

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 9TH, 2019**

Council President Judi Montell called the Pre-Meeting of Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Baden Municipal Building, 149 State Street, to conduct business of general purposes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Besong, Mrs. Furr, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Trzcianka and Mrs. Montell (Not Present: Mr. Kotula)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Police Chief Christner, Foreman Mike Josapak, CEO Bob Weber

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

No Visitors

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works

Water Breaks - Mr. Josapak reported that there were two water breaks recently. The problem with the one repair was that when Holmes Avenue was paved, they paved over the valve. It took all day for public works to find the valve.

Lights for New Truck - The lights for the new truck are on order.

New Employee – Tom Cordell is working out great. Public works employees never had to do a valve replace. Cordell had done them at his previous job so his experience was greatly appreciated. The cause of the valve failure was age. There were only two of eight to ten bolts that were holding the bottom of the valve together.

Correlators - The correlators worked perfect in finding the water breaks. Mr. Josapak stated that they were well worth the purchase saving time and unnecessary digging up of streets.

887 Riverview – Mr. Stuban asked on behalf of the Municipal Authority Board for insight regarding 887 Riverview and backup of sewage in the basement. Mr. Josapak commented that the water is shut-off on the inside of the building after Rodney Keenan heard water running during meter reading in December. Mrs. Rakovan noted that the water was shut-off the previous quarter because the owner did not pay their water bill, so it is unclear if there was a second valve to shut-off the building or if the owner turned the water back on. Chief Christner and Sgt. Alvarez also commented that they have been to the house too and it is not currently being occupied and is abandoned to the best of their knowledge. Mr. Trzcianka and council asked that the building inspector condemn the property and if needed to have the police and CEO present.

Secretary

STATE ETHIC FORMS

State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests must be filled out and return to the borough secretary by May 1st, 2019.

USDA Grant/Loan

Working with the engineer on getting the online logins and documentation to process the paperwork and scope of our loan.

Tevebaugh Road

Engineer did the weight study. Waiting for written report.

Paving

The final balance of payment owed to Young Blood for the paving project is \$10,156.59. Per last month motion the balance of the project was terminated and added to the USDA Grant/Loan application.

Circle Street outfall repair

Project is set to start within next week.

Parking Lot Lights

Weber Electric has repaired the parking lot lights.

Mr. Trzcianka asked if Weber Electric may be contacted to look at the light pole in the lower Fire Department parking lot.

Part-Time Police Applications

Advertised last month. Not a good response with applications.

Chief Christner also commented about the difficulty in finding part time police.

913 Harmony Road

Per last month's meeting the secretary took pictures of the property at 913 Harmony Road as she is getting complaints per the Code Enforcement Officer about them parking vehicles (pickup truck with a trailer) in their yard. The pictures were sent to council members. The owners are going to put gravel down in the grass area to the left of their driveway in the spring. They will not park to block the view of traffic exiting off of the side street. The property owners would like confirmation that what they have done and will do is OK with the borough.

Council stated that as long as they do not block the vision of traffic and they put gravel down in the spring so that the vehicles are not parked on the grass.

Parking Lot by Punks

There is a dispute between Punks and the owner of the daycare parking lot. The owner of the daycare has done research and they believe that when Punks paved and extended their parking lot they covered up borough drains. Does the borough wish to research this matter and get involved?

Discussion took place to confirm if there is a borough drain that was paved over. It was agreed that this is a property line dispute between neighbors.

Chairs

Mrs. Rakovan asked about getting rid of the black chairs that are stacked in council chambers. We never use them and the bottom leg covers are all broken which will damage the rug. Council stated to check and see if the Lions Club or local organizations want them.

2018 Recycling Report

Letters and forms have been mailed out to the businesses so that the 2018 Recycling Report may be submitted to the DEP.

Annual Reports

Reports/paperwork that will be submitted in January 2019: Recycling, Liquid Fuels, DCED Tax, DCED Election, and 1099 Misc. and various water reports.

GPS Policy (Resolution)

Tabled

CEO

Hearings - Mr. Weber reported that he had two hearings before Christmas, one for weeds and one for an old car. There was also a hearing with the owner of Punks and the parking lot. The owner of the parking lot did not show up so he was fined \$300 and five more citations have been sent. The parking lot owner hired an attorney and the next hearing is next week. There is also a hearing next week for a resident on Chestnut Street.

