

PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL APRIL 8th, 2026

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, Dawn Singleton, John Shelkons, Tom Turney and Dave Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT: Becky Gallagher, Shannon Reynolds

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Andy Gall, Manager Elaine Rakovan, Foreman Rodney Keenan and Fire Chief and CEO Dennis Baker

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

Scott Presler, a new resident of Baden Borough addressed council in regards to wanting to get know the council and being involved in the community. He has an organization called Early Vote Action that is run in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Wendy Elwell from Harmony Road addressed council in regards to starting a monthly farmers market in Baden from May to October.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. **Resignation of Jordan Faust**
Jordan's last day of work will be on April 15th.
2. **Prospect Street Water Pit**
Cla-Val gave an estimate of \$27,837 to replace all "guts" and Altitude Valves.
3. **Fire Hydrant PRV's**
Cost for a pressure reducing valve (attached to fire hose and hydrant) to prevent water line damage is \$2,250 each.
4. **Paving of Road Cuts**
Rochester Paving cost to pave 12 locations from winter waterline repairs is \$9,368. The cost to pave the two larger sections on Johnson Avenue is \$3,125
5. **West Nile Techs**
The Beaver County Conservation District will be collecting and taking samples for West Nile Virus starting in April. Sent the email with public information to Joe Bosh to be placed on the website and social media.
6. **PennVEST Waterline Project Loans**
Current project. The March 21st shut off to switch over to the new waterlines went well. Monthly meeting with the engineer, foreman and contractor took place last week to go over the progress, change orders and concerns. As with any project there were corrections and changes addressed. There will be an invoice

approval next week. NOTE: Widmer does have an onsite engineering tech present to document all activity, changes and measurements. Public works foreman and employees are a part of the project overseeing water shut offs, inspections of all pipes/valves, taps, connections, water hydrants and answering questions and giving insight to the water system.

7. No Parking Ordinance Update

Engineer is working on the update. Need to set up a meeting with public works, police and engineer.

8. Baden Fire Department Lease

Copy was emailed to council for review. This is a rough draft. Adding verbiage regarding all alteration/additions to the building must have the approval of council. Does council have any additions or changes.

9. Ordinances

Would like to start working with legislation chair to update the street opening ordinance.

10. Straube Tree

During last month's meeting a resident asked that we look at a leaning tree on Straube. The tree is not dead and on private property. The tree does not affect traffic and is not close enough to the electric lines for Duquesne Light to trim back. A picture was sent via text to council.

11. Statement of Financial Interest

Forms are due back to the Manager by May 1st.

12. Water Rate

The water rate increase will go into effect next billing cycling that will be mailed out in April.

13. Ambridge Water Authority Contract

The Ambridge Water Authority Contract expires this year. They have not responded to past requests for water rate information. No update.

14. Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street

No update.

Public Works – Written Report

3/1/26 – 3/1/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings

3/2/26 - 3/8/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Water samples & DWELR reports
- IXOM booster station filter change and maintenance
- Repair WB corner of Tevebaugh/65 intersection
- PA one calls
- Sewer jetting
- Work orders
- Water leak detecting
- Water project site check ins w/contractors

3/9/26 - 3/15/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Water samples and reports
- PA one calls
- IXOM calibration
- Water leak detecting

- Work orders/meter Replacements
- Cold patch potholes
- Water shut off/turn on for water project
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- LLI update
- Water Shut-offs

3/16/26 – 3/22/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Repair WB State Street
- PA one calls
- Work orders
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- Water Samples & DWELR Reports
- Salt and plow roads/shovel sidewalks
- Repair WB Walnut
- Prep for water shut down (21st)

3/23/26 – 3/29/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Water samples/DWELR reports
- Work orders/meter replacements
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- IXOM calibration
- PA one calls
- Cold patch potholes
- Replace stop signs/signs
- Read water meters

3/30/26 – 3/31/26

- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- Water samples/DWELR reports
- Dig service line leak 4TH Street
- Replace sewer manhole/lid
- One Calls
- Work Orders
- Hang banners over State Street

Notes:

- Repaired water line leak on the corner of Tevebaugh & 65 3/6, repaired water line leak State Street 3/16, repaired water line leak Walnut 3/18

Fire Chief – Written report

Monthly Activity & Operations Report

March 2026

Incident Activity

In March 2026, the Baden Fire Department responded to a total of **47 incidents**. These calls represented a variety of emergency responses and operational demands throughout the Borough of Baden and surrounding mutual aid areas. The department averaged **six (7) firefighters per incident**, with staffing levels ranging from **16**

firefighters responding to a structure fire to 1 medical personnel responding to a medical call.

Of the 47 total incidents, the department **provided Automatic Aid (13) times, (9) of which were canceled, and received Automatic Aid (9) times for a total of 22 incidents utilizing the Automatic Mutual Aid System**, reinforcing the importance of regional cooperation and mutual support among neighboring agencies.

