

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 13TH, 2019**

Council Vice-President Dave Trzcianka 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, Mr. Kotula, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton and Mr. Trzcianka
(Not Present: Mrs. Furr and Mrs. Montell)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Foreman Mike Josapak, Fire Chief Dennis Baker

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

Joe Kostial from Franklin Avenue addressed council in regards to pot holes that need repaired on North Avenue (lower part) and the road in front of Mount Gallitzin. Council asked the secretary to inform the street department of the pot holes that need repaired.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Secretary

STATE ETHIC FORMS

If you haven't turned in your State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests to the secretary, please do so 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

The road has been posted with the 10 ton weight limit and West View Water has been informed that a permit would not be approved as they have access to their facility through Economy where their facility is located.

Software Conversion

Work in progress. Had a weekly 2-3 hour conference call with the company to go over our current program and the implementation of the new system. Will be setting up a trial system next week.

Dead End of Third Street

During last month's meeting Mrs. Spence addressed her continued concern about vehicles parking at the end of Third Street making it impassable for emergency vehicles and causing vehicles to use her driveway as a turn around. The motion was made for the engineer and Chief Christner to look into this matter. With the Chief getting hurt and being off from work this meeting has not occurred. The Chief will be back next week at which time this matter will be addressed.

- Ted Kotula stated that he spoke with the police chief and there is nothing they can do regarding painting the curbs until spring and the police have gone to the location every time Mrs. Spence has called and the cars are parked legally.

Punk's Ice Cream Water Meter

She set up two appointments for Josapak to check her meter and both times she cancelled the appointment.

Waste Management – Glass on the Streets

Per an email from their manager on January 17th 2019 they are going to inspect the recycling truck to make sure there are no openings for glass to fall through.

Trailer Court

Mr. Amato checked into and contacted the owner of the trailer court. The value of the trailer court property is way above what the assessments states. He wants \$150,000. Recommendation to send the Building Inspector to the trailer court and do a full property inspection for violations. Last month council asked that the property owner be contacted to clean up their property. The building inspector will be looking for code violations too.

Police Car for Sale

Ambridge Borough made the motion during their February 12th meeting to purchase the police car for their fire department in the amount of \$8,500. They are ready to do purchase and transfer of vehicle as soon as possible.

- Ted Kotula added that Sgt. Alvarez is writing up documentation stating the vehicle is being sold as is so that nothing can fall back onto the borough.

Doctor Coffeys House

Mrs. Coffey came up from Florida to clean up the house and make arrangement for payment of her water bill. She wanted to get rid of the property (give it away). Tom Turney is in negotiations with her and will taking the property off of her hands.

Fire Department Roof

Burns & Scalo is coming to repair the roof leaks and give an evaluation of its condition.

Borough Building Walkway

Final coat on the concrete will be done in spring.

Council Sound System

Ted Kotula found a company and will present this information.

Circle Street outfall repair

Completed and paid.

Parking Lot Lights in lower lot

Weber Electric will be out this or next week (weather permitting) to look at the pole lights in the gravel parking lot.

Cross Walk by Punks

Their study is almost done; they are waiting on police accident/violation reports for the Virginia Avenue and Route 65 area.

Display Case

Shipping and handling was too expensive to order online. Asking our local Bauman Office Supplies to get me a price so that we could stay below the cost of \$300.

2018 Recycling Report

Will be submitted to the county this month.

Annual Reports

Reports/paperwork has been submitted to the state in January 2019: Liquid Fuels, DCED Tax, DCED Election, and 1099 Misc.

No Smoking on Borough Property

Since we only have a policy regarding no smoking on borough property it is unable to be enforced by the police. Do we want to look into doing an ordinance?

