

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
APRIL 10TH, 2024**

THERE WAS NO MARCH 20TH REGULAR MEETING DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM

Council President Dave Trzcianka called the Pre-Meeting of Council to order at 6:00 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: Joe Bosh, Becky Gallagher, Doug Miller, John Shelkons, Dawn Singleton, Michael Stuban and Dave Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT: Michael Stuban

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Judi Montell, Foreman Rodney Keenan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS - None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. **PSAB June Conference – Hershey PA**
Hotel and Conference reservations have been made for Gallagher, Singleton, Stuban, Shelkons and Trzcianka.
2. **OnSolve Public Notification**
The flyer for the OnSolve App is being put in the utility bill envelopes to be mailed on Friday. Apartments, Anthony Wayne Terrace and businesses (without local billing addresses) will have copies hand delivered.
3. **Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street**
Zoning Hearing is cancelled. Property owner is speaking with PennDOT.
4. **2024 Paving Project**
Advertised for bid with bid opening on April 22nd and consideration of Bids at April 23rd. The April 17th council meeting will need to be recessed until April 23rd 11:00 AM meeting.
5. **Completed in March/April**
 - DEP Water Allocation Permit Compliance Report
 - DEP Primary Facility Water Report
 - DEP Subfacility Water Report
6. **Unaccounted Water Loss**
The 2023 unaccounted water loss is 9.1% for DEP Reporting. Taking into consideration known water breaks, hydrant flushing... the percentage is 7.2%
7. **USDA Water Project (missed last month)**
Next invoice approval for funding will be on the agenda for the regular meeting. Requisition #19 – Engineering \$20,300 and Contractor \$375,196.03 for a total of \$395,496.03

8. Resolution for Sale of Small Equipment and Items

Enclosed in the council packet is a resolution for consideration for the sale of small equipment.

9. Zoning Hearing - Billboard

Hearing for a billboard variance / conditional use will occur in May once the attorneys review the request.

10. Right To Know Requests

Received 7 Right To Know Requests from the same individual requested reports with reports with personal (resident/landlord) information. Responded with 30 day extension so that the attorney may review and assist with appropriate response.

11. Road Grader

Received \$1,500 for the sale of the road grader on Municibid. Waiting for the buyer to make arrangements for pickup.

12. Ethic Statements

Reminder that Ethic Statements are due by May 1st.

13. PennVest

Up front bank loan amount for the PennVest loan/grant is \$380,000. Working with First National Bank on the loan process at 5.49% fixed rate. On hold until we have a realistic project dollar amount to determine the true loan amount.

14. Property Encroachment Letters

No action at this time. Will walk the property with Michael Stuban to see who is actually encroaching on our property.

15. Harmony Road Property

Need updated documents from the county and Ambridge School District signature.

16. SPC Regional Traffic Signal Grant

Project in progress. Contacted Duquesne Light to set up account for new service.

17. Theater

No update

18. Utility Billing Ordinance Update

Started to write a new ordinance for the water and garbage billing. Once completed the municipal authority will need to amend (write) their sewage billing ordinance. No Update.

Public Works – Written Report

3/1/24-3/10/24

- Pumps and one calls
- 2nd St. tie in
- 1st St. tie in
- Water samples
- Lead line inventory
- Locate North curb boxes
- Quarterly water shut offs
- 4th St. tie in
- Meter work orders
- Daniel drive/ Quigley tie in

3/11/24-3/17/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Clean up pipe and fire hydrants
- Jet sewer 214 to 213 on Rotteck
- Begin punch list. items for JRC
- Cold patch pot holes
- Franklin meter issues
- Change sweeper brooms
- Begin quarterly water readings
- Verizon building tap

3/18/24-3/24/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Continue reading meters
- Measure for fire hydrant risers
- Franklin water break by JRC
- Franklin/Collins tie in
- Continue punch list items

3/25/24-3/31/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Continue reading meters
- Water samples
- Lead line inventory
- Sweep Streets
- Community center list
- 4th St. valves elimination
- Clean catch basins
- Water re-reads
- Punch list for curb boxes and valve boxes
- Organize poll barn for summer
- Remove salt spreader from pickup truck

JRC has completed the water line installation and finished tapping everyone into the new line. The tie-ins into the old line have been completed and all that is left are punch list items and restorations.