Call Type Breakdown

- **Fire Alarms:**3
- **Fires (Possible / Confirmed):** 6
- **Medical Responses:** 9
- **Rescue Incidents:** 0
- **Service / Other Type Calls:** 15
- **Dispatched / Canceled:** 14

Year-to-Date Incidents: 101

Personnel, Staffing & Response

A total of **493 man-hours** were logged during March. These hours include:

- Emergency incident responses
- Station staffing
- Training activities

Training & Job Performance Requirements

Members completed the **March Job Performance Requirement (JPR)**, which focused on **Stabilization / Lifting**. This training ensured continued familiarity and confidence with using our SCBA.

Looking ahead, the **April JPR will focus on T47 Review**, and members are encouraged to maintain momentum by ensuring these JPRs are completed and staffing the station when available.

Upcoming Trainings / Classes:

- 5/2 Highrise Class (with Strike Team)
- 5/1 - 5/3 BC Fire Association Training Weekend
- 8/14 - 8/16 Elis Fire Training Weekend

Apparatus & Equipment Readiness

All **monthly truck checks** were completed in March. Additionally, all **monthly medical equipment inspections** were completed by a medical provider, ensuring compliance with readiness standards and operational reliability.

Our new QRS vehicle should be arriving towards the end of the month.

Upcoming Community Events and Meetings

May 16th America 250 event, The following group will be planning the logistics for the day and overseeing its success: Captain VanDyke, Captain Jones, Firefighters Wolz (2), and Firefighter Cade.

Some preliminary ideas for the day include: **(in the process of planning logistics)**

- Department History Display
- Display of Apparatus / Equipment
- Junior Firefighter Obstacle Course
- Fire Safety Trailer **(Kelsey Has Secured Trailer from BC3)**
- Fire Extinguisher Training

- Vehicle Rescue Demonstration
- Community CPR

Grants & Funding Updates (Same as February)

- Norfolk Southern Grant Application Submitted, for acquisition of Heart Monitor / Defibrillator.
- **OSFC State Grant in the amount of \$16,136.55.** *(has been Deposited)*
- **Matzie / DCED Grant totaling \$50,000** *was awarded to support the completion of projects around the fire station.* (Required signatures have been submitted to complete the funding process. I will be completing one additional form so funds can be released. I will complete this tomorrow.)
- **The AFG grant application period is not currently open, and there are no updates at this time.**
- **There are no new updates on the Local Share Grant related to engine replacement.**

Station Project Updates

- Electrical work is being completed. Once electrical work is complete, the final inspection will be completed.
- Patio work to start soon and will be completed before May 16th. Projects to follow the addition completion.
 - Office update
 - 5th bay organization
 - Front shower room update
 - Replace remaining non-led lights throughout the station

Code Enforcement - Written Report

Reporting Period: March 2026

2026 Inspection Program

- 12 Inspections Completed
- 3 Inspection on the Schedule
- Several more are waiting to be scheduled.

General Violations / Complaints

- 10 code complaints received in March, with a few already received for April
- 3 of them have been mitigated, still working on the others, along with a few citations

Court & Appeals

- An **appeal has been filed** regarding a citation issued for the **Baden Theater.** **(No Update)**
- The next upcoming hearing is April 9th at 1:30. This will be a phone hearing and a continuance of the garage issues on Williams' property by Kellinger Water Tanks. The owner is in the process of fixing the garage. Due to the winter weather, the Court gave him an extension on the timeline.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$218,512	Expenses \$193,855
Water Fund Balance	\$319,489	Expenses \$ 96,599

Public Safety (Becky Gallagher)

Not Present

Public Works / Municipal Authority (Dawn Singleton)

Need to advertise for two summer help.

Asked to have the flags and banners put up at the beginning of the week for America 250 events and Memorial Day.

Street sweeping needs to be done by May 15th.

Removal of rocks that were plowed onto a property during snow plowing.

The parks need more mulch.

Technology / Legislation (Joe Bosh)

The job advertisements will be posted on the website.

Warned everyone about receiving scam emails pretending to be an employee.

Public Relations / Administration (Shannon Reynolds)

Newsletter is in progress.

Building / Property / Code Enforcement (Tom Turney)

Should move forward with the fishing pier. Army Corp of Engineers gave the initial permit. It will just need to be updated. Tom Turney will ask the Norfolk Southern for railroad ties to back up the road and slope. The pile driving company has bid \$35,000 for the project and this would include setting the pier. Waiting for pricing on the pier. The contactors must be a member of COSTAR or the borough would have to bid the project. Grants would require payment at prevailing rates.

Currently speaking with West View Water regarding the road area property that is owned by West View.

The Community Yard Sale will be June 6th. 27 businesses have been solicited for advertisements.

John Shelkons gave an update on the Pinney Street Bridge safety. Our attorneys are communicating with the PUC and railroad.

MAYORS REPORT (Andy Gall)

Mayor Gall asked for an update on the Baden Police Station. Flooring would need placed down, walls & baseboards repaired/painted. Discussion took place regarding the garage and borough public works using the garage for storage.

Library

Nothing to report.

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Dave Trzcianka)

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Tom Turney, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager