

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 9TH, 2020**

Council Vice-President David 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 & Mrs. Montell

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

- Michael Stuban spoke on behalf of the Civil Service Board presenting the report from their meeting held on October 27th. Members took oath of office. Lesabeth Trzcianka – Chairman, Tim Buck – Vice Chairman, Justine Woytovich – Secretary. Mr. Stuban took the minutes. Harry Fruecht was appointed to administer the police testing. The physical agility test will be the Modified Cooper Standard which is the easier of the two tests. The oral examiners/interviewers will be Chiefs Donnie Cokus, Barry Kramer, Ron Linedecker and Greg Seaman as alternate. Mr. Stuban informed council of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Rule 2.9 – Appointment of examiners are done by the civil service board. None of the examiners have been called yet. Rule 2.2 – Office incompatible with position of civil service board was discussed with attorney Amato. Mr. Amato stated that Mr. Stuban cannot serve on the Civil Service Board as he is a member of the Baden Municipal Authority board. Other boards such as the Library or Parks and Recreation Board are not a conflict. No harm on the meeting since Michael Stuban is an alternate member and the 3 voting members were present, and all votes were 3 to 0 favor. Section 3.11 states that the physical agility testing “in all cases, applicants shall be provided with the physical agility requirements at the time of application.” The attorney did not think was a problem in that the advertised stated that they would be notified of the testing dates and times. Additional comments from Mr. Stuban included noting that a few council members mentioned re-advertising since only 5 people applied. Council also must inform the Civil Service Board if they are planning on hiring one or two officers. In the past, until Chief Colaizzi, Baden only had 4 officers, 3 patrolmen and a working chief. When Chief Colaizzi was hired Council agreed to make him an administrative Chief and went with 4 patrolmen. This was to be only while Colaizzi was chief. When Chief Colaizzi was gone, Baden was to return to 3 officers and a working chief. Some information was put out at the October meeting stating we always had 5 officers, 4 patrolmen and a chief. That was only for when Colaizzi was chief due to the fact Council wanted a police administrator. Mr. Stuban commented that council may want the current chief to apply for grants to hire police officer(s). In closing Mr. Stuban noted that the borough secretary needs to contact Chief Fruecht to set up the physical agility testing and the written testing. The secretary also needs to contact the 3 chiefs we picked as oral examiners to see if they are available and set up the testing. Mr. Stuban ended with stating that council needs to replace him as alternate on

the Civil Service Board as he is unable to serve due to the conflict with him serving on the Municipal Authority Board.

Discussion took place regarding the legality of the advertisement (waiting to hear back from the attorney) since it did not specify the testing dates and times. Mr. Trzcianka felt that the testing dates and times should be picked and we should re-advertise for the position. Mr. Kotula stated that he feels we should follow what the attorney recommends so we need to wait and see what the answer is regarding the original advertisement. Mr. Kotula also asked if council was in agreement that they only want to hire one officer at this time.

- Allan Rose from 422 Straube Avenue addressed council in regards to trail bikes, dirt bikes, golf carts (with a 10 foot utility cart attached) and mini bikes crossing Phillips Street and drive along the streets of Straube Avenue, Charles Street and surrounding streets. It isn't just once in a while. When the weather is nice, weekends, evenings and after school it goes on for hours and it is totally unsafe for the children (ages 6 to 14) and residents. He stated that he has complained to the police and nothing is done as the police chief is friends with the parents. Mr. Kotula stated that he and the Mayor will talk to the chief regarding this matter. Mr. Kotula also noted that he will find out what the fine would be if a citation was given out and he will put it out on Facebook to notify the residents.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Secretary

1. **USDA Loan**
Ordinance will need to be adopted at next Wednesday's meeting.
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.
4. **Baden Properties to Sell**
Solicitor is working on advertisement.
5. **Speed Humps/Traffic Calming**
Ordinance will need to be adopted at next Wednesday's meeting.
6. **Traffic Camera System (County)**
No update.
7. **Cell/Tower Regulation**
Ordinance is being written by Cohen and Associates.
8. **T-Mobile/Sprint**
Cohen and Associates is reviewing the documents.
9. **Hiring of Full Time Police Officer**
Civil Service is working on this matter.
10. **Police Consolidation**
Discontinued per last month's motion.
11. **Recycle Bins**
Should be delivered by the end of November.
12. **Sinkhole on Bauman Ave**
Contractor has placed the repair on his schedule.

13. Legion

Will send a thank you to the Legion for the use of their building. Would like to include a donation from the Flower Fund to the Legion.

14. Flags and Poles

Flags and poles have been ordered.

15. 2021 Budget

Preliminary budget is in council packet. Please review for discussion at next week's meeting.

16. McDonald's Lot Consolidation

The Beaver County Planning Commission reviewed the lot consolidation as approved by the planning board. A motion will be needed next Wednesday to sign the final plans.

17. Baden Woman's Club

The Woman's Club is requesting permission to install a "Little Free Library" in the Memorial Park. They will be responsible for the construction, installation and maintenance of the box. The Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. More information may be found at www.littlefreelibrary.org

18. Guardian Life Insurance

Guardian through the PSAB is offering life insurance up to \$10,000 to councilmembers. The councilmember is responsible for the cost associated with this offer.

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 was held and the property owner was found guilty.

