

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
OCTOBER 14th, 2020**

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, Mr. Kotula, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Trzcianka and Mrs. Montell

NOT PRESENT: Mrs. Furr

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Dave Christner, Assistant Fire Chief Pat McFarland

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

- None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Secretary

1. USDA Loan

Attorney Salopek is working with USDA to get final approval of all documents prior to advertisement and council approval. If all goes well the earliest time frame for signing of the loan will be the end of December.

2. Trailer Court

No update

3. Water Tank Maintenance Schedule

Engineer is working on the maintenance schedule and what needs to be contracted out. The estimate for complete total repairs, maintenance and painting is \$500,000.

Mrs. Rakovan addressed the possibility of adding a maintenance charge to the quarterly water bills giving an example of \$10 per quarter would bring in approximately \$72,000. Adding this across three years to our current water tank fund balance we would have \$376,000 which would get us closer to the \$500,000. She asked council to consider this option.

4. Baden Properties to Sell

Assessments are done.

Ehmann \$7,500
Hickory Alley \$15,000
Jefferson St \$18,000
Grant \$18,000

The solicitor would need to handle the advertising and bidding of the properties.

5. Speed Humps/Traffic Calming

Virginia Avenue – Engineering study is complete the recommendation is to install stop signs at the intersections of Virginia Avenue with 2nd and 3rd Streets. A motion will be need at regular meeting to have the attorney write the ordinance for the stops sign. The will also include the speed the hump on Virginia Avenue.

6. Traffic Camera System (County)

No update.

7. Radio Service at Class Academy

Mr. Amato was told that Class Academy got a new digital radio that works throughout the building. Spoke with Chief Christner to confirmed Mr. Amato's information. The digital radio is working perfect and communicates with the police and the 911 center without dead zones.

8. Cell/Tower Regulation

Ordinance is being written by Cohen and Associates. Should have sample ordinance for review by regular meeting.

9. T-Mobile/Sprint

Sprint and T-Mobile has merged and they want to renegotiate the lease agreement. Cohen and Associates is reviewing the documents.

10. Hiring of Full Time Police Officer

Advertisement has been placed in the Beaver County Times. Application due date is October 23rd by 4:00 PM.

11. Police Consolidation

Cost study and conversation with New Sewickley (contractual service) as well as Conway & Rochester Borough (consolidation) is still being completed.

12. AEDs

Installed in the borough building (upstairs and downstairs) and the library.

13. Beaver County CARES Funding

Grant paperwork was completed and filed with the county commissioners.

14. Sinkhole on Bauman Ave

Contractor has placed the repair on his schedule.

15. Harvey's

The solicitor has written a lease agreement for council review and execution.

16. Street Lights

Duquesne Light has a new form for street light repairs. The police have been given the new form. Public works noted that they have seen DQL in town repairing street lights.

17. Drain at Berry and Wilson

The road needs milled from the drain to the center of the road to create a slope (crown) so that the water will flow to the storm drain. Maybe during our next project that involves paving we could ask that this small project be included.

18. Fire Prevention Week

The Fire Department will be purchasing fire hats and puzzle books for the Fire Prevention Week. Total cost is \$690. Like previous years they are asking for that the \$500 in their budget for education (acct# 411.237) be reimbursed to the Fire Department.

19. Bucket Truck

The Legion is requesting assistance to replace some light bulbs that are out on their digital sign that requires the bucket truck. The Legion does advertise borough events at no charge on their sign.

20. Workers Comp

Now that we have state workers comp as our insurance processing a claim is extremely easy. To prevent delays in filing a claim a packet of information has been given to each department and library so that they may call an injury in immediately, especially during non-office hours. Ultimately the secretary will have all the documentation for the claim, but this will move the process along more efficiently.

21. Police Pension Resolution

A resolution will be needed next week eliminating police members' contributions to the Police Pension Plan. This is done annually in accordance with their current contract.

22. Flags and Poles

Flags and poles need to be replaced. \$100 each. Flags cost through Senator Lambs office are \$11 each. We originally ordered poles, 100 for \$675. They came in and are not the proper length. The recreation board offered to pay the \$675, but now the cost will be more. Council would need to approve the additional cost of \$420 as each pole will cost \$10.95.

23. Veteran Banners

Public Works would like to know if it is ok to take the veteran flags down after Veterans Day.

24. Southwester PA Commission Funding

The original approved funding was for a \$90,391 project of which 20% would be paid by the borough through Liquid Fuels. After their evaluation they want to replace/repair more so the funding would be \$238,506 with 20% paid by the borough with Liquid Fuels funds.

25. Spencer Subdivision

The Spencer Subdivision on Daly Avenue has been approved by our Planning Board and reviewed by the County. They have supplied all documentation and final plans for the Planning Board and Council to approve at next week's meeting.

26. 2021 Budget

The budget needs to begin for next year. Adjustments will be made for the known changes that will take place in income and expenses. Currently the plan is to make the budget with the police remaining as they are plus one new hire.

OFFICE/ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Janitorial supplies and utility bill paper were purchased.

LEGAL MATTER (Not for detailed discussion during meeting)

No updates on the State Street property.