Harvey's - Mr. Weber stated that Harvey is cleaning up but still needs to clean up tires, drums and the vehicles on the borough right of way around the tree. Harvey also has not moved on putting up a fence. Mr. Weber gave Harvey until next Wednesday to clean up or he will start citing him.

Trailer Court - Mr. Weber addressed the need to condemn some trailers. He also asked about getting a dumpster for the couple who wants to move their trailer. They tore down the trailer next to theirs and they need a dumpster to hauler the materials away. After discussion, Council did not feel that they should be supplying the dumpster and that the trailer court owners should be involved. Mr. Shelkons commented that he has the phone number for the trailer court owner and he will contact them. Mr. Weber stated that there are other trailers down there that should be condemned. Mr. Trzcianka stated to take the building inspector and police down there to check it out and to make sure that everything is documented.

POLICE CHIEF

Lincoln Avenue home owner that requested the guard rail last month - Chief Christner commented that he did get ahold of the woman who damaged their shrubs last year and she will be making restitution to the home owner.

Old Explorer – Chief Christner stated that the resale value for the old explorer is between \$8,000 and \$9,000. He asked council how they should proceed. Mr. Trzcianka commented that we should put it out on Muncibid however we don't want to do that until we know when a replacement vehicle is in hand. Mr. Trzcianka asked for pricing on a new vehicle before next Wednesday's meeting.

Part Time Officers – Chief Christner again stated his need for part time officers. Mr. Trzcianka stated that maybe the Civil Service Rules need updated and to contact Bill Gamble so that we are prepared if we hire a new officer. Discussion took place regarding contacting the local police academies to inform new graduates of Baden hiring part time officers.

Jeep – Chief Christner explained that he wants to get rid of the Jeep by selling it back to the owner for \$2,000, but the District Attorney (DA) will not sign off on the papers because the owner pled to a misdemeanor and gave up the Jeep. The Chief wants to take the proper steps to get rid of the vehicle, but the District Attorney is being difficult. Discussion took place regarding charging the county storage fees or contacting the commissioners. Chief Christner stated that he will attempt to contact the DA tomorrow. He also noted that SOP would have to have a policy for storage of vehicles show the daily charges for storage.

Tevebaugh Road – Mr. Shelkons noted that he saw an 18-wheeler FedEx Truck drive down Tevebaugh Road. Discussion took place regarding weight limits, engineering study and the posting of signs.

FIRE CHIEF

Not present. Written report supplied to council.

Injured Fireman – Mrs. Montell asked about what happen. Mrs. Rakovan explained that according to the incident report the Firewoman was sitting on the front bumper of the fire truck and when stepping off her foot turned under and hurt her ankle.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Finance (John Shelkons)**

General Fund Balance \$50,668
Water Fund Balance \$118,027

Expenses \$141,715
Expenses \$47,916

Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

Police Negotiations - Mr. Trzcianka stated that the police department has not gotten back to them yet. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she met with Officer Shipley and went over corrections from the agreed upon items by council. The other issues concerned questions regarding the side letter for the chief. She addressed the questions with our attorney and gave the answers to Officer Shipley.

Building, Property & Grounds (Ted Kotula)

Not present

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

Nothing to report.

Municipal (Dave Trzcianka)

Nothing to report.

Library (Suzie Furr)

Mrs. Furr stated that there will be a reorganization meeting of the library board next week.

Community Relations & Recreation (Dawn Singleton)

Mrs. Singleton had nothing to report.

Administration & Legislation (Bob Besong)

Library - Mr. Besong addressed the paint on the library steps looking horrible and the need to fix this matter. The ramp is not ADA compliant. It is too steep and too narrow. Discussion took place in regards to the library looking at purchasing an elevator/lift for handicap accessibility.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gagliardi also commented that the library has horrible curb appeal.

Mayor Gagliardi asked that since there is a week between meetings Council members should be able to give more details for the regular meeting agenda.

TUV

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

Waste Management – Mr. Stuban stated that Waste Management failed us again. They did not pick up everything on Saturday. There are no excuses and they are not fulfilling the borough contract. This is not acceptable.

Soliciting - Mrs. Singleton stated that four guys, wearing green flashing lights were walking around asking questions in her neighborhood. Mrs. Rakovan commented that there were four young men who stopped in the office to inform the borough that they will be soliciting for solar energy in Baden.

Guard Rail on Harmony Road - Mr. Besong addressed the need for guard rails on Harmony Road. Council stated that they will have Josapak get pricing for guard rails.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Besong, second by Mrs. Furr, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
February 13th, 2019