitration is in favor of the police department. Working with the pension company to calculate the interest rate on the refund for each officer as well as necessary 2014 W-2 adjustment. Refund will be over \$17,000 plus interest.
7. Police Joinder Agreement may need to be advertised again due to the change in their 5% contribution. Waiting to hear back from PSAB-MRT.
8. Need to adopt a changed 2015 MMO requirement due to the change in the Police Pension contribution. This adjustment brings the cost up from approximately \$73,000 to \$87,000.

Mr. Besong made a motion to adopt the new MMO requirements. Mr. Stuban asked to table this motion until next month so that he may check at conference if there are any other actions that Council may be able to take. No second, motion did not carry.

Tax Collector

- Bonding has been approved for Tom Turney. Waiting for documents to be mailed, signed and processed. At that time Tom will be able to be sworn in.
- To date tax collections is approximately \$640,000
- Compiling a list of delinquents. Will send a letter to all on the list stating that if payment was made then proof of payment must be submitted to the borough.

- Petition for an extension on the delinquent due date will be submitted to the courts on April 16th at 9:00 AM.

COMCAST Day of Caring April 25th

- Meeting with the representative on Thursday, along with the president of the Recreation Board to go over everything. Volunteers are needed!

Garbage Contract

The Garbage Contract needs to be reviewed and advertised for future service. With the curbside pick-up of "special items" the contract may need to be amended as well as determining the length of the contract.

330 State Street

Paperwork is back from the DEP. Contractor is submitting documentation to the building inspector for the demolition permit.

General Code

The preliminary update/revisions have come in for review.

CEO

Not present

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Christner commented that a crossing guard has been found. His name is Douglas Richard. He has all of his certifications. He also works at State Street School. Chief Christner asked that Mr. Richard receive back pay from when he started two weeks ago. The Educational Service Board did contact the borough secretary and Sue Ramsey asked that Douglas Richard be approved for the crossing guard position.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Villella, carried unanimously to hire Douglas Richard under the recommendation of the Educational Service Board with back pay for the days worked so far.

Chief Christner stated that we still need to hire two police officers. The original interested officers were no longer interested. He has new resumes and will place them in council's mailbox so that interviews may be set up.

PUBLIC WORKS

Not Present.

Mr. Trzcianka discussed the street sweeper problems. The sweeper that council approved to purchase during last month's meeting was not purchased because the foreman decided to continue to work the sweeper we currently own.

Discussion took place regarding the cost associated with purchasing versus fixing a sweeper and possibly renting a street sweeper.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Villella, carried unanimously to get pricing to rent a street sweeper for one week.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Stuban addressed Council for comments and policy wishes regarding a street department employee going on fire calls on borough time and still being paid their hourly rate. Mr. Trzcianka believed that personal or vacation was used during the fire calls. Mr. Stuban and Mrs. Villella felt that they should not be paid. Discussion took place regarding putting a policy in place regarding not being paid for going to fire calls. Mr. Trzcianka felt

that this was such minimal amount of hours that it should not be an issue. Mr. Stuban felt that calls within Baden and our School District are different. The issue is responding to calls that are out of the local area.

Mr. Trzcianka was displeased with the conversation and started a motion to prevent one employee who is a volunteer fireman to not respond to fire calls. Further conversation took place with no resolve.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Besong to not permit Volunteer Fireman Randy Dobich from responding to any fire calls during normal business hours.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Villella to table the previous motion until some sort of policy is written.

ROLLCALL - To table the entire discussion of employees responding to fire calls until a policy and guidelines are set up.

- Besong - yes
- Kotula - yes
- Michaels - yes
- Stuban - yes
- Trzcianka - no
- Villella - yes

Five (5) yes, One (1) no – motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Finance - (Michael Stuban)

- Finance Report – General Fund Balance \$434,991.31
Water Fund Balance \$37,611.37

Mr. Stuban addressed Council in regards to a Mrs. Taddeo requesting that the Borough help pay for a bingo machine down at the circle of friends. Under the law the borough cannot assist in this request because it is a private organization. Mr. Stuban commented that if anyone wants to make an individual donation they may do so. The cost for the machine is around \$3,000.

Mr. Stuban addressed the School District doing a forensic audit of the tax books. Before any decision is made by council Mr. Stuban felt that a meeting needs to be held with the school because he felt that the DA, Attorney General or prosecuting representatives should pay for a forensic audit if needed.

Building, Property & Grounds (Bob Besong/Ted Kotula)

Mr. Besong had nothing to report.

Mr. Stuban mentioned that there may be need for more chairs for the community room. There appears to only be 60 chairs. Mr. Besong stated that he will look into this matter.

Community Relations – (Ted Kotula)

Mr. Kotula stated that for the Comcast Day of Caring he had contacted State Street School, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, BYA, ROTC and ABE.

Library – (Kimberly Villella)

Mrs. Villella stated that the recent meeting of the Library was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

Public Safety – (Kimberly Villella)

Mrs. Villella stated that the interviews will be set up and hopefully we can hire next month.

Public Works – (Dave Trzcianka)

Mr. Trzcianka had nothing to report under Public Works.

Mr. Trzcianka commented that the roof is leaking in the fire department and mold is starting to appear. He asked that the roofing company be contacted for repair.

Recreation & Communications - (Donna Michaels)

Nothing to report.

Sanitation, Recycling & Municipal Authority - (Donna Michaels)

Nothing to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amato had nothing at this time.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gagliardi addressed a couple on Walnut Street who have concerns regarding a pond and the dam that will break. The couple also had questions regarding approval for the road and a request to pay for half of it. The Mayor told them to call the secretary or Building Inspector. Comment was made that this regards private property.

Mayor Gagliardi noted that the police and incident report are on clipboard for council to review.

Total fines collected: \$971.55

Old Business Not on the Agenda, New Business or Unfinished Business**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Nothing to report.

- **Open Board Positions**
 - Zoning – Alternate
 - Library – 5 year term

VISITOR COMMENTS**AJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Secretary
May 18, 2015