Schiller Street property drainage issue hearing has been postponed.

Public Works

Not Present

Police Chief

Chief Christner reported that the part time officer who was working for the Prevention Network got a full time position so he will no longer be working for the Prevention Network. He stated that he asked the secretary to advertise for a part time school resources officer.

Chief Christner stated that the uniform shop contacted him stating that their patches are almost all gone. Being that Chief Christner did not know the status of the police consolidation he is not sure if or how many patches should be ordered. Prices are

\$3.75 for 100, \$2.80 for 200, \$2.25 for 300 or \$1.50 for 500 patches. In the past he ordered 500 patches. He asked council how to proceed.

Code Enforcement Officer

Position not filled

FIRE CHIEF

Assistant Chief McFarland stated that council has a copy of the Chief's report and he has nothing further to add.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Account Balance	\$295,086	Expenses	\$163,955
Water Fund Account Balance	\$159,869	Expenses	\$51,189

Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

Fire Department Incentive Program Survey

Mr. Kotula addressed some of the questions that resulted from the mailing of the survey. He stated that this was discussed with their committee and he put together the questions by himself and what he found online. He showed it to the committee and they agreed to what should be on the questionnaire. He also had discussion with the mayor to make sure that we put the questions out make sure that no one would get angry over how it was worded. Mr. Kotula stated that none of the questions were to be negative to the departments. He felt that by getting back positive and possibly negative feedback is something we can grow from. The negative is not to make it bad for anyone, but to fix and make it better. Mr. Kotula stated that the Chief Baker will get a copy of the breakdown of comments so that he and the department have it to review. The incentive aspect of the questionnaire is just to get an idea as to what you would like (i.e. gift card, life insurance policy...).

Kevin Blararik a 40 year member of the fire department stated that the survey and cover letter didn't say what was going to happen to the results. He thanked Mr. Kotula for clarifying that the result would be shared with the fire department. Mr. Blararik appreciated the concept of incentives to recruit members but he felt that some of the questions were not directed towards that objective. He also questioned the need of receiving 95% of the questionnaires back which would mean 2 firefighters did not respond. Mr. Blararik felt that this was counterproductive. Mr. Kotula stated that the 95% was a means of saying if we are willing to take the time to work on this program then the fire department should be willing to commit to take the time to fill out a 15 minute questionnaire. He also stated that the top of the questionnaire says that the results will be reviewed with the chief. Mr. Blararik commented that there are 33 people in the fire department who have 100% commitment to this community because of the hundreds of hours they put into training, fundraising and firefighting. Mr. Kotula felt that the commitment to filling out the form is also a reflection on if they feel it is important enough. Mr. Kotula again commented that this was not intended to offend anyone.

Mr. Trzcianka commented that this all came about because he felt the tax incentive program was unfair to firefighters who live outside of town or rent. This is why the survey was written and he had nothing to do with the questions.

Michael Loftus spoke up his offense to the questionnaire and letter. Mrs. Rakovan spoke up stating that she wrote the cover letter on borough letterhead giving a brief overview of the questionnaire based upon what was written on the survey. Further discussion continued. Mr. Kotula stated that there was a letter included and he apologized if that was not clarified or included. He said to please speak to him directly if there are any other questions.

Building, Property & Grounds (Ted Kotula)

Nothing to report.

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

Mr. Trzcianka stated that street sweeping has started.

Municipal (Dave Trzcianka)

Mr. Trzcianka stated that the Municipal Authority hired a second licensed operator for the plant.

Library (Suzie Furr)

Not present

Community Relations & Recreation (Dawn Singleton)

Banners – The banner program will continue throughout the year. The banners will come down after Veterans Day and be put back up for Memorial Day.

Halloween in the Park – Saturday, October 24th at 5:30. Currently they have 18 vendors who will be handing out treats. There will be safe distancing, masks and hand sanitizers.

River Front Survey – Mr. Shelkons stated that he misunderstood the original cost letter from the engineer. The cost for the survey is \$3,000 but to clear the brush the cost is \$4,000. Discussion followed and Mr. Shelkons stated that he was going to speak to the engineer regarding this matter and what brush would need to be cleared. It may be able to be done by Public Works.

Administration & Legislation (Bob Besong)

Nothing to report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gagliardi had nothing to report.

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

Library - Lesabeth Trzcianka, Library Board President stated that their current fundraisers are caramel apples and Boscov shopping bags. She asked about when the renovations will be taking place at the library. Mrs. Rakovan commented that as soon as the contractor has a time frame the library will be notified. The goal of the contractor is to keep one door accessible at all times during the renovations. She also noted that the county has given them \$1,000 worth of books. They usually only give \$500.

Mrs. Trzcianka stated that the family of Bill Angel gave the library old maps of Baden. They are working on getting copies for the borough. They plan to hang the maps in the library.

Fire Department – Mrs. Rakovan noted that on fire chief report they are requesting to participate in the DCED fire department consolidation study.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to go into executive session at 7:14 PM to discuss police consolidation.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to return to session at 7:53 PM

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
November 9th, 2020