Mrs. Rakovan went over the preliminary budgets with council. In the General Fund Budget she changed all known revenue and expense categories for 2021. With hiring a new officer she was unable to balance the budget and she told council that she didn't feel she should be cutting expenses for individual departments to make it balance. She asked council to go over the budget and determine where they would like to cut expenses to make up for the shortfall and balance the budget. She also noted that she did take the contingency fund to \$0. Mrs. Rakovan stated that the Water Fund Budget is not balanced for 2021 and a water rate increase is needed. The main reason for this is that Ambridge Water Authority raised their rates without notifying the borough. She stated that she called Ambridge and they sent her a copy of their rate study, but they never gave advance notice. She noted that she will ask the engineer to do a rate study to balance the budget. Additionally Mrs. Rakovan noted that we will need \$500,000 in a few years to repair the water tanks. Council may want to look into charging a maintenance fee as a separate line item on the quarterly billing. \$10 per quarter would bring in approximately \$70,000 a year. Discussion regarding the Ambridge Water Authority agreement took place. The agreement states that a rate study needs to be done and the borough needs to be notified, but there is nothing in the agreement that says if AWA does not notify Baden of the rate increase there will be a repercussion for not doing so. Council asked Mrs. Rakovan to ask the solicitor to review the agreement with Ambridge Water Authority.

Mr. Shelkons asked about payments owed from Class Academy for 2020. Mrs. Rakovan commented that they were sent a letter in January 2020 for their Payment in

Lieu of Taxes as well as their bill for police school resource officer which included 2019 services. Payment was never received a second reminder was sent in the spring as well as a third in the fall. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she called and spoke with Mr. Angus who said he would look into it and call her back. She has not heard from him. She also gave a copy of the bills to the Chief Christner to personally deliver. Mr. Kotula noted that a certified letter needs to be sent. Currently they owe approximately \$15,000 to the borough. Council asked about the payments from Baden Academy. Mrs. Rakovan stated that they pay their bill within three weeks of mailing their bill.

Mr. Trzcianka asked for the status of the radio system changing to digital at the county level. He asked this because the cost for a digital radio is over \$3,000 for one radio. Mr. Kotula stated that he would ask the chief to get this information.

Mrs. Rakovan asked council about waiving the late fees on the late water bills due to the Coronavirus. Council agreed to waive the penalty.

Public Works

Not Present

Police Chief

Not Present

Code Enforcement Officer

Position not filled. Building Inspector Underwriter has been filling the position.

FIRE CHIEF

Mr. Kotula stated that Chief Baker is not at meeting as the Fire Department is having their Federal Evaluation of their Emergency Workers Decontamination Site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Account Balance	\$319,349	Expenses	\$333,032
Water Fund Account Balance	\$152,826	Expenses	\$160,508

Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

Live Stream of the Council Meetings

Mr. Kotula asked council to look into live streaming the council meetings onto our Facebook page. Council had no issue with looking into it.

Mr. Trzcianka expressed his disappointment in the attendance of the current meeting (less than 5 visitors) after the previous months turnout especially after commenting at last month's meeting in the Legion where he asked the residents to come to the next meetings as we address the budget.

Full Time Police Officer

Mr. Kotula stated that we are still looking into hiring one officer. He said that he will meet up with Mike and some of the guys to see what to expect for next week. Mr. Kotula also asked on behalf of Chief Christner that the chief and two full time officers would like to have an executive session after next week's meeting regarding the police department and council communication. Mr. Trzcianka stated that we need to check to make sure that this is a legal executive session matter. Mr. Kotula noted that part of the executive session request is in regards to the police still wanting to continue with looking into consolidation.

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

Mr. Kotula stated that there are two street lights out at the end of the borough driveway. He asked the Mayor, what needs to be done to get the police officers to call/fax in the street light repairs? The Mayor said that the police do send in the request but Duquesne Light is waiting to have multiple repairs. Mrs. Rakovan stated that there are new forms and fax number for Duquesne Light repairs. The police, public works and the borough office has the forms.

Street Sweeping

Mr. Kotula asked about a schedule for street sweeping. We have a new sweeper and he felt there should be scheduled days so that the residents know to move their vehicles. Mr. Trzcianka agreed with Mr. Kotula. Discussion followed. Mr. Trzcianka stated that he will discuss this with Mr. Kotula and then he will talk with Mike Josapak.

Christmas Lights

Mr. Kotula commented about assisting the Parks and Recreation Board with having a fundraiser to get funding for Christmas lights for the park. He asked the Recreation Board to put something together. Mrs. Trzcianka stated that we can wait until after Christmas and purchase the lights on sale.

Tree in the park

Mrs. Rakovan stated that there are three dead pine trees in the park that need cut down. Council directed her to get pricing to have them removed.

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

Mr. Trzcianka stated that he has nothing to report.

Municipal (Dave Trzcianka)

Mr. Trzcianka stated that the Municipal Authority USDA loan is in progress and they put out for bid the repair of the sewer line under Route 65.

Library (Suzie Furr)

Not present

Community Relations & Recreation (Dawn Singleton)**Halloween in the Park**

Mrs. Singleton stated that it went well. There were over 120 kids who attended Halloween in the Park. It was very successful.

Santa on the Fire Truck

Mrs. Singleton stated that the candy has been ordered for Santa on the Fire Truck.

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
December 16th, 2020