GPS Policy (Resolution)

Table until next month

PUBLIC WORKS

Foreman Mike Josapak stated that there were 7 waterline breaks since last month and they were busy with snow removal. He stated that there has to be a waterline break somewhere else within town because the daily readings are a bit high. They are listening at the hydrants in hopes of locating the break. There was one sanitary sewer line blockage that was totally clogged due to flushable wipes. Mr. Trzcianka asked that something be put on the next water bill about flushable wipes not being flushable. Mr. Josapak also noted that with the cold temperatures they were having problems with the backhoe and water in the fuel freezing up. During last week's waterline repair they had to ask Harmony Township to borrow their backhoe so that we could repair the line. Our salt pile has been replenished and with the low temperatures the cinder pile froze solid making salting and cindering the street difficult. Mr. Trzcianka asked that Mike Josapak notify dispatch when they go home from plowing because the other night the police did not know that public works went home and it caused a delay in getting the road plowed. Mr. Trzcianka asked why the pickup truck is being used to plow the streets on his side of town (Virginia Avenue area) instead of the dump truck as he felt that it would require going back to refill on salt more often. Mike Josapak stated that they do not have to go back to refill and the pickup truck works well in this area of town. Mr. Kotula asked that the pot holes be addressed with cold patch when the weather breaks.

CEO

Not Present

POLICE CHIEF

Not Present

FIRE CHIEF

- Chief Baker stated that vehicle registration renewal have been completed on the vehicles.
- Will be purchasing 6 new sets of Structural Firefighting Gear in the amount of \$18,450 with grant funding from the State Fire Commission in the amount of \$14,464.43 and the balance of \$3,803.57 paid by the fire department.
- Updated Fire Department Roster has been provided to the secretary for the insurance company.
- Joint Training Program with Ambridge, Harmony, Economy and Conway is underway. The first class is scheduled in March.
- The Fire Department is looking to purchase a SUV with Fire Department funds. They are asking that the Borough cover maintenance like the other vehicles as well as the cost to insure the vehicle.
- The Fire Department would like for council to consider implementing a tax credit this year for the Fire Department.
- The roof at the fire department is leaking again. The secretary has been notified and she noted that she contacted Burns and Scalo for the repair.

- The 2019 Tool Bash was a success with the highest profit to date.
- Three members of the fire department have relocated out of the area. Two new members with prior firefighting experience and certification have joined the department.
- There were 13 incidents for the month of January.

Mr. Kotula addressed future police vehicles being turned over to the fire department. Discussion took place regarding timing and type of vehicle.

Mr. Josapak asked to address council regarding the trailer court and the need to send the inspector to look at the entire property. Between waterline breaks and raw sewage the place is a mess. Mrs. Rakovan noted that this was addressed under her report. Mr. Amato spoke to the property owner who would sell the property for \$150,000 estimated. Mr. Amato suggested sending the building inspector to the trailer court to do a full inspection and list of violations. The Building Inspector has been told to inspect the property.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance \$48,295
Water Fund Balance \$189,411

Expenses \$112,783
Expenses \$83,726

Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

- **Part Time Police** – Conducted interview with Chief Christner and will be making the motion next week to hire Scott Broge and Douglas Edgell as part time officers.
- **New Police Car** – To order a car to specification can take over 6 months to get built. If we purchase a prebuilt we save money. The police are looking at purchasing a vehicle through the COSTAR pricing through a company in Salem Indiana which can get a car in 6 weeks and save us around \$1,200.
- **Smoking Ordinance** – Currently we only have a no smoking policy which is not enforceable by the police. Need to look at making this an ordinance and replace the current trash cans outside the doors that have ash trays on top of them. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she will look at replacing the trash cans.
- **Dog by Car Wash** – The Chief looked into the dog complaint by the car wash. The dog is being kept in the owner's yard so there is nothing we can do regarding the constraint of the animal.
- **Microphone/Sound System** - The microphones that we have are ok, but as with any microphone the further away from the mike the harder it is for the sound to be picked up. The audio/amplifier system is fine and still being sold today, but the speakers are not good quality. To replace the speakers would cost \$990 for all six speakers. This includes labor. The cost for wireless microphones would be 2 microphones for \$175. So for less than \$2,000 we could have new sound system. Discussion took place regarding the placement of the speakers (ceiling vs. wall mounts).
- **Time Sheets** – Mr. Kotula asked who authorizes overtime for the public works and police employees. Mr. Trzcianka stated that Foreman, Mike Josapak calls him when overtime is required outside of snow removal. Mrs. Rakovan noted that every weekend there will be one street employee with 2 hours of overtime on Saturday and Sunday for their rotation of checking the water tanks. Mr. Josapak goes over every street employee's time card. Mr. Josapak stated that the public works timecards are noted as to what the overtime is for (snow removal, water breaks, sewage issues...) As for the police, Mrs. Rakovan noted that they are their own department and she does not know how they approve or monitor overtime as they need to have coverage to fill a shift.

