

PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL APRIL 9TH, 2025

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: Mayor Judi Montell

ALSO PRESENT: Foreman Rodney Keenan, CEO and Fire Chief Dennis Baker

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

No Visitors

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. **PennVest / Paving Project Loans**
Will be in review this month.
2. **Keyless Entry and Cameras**
No update at this time.
3. **Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street**
No update at this time.
4. **Back door to Stairwell**
No update at this time
5. **Grant Avenue**
Open item. Paving the end of Grant Avenue. A copy of the letter was given to council at the January meeting.
6. **State Ethic Commission Statement of Financial Interest for 2024**
If you haven't submitted your Ethic Form, please return to the Borough Manager by May 1st.
7. **Street Opening Ordinance**
Open item.
8. **Newsletter**
Residents received by the goal date of April 1st! HAPPY DANCE!

9. Yard Sale

Saint Teresa church is allowing the use of their parking lot for the yard sale this year. Total collected/pledged for the library is \$2,850.

Dawn Singleton stated that a letter needs to be sent to the legion in the care of Gerry States asking for the donation. Elaine Rakovan stated that the initial letter was dropped off at the Legion. (Note: Tom Turney addressed Council at the March council meeting stating that Gerry States told him to contact Dawn regarding the donation and placing the sale information on the Legion's sign)

10. Ordinance Regarding Recreation Board

Advertised and ready for adoption at next week's meeting.

11. Harmony Water Tank – Mid Atlantic Proposal

The USDA has approved the use of the approximate \$200,000 in remaining loan money to be used for the Harmony Water Tank repairs. The engineer will need to submit more paperwork and advertisement may need to be done if Mid Atlantic is not able to supply a COSTAR approved quote.

12. Non-Uniform Union Contract

The union's contract ends this year. They met with their union representative last month.

13. Garbage Contract

The garbage contract with Waste Management ends this year. We will need to advertise for bids within the next couple of months. No update.

14. No Parking Signs

The police have brought to my attention that we have no parking signs up with the borough that they can't enforce because they are not in the borough code (no ordinance). No update.

15. 2020 – 2025 Pension Audit

Currently being done.

16. DEP Annual Water Report

Calculated and submitted. Elaine Rakovan gave an overview of the report, noting that the water calculation of 5.5% is excellent. Dave Trzcianka asked how often is the meter calibrated by Ambridge Water Authority (AWA). Elaine stated it was last checked 2012 by AWA. Joe Bosh asked if the clerk, Sasha was shown how to do the report. Elaine stated that she did not, but will make a point of teaching her next year.

17. Certified Water Operator for Harmony Tank

Per last month meeting a motion was made to have the solicitor write a contract for Jared McKay to serve as the DEP certified operator Class E, subclass 12 so that the borough may utilize the DEP mandated chlorinator. Jared has signed the contract effective April 1st. Needs Dave Trzcianka's signature. The engineer has notified the DEP that we have an operator on board so we may move forward with fulfilling the DEP requirements.

Public Works – Written Report

3/1/25-3/9/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Cold patch
- Repair Schiller St fire hydrant
- Repair State St service line
- Quarterly water shut offs
- Water turn ons

3/10/25-3/16/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Locate State St