Asphalt restoration has begun for fire hydrant replacements.

The lead line inventory that is due in October to the DEP has been completed. Now we can update our lines as we find them.

Harmony tank water lines have been run. Waiting on confirmation from IXOM on a few remaining issues.

Sweeping the streets has begun.

Grass cutting season has begun.

Hydrant flushing to begin by the end of April.

Catch basin repairs to begin within a couple weeks.

FIRE CHIEF

Incidents / Training:

24 Incidents (March)

88 Incidents (Year to Date)

231 Training / Staffing Hours / 23 firefighters (March)

423 Training / Staffing Hours (Year to Date)

Grants:

The 2023 FEMA AFG Grant Application Period has closed. We submitted two grant applications for two different projects. One was a microgrant for equipment totaling \$69,497.00. If awarded, the fire department would be required to fund \$3,309.38 towards the project. The second application is for

funding to replace our rescue truck, totaling \$1,445,000.00. If awarded, the fire department would be required to fund \$68,809.52 toward the project. **(No Update as of the date of this report)**

The Local Share Account Statewide Program (gaming funds) Update: This grant was submitted on behalf of the borough for funding to replace our Fire Engine (Pumper Truck). Applications are in the review process. Received email confirmation that this application made it through the initial review process and is now in the second step of the review process. The only change to the application was that we submitted the application for the maximum amount of \$1,000,000.00. However, the cost estimate for the Fire Engine came in at \$961,000.00, so they adjusted the figure, stating that they could not provide additional funding based on expected cost increases. **(No Update as of the date of this report)**

Norfolk Southern Grant Period will be opening next week. I will be submitting an application to fund small equipment upgrades and replacements.

(This was on the agenda last month for approval, but no meeting took place) Is there any update on the council's decision to support or not support the fire department's efforts in firefighter health, safety, and fitness as it pertains to workman's comp? Information was provided to council on the program we implemented, and email verification from the insurance company that this is allowable coverage for active department members, pending a motion by the council at a public meeting. The program and equipment are up and running and used regularly. Currently, those active members participating have signed a waiver that will not hold the Baden VFD or the Borough liable for any injury. However, we still feel the Borough should support this program without hesitation for the efforts our volunteers are putting forth to help better themselves individually and as a department as it pertains to health and fitness.

(Follow-up to last month's discussion: the setback is 20', and the current distance from the back of the building to the property line is 46', so we will be within the requirements. The building will only extend 12' beyond the current building, so it will not extend into the current hillside. So far, we have a quote for a metal building addition and one for a concrete block addition to match the existing building; we are also obtaining a 2nd quote for the block building.) Storage update, along with the gym project it was mentioned in the past about the need for additional storage at the fire station. We have looked at a few different options one was the construction of a free-standing building between the main driveway and fire station near the emergency generator, However, due to the location and depth of underground utilities, this will not work. We have explored adding a small addition along the back of the building, with the only real issue up front being drainage. However, we had a contractor look at the site, and we will install proper under-drainage so that this will not be an issue. We are looking at two options for the building itself. One would be a metal lean-to style building that would attach to the existing building. This report includes plans to provide council with a better visual of the project. Additionally, we are getting a price to construct the addition in block to match the existing building. We are not asking council for any funding for this project. We are just asking for your permission, along with waiving any associated building permit fees. We are in the process of obtaining funds through our state representative to support this project and upgrade our fire station kitchen and office, which are approaching 30 years old.

On the clipboard, you will find a recent very good article regarding the fire service as it pertains to both paid and volunteer fire departments; I encourage everyone to read it. I feel it is very accurate and eye-opening to the issues we are seeing across the fire service, not just locally. We are in the process of renewing our Quick Response (QRS) medical recertification through the Department of Health and our Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition. (VRSR) recertification through the Department of Health and Fire Commissions Office.

Mr. Trzcianka questioned the gym being up and functioning without council approval. Discussion followed regarding workers comp, not having a March regular meeting and whether the approval was for the gym itself or just workers comp. Council will address this at the regular meeting.

Discussion took place regarding adding onto the back of the fire station. There is a water drainage issue in the back of the building and public works would not be able to use the riding mower to cut the grass (they would need to use a weed wacker). A storage unit or building should be on the other side of memorial along the property line.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Commercial Fire & Property Maintenance Inspections / Reinspections: 24 (Year to date)
General Code Issues Addressed: 16

Working on some pretty bad Property maintenance issues pertaining to 3 different properties on Holmes Ave. Currently I do not have a feeling the owners are going to be very cooperative.

1010 4th Street. Next of Kin addresses were provided to the magistrate **(No Update)**

851 Schiller - Awaiting review of making Schiller Street - No Parking. **(Any Update on Parking?)**

755 Schiller- they are finally addressing the issues, as they have a potential buyer for the property. **(Property has sold)**

423 Moore Ave - The property was Condemned due to Hoarding / Sanitation and Fire Safety Concerns. The property owners acknowledged the notice and are slowly beginning to address the issues. This is a big project, so it will take some time to bring it into compliance. **(No Update)**

Lincoln / Kellinger (Cat Issue): A TNR group has been working on the issue, and has reported that this issue has been resolved.

Second Street Cat issue: I have visited several times and seen only one cat in the rear of Building A. I will continue to monitor

Will be starting the annual Mercantile Tax collection process for 2024.

I will create a social media post about grass and general property maintenance as we approach the spring season.

My goal is to address any other code issues with commercial properties through and during the inspection program.

Mr. Trzcianka asked that the no parking signs on Schiller Street be put on next week's agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$188,877	Expenses	\$150,494
Water Fund Balance	\$170,821	Expenses	\$54,736

Public Works (Doug Miller)

Mr. Keenan informed council that they will be flushing hydrants in the next couple of weeks. He was asked to give the manager more detail of when and locations.

Mr. Miller asked about summer help. Mr. Keenan would like two summer help. The rate is \$15/hour

Technology / Public Relations / Liaison (Library, Parks & Recreation, Municipal Authority)

Emergency Alert System – OnSolve

Mr. Bosh stated that the official launch date is Wednesday, April 24th. All of the water bills have an insert explaining how to sign up. The website will have sign up information as well as the borough office. Two training seminars for the residents will be held on April 18th at 6PM and Saturday April 27th at 10AM in the community room. Mr. Bosh stated that he and Mrs. Gallagher were discussing distribution of OnSolve information election day. Mrs. Gallagher is going to get a cost estimate for large postcards to be handed out. They can also be handed in the borough office. Mr. Bosh asked about drinks (water) and food (snacks/pizza) for the training seminars.

Discussion followed regarding proper verbiage for water alerts. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she has the exact verbiage as directed by the DEP.

Technology

Mr. Bosh asked if anyone knew why Go Net Speed is no longer connecting people in Baden. Discussion followed which included Duquesne Light replacing poles and the lines

being underground. With underground utilities, Go Net Speed can't connect to some houses.

Newsletter

Mr. Bosh stated that he met with Erica Loftus and is working on the newsletter.

Library

The library is getting some reimbursement from the county to pay for equipment. They made eclipse glasses and are raising tadpoles. Programs are having a great response and they do not have enough seating, so they are looking at purchasing more chairs.

Administration / Personnel (Becky Gallagher)

Nothing to Report

Public Safety (Dawn Singleton)

Regional Police: 149 calls in Baden
 415 calls in the entire region
 1321 call region wide year to date

 47 ambulance calls year to date in Baden
 93 ambulance calls region wide year to date

Building / Grounds / Equipment (Michael Stuban)

Not Present

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Montell informed council that the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department is looking into getting a K-9 officer. The cost associated with the purchase and upkeep/care of a K-9 officer is high. If this happens, it will take at least another year.

Mayor Montell stated that she got a complaint from a resident regarding a property in town that has Skeltons in their yard. Mayor Montell noted that she told the resident that there is nothing we can do regarding how a homeowner chooses to decorate their yard.

Mayor Montell had the Ambridge Mayor contact her regarding a Baden resident who had some personal fears. She sent the police to the location and they were able to take care of the situation.

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The American Legion invited council to the Memorial Day Parade on May 27th.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mrs. Gallagher, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager
05/15/2024