

**PRE-MEETING  
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
JULY 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Council President Judith 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. Kotula, Mr. Shelkons, Mr. Trzcianka and Mrs. Montell (Not Present: Mrs. Singleton)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Police Officer Stitt, Foreman Mike Josapak and CEO Robert Weber

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES**

**AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)**

**VISITORS**

- Joe Kostial from Franklin Avenue asked if we are fixing any streets. He was told not at this time. The borough is applying for a USDA grant and funding in hope to fix waterlines which would include fixing the roads.
- Loretta Thompson from Bauman Avenue asked council about the borough cutting private property throughout Baden. She was told that the borough will cut back anything that is impeding upon the borough roads. She didn't understand why people take the time to care for their properties however those who don't are having their property cut by the borough. The area across from Ms. Thompson is cut by the borough and she felt it was wrong for the borough to cut it. She also mentioned that the asbestos falling from the retaining wall and ending up on her property to clean up. Although council understands her concerns they explained how the legal system prevents an easy resolve to these issues. She asked about all of the legal issues with Borriello and was told that it is caught up in the legal system because Mr. Borriello keeps asking for extensions. It was also explained that when the CEO sends a letter to a property owner, he gives them a week to cut their grass then he gives a citation which takes months for a hearing date. It was emphasized that the borough is doing what they can within the legal guidelines.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Secretary**

1. **USDA Grant/Loan**  
Work in progress.

2. **Software Conversion**  
Using the new tablets and software for the current quarterly utility bills. We hope to mail the bills out late next week which is about 5 days later than our usual procedure.

3. **Trailer Court**  
Daughter of the trailer that is being affected by the slide called and asked for help regarding removal of dirt from around oil tank for her mother's trailer. After talking with the solicitor and engineer they both agreed that we should assist with this matter. Will have to shovel the area around the tank since the backhoe will not fit behind the trailer.

4. **Borough Building Walkway and Canopy/Roof**

The estimate for engineering design and putting a canopy over the walkway is over \$57,000. One recommendation from the engineer was relocating the air conditioner unit under the walkway, tearing down the walkway and putting in a land bridge. Four months ago council commented that we need to look into pricing from a canopy company.

5. **GPS Policy (Resolution)**

Mr. Trzcianka presented changes to the resolution last month. We are waiting on the updated resolution.

6. **Water Tank Maintenance Schedule**

Engineer is working on the maintenance schedule and what needs to be contracted out.

7. **BYA Proposed Structure**

No update.

8. **Baden Properties to Sell**

Barone Appraisals is doing the assessments on the properties. Waiting to hear from them.

9. **Teamsters 250 Pension Grievance**

Letter sent to Teamster Local 250 stating that council rejects their grievance. The Teamsters have contacted Mr. Ernest Orsatti, Esq to begin the arbitration process.

Our solicitor recommended using attorney John McCreary who handles labor disputes and they ask that council appoint him as special council.

10. **Harvey's**

The attorney wrote an agreement for Harvey to sign and attached with his fence permit. It was given to the building inspector for review.

11. **Civil Service Rules & Regulations**

Bill Gamble has completed a first draft of the regulations. Does council wish to review the documents first and then have the Civil Service Board look at them?

12. **Timber Harvesting**

The engineer reviewed the application and sent a letter back to the harvesting contractor with further issues that need to be addressed. One item in our ordinance states that there needs to be a hearing for the harvesting. We have never done this so what is council wishes regarding this matter.

13. **Sink Hole on Bauman Avenue**

Loan - The paperwork is in underwriting. The payback term for the loan will be 5 years with no penalty for early payoff.

Restoration of Mrs. Pollock's property – Mrs. Pollock asked that a fence not be put back up and that a stone retaining wall is all that she wants. I asked that the solicitor write up an agreement for her to sign stating that she requested the restoration in this matter. This will not be an additional cost to the project.

14. **CCR Water Report**

The report was completed and mailed out in accordance with the DEP guidelines.

15. **Bearcom**

Bearcom the service provider for the water tank scada system offers a service agreement at an annual cost of \$5,640. This would include service M-F at 8 hours per day for parts, labor & travel time necessary to keep equipment operating properly. Does not include replacement of equipment, physical damage, batteries or antenna.

## Public Works

**Pressure Gauge for Kellinger Water Tank** - Mr. Josapak reported that the tank gauge has been repaired and is up and running. They did purchase an additional gauge as a backup for any future issues that may arise. During the down time public works did 3 to 4 hour rotations to manually monitor the tanks. He commented that depending on the cost they may be ordering a spare circuit board too.