- **Police Contract** – The police have approved and signed the contract. Council signatures will take place at the next meeting.
- **Duquesne Light (Street Lights)** – A list of contact numbers have been supplied to the office and police to address street lights that need repaired. Mr. Kotula asked that the police go back through town to address street lights that are out.

Building, Property & Grounds (Ted Kotula)

Nothing to report.

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

Nothing to report.

Municipal (Dave Trzcianka)

- Broken sewer pipe under Route 65. They feel that Penn Dot broke/crushed the pipe while doing repairs to the road. Penn Dot denies having anything to do with this damage. The Authority is meeting with Representative Matzie and Senator Vogel in hope to get some assistance in this matter.

Library (Suzie Furr)

Not present.

Community Relations & Recreation (Dawn Singleton)

- Starting donations requests for Harvest Festival early with local businesses in the area.
- Reorganization meeting has been postponed to next meeting as they did not have a good attendance at the recent meeting.

Mr. Kotula asked for a list of borough events that could be posted on Facebook and shared with other social media locations.

Mr. Shelkons asked about getting new signs for the Harvest Festival as the old signs all say Applefest. Mrs. Singletons stated that this will be addressed at their next meeting.

Administration & Legislation (Bob Besong)

Nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Franklin Avenue - Mayor Gagliardi stated that he received a phone call from a resident on Franklin Avenue regarding a petition going around to get Franklin Avenue fixed (paved). Mrs. Rakovan commented that Franklin Avenue is one of the roads that we are trying to get funding through the USDA to replace the waterlines which would result in the road being paved. She explained that we have supplied a map of waterline breaks that have occurred over the past few years in the Franklin Avenue area as well as the Fire Chief wrote a letter expressing the safety concern with water service for the fire hydrants.

Penn DOT (Harvey's) - A Mr. Haney, Administrative Assistance from Penn Dot contacted the mayor asking for a meeting with the Mayor, Secretary and Police Chief regarding Harvey's. This meeting will take place on May 1st.

Schiller Street Robberies – There have been a series of robberies on Schiller Street. We found out who the perpetrator was got a search warrant however officer Shipley could not arrest the individual that day because we were short on personnel. The next day they served the warrant, searched the house, found the goods and arrested the individual.

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

Water Pressure for House on Wilson Avenue – Mr. Shelkons asked if this matter has been resolved. Mrs. Rakovan explained that she called the home owner and told them the two options that were recommended by the engineer which was tap into the high pressure line at their expense or purchase a pressure booster for their house.

CDBG Application (Library) - Mrs. Rakovan noted that the cost to repair the steps and ramp is going to be high. The engineer recommended replacing the steps and putting a handicap lift instead of the ramp. This would be a cost savings for project. Council agreed with the recommendation.

Library – Discussion took place regarding the sustainability of the library and how the Ambridge Library has cut back on the days/times they are open because they do not have the funds to pay the employees.

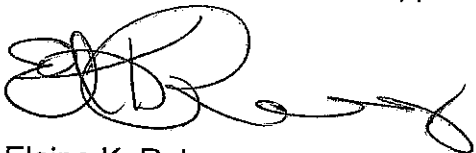
PRESIDENTS REPORT

Not Present

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Besong, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
March 13th, 2019