**Sink hole on Bauman Avenue** – Mr. Josapak commented that the storm sewer has been videoed and they estimate that the sewer is around 20 feet deep. Discussion took place regarding the repair and possible rerouting the sewer. The engineer has been contacted and is evaluating the issue.

## PUBLIC WORKS

**Mellon Avenue** - Upper Mellon Avenue road has buckled and lifted up from the waterline break that occurred at the top of the hill. Not sure if it should be cut and hot mix a patch. The secretary will ask the engineer to take a look at it.

**Lead and Copper Water Test** – In August we will be testing 20 households within the borough for lead and copper. This test is done every three years.

**Boom Mower Rental** – We have the boom mower for one week to cut back all the banks and road areas. Mr. Trzcianka asked if they could cut back along the river area if there is enough time at the end of the week.

**Parking** – Mr. Kotula stated that he was approached by someone and didn't know the answer so he asked Mr. Josapak if there is a reason why public works parks in the corner over by the sign instead of parking in the parking lot because there are handicap spots and the handicap people make it to the building but public works parks in the corner over here (by the sign) and he doesn't understand why because it is not a parking spot. Mr. Josapak stated that we (going back to the previous foreman) have parked there. Mr. Josapak stated that he will park somewhere else.

## CEO

Mr. Weber stated that he is going after the vacant houses dealing with the banks and most of them are complying and cutting the grass. There is one on State Street that he is having a difficulty getting a contact for the property. He addressed the problem with trailers being parked throughout town. Mr. Weber noted that he had a conversation with Sgt. Alvarez who thought that the borough should remove the 72 hour for parking on the street completely and not permit it at all. Mr. Weber also addressed the need to enforce the one side parking on upper Mellon and Holmes. The Mayor was asked to have the police address this matter. Mr. Weber commented (agreeing with Ms. Thompson's comments earlier) that the elderly of our community do take pride in their property but the younger generation doesn't care.

## POLICE

Mayor Gagliardi reported that Chief Christner will be returning to work on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The mayor also asked that the speed sentry sign be moved from Virginia Avenue to State Street.

This year's Mayor's Award will be the Baden Youth Association.

## FIRE CHIEF

Chief Baker stated that there were 28 calls for the month of June. A few months ago Mr. Trzcianka brought up about the borough looking at doing a five year plan and Chief Baker stated that the fire department is working on some items and will pass them on to council. He stated that he wants to sit down with Mr. Kotula to discuss what he would

like to see in the future for the fire department. Mr. Kotula asked when the next meeting was for the fire department because he would like to attend it. Chief Baker also addressed last month's report where he requested a further breakdown of fire department cost in regards to insurance. Mrs. Rakovan commented that the insurance is not broken out and the airpack account will be a separate fund.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance (John Shelkons)**

**Pinney Street Bridge** – Mr. Shelkons stated that he spoke to the PUC who informed him that the contract was awarded to repair to the expansion joints on the bridge. The paperwork is not in yet but once the PUC gets it a copy will be sent to Mr. Shelkons.

**Account Balances**

General Fund Balance \$270,735	Expenses \$87,516
Water Fund Balance \$341,021	Expenses \$48,860

**Public Safety (Ted Kotula)**

Nothing to report

**Building, Property & Grounds (Ted Kotula)**

Nothing to report

**War Memorial** - Mrs. Montell reported that the façade of the war memorial is falling off. She understood that the American Legion is aware of the issue.

**Library** - Mr. Kotula asked about the air conditioning at the library. Mrs. Trzcianka commented that it wasn't working last night but this morning it was working. Mrs. Rakovan stated that a work order was written up for public works to look at it and she will be contacting Maier Air Conditioning if needed as well as Weber Electric to address the lighting and fire alarm issues.

At this time Mrs. Trzcianka reported that the Library did receive a grant from the Pennsylvania Skill Machines for \$2,500. She also noted that the Ambridge School District has cut the library budget by \$6,700 as well as the funding for the Laughlin Library. Members of the library board will be attending the Ambridge School Board meeting next week.

**Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)**

Nothing to report

**Municipal (Dave Trzcianka)**

**Sewage Flows** – With the amount of rain during the past month, the total flow for the plant was over 20 million gallons. This means there is a serious infiltration problem.

**Library (Suzie Furr)**

Nothing at this time

**Community Relations & Recreation (Dawn Singleton)**

Not Present

**Administration & Legislation (Bob Besong)**

Nothing to report

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Gagliardi asked about the retaining wall at the trailer court. He was informed that this matter will be addressed next week.

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

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Nothing to report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mr. Besong second by Mr. Kotula carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:35PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan  
Borough Secretary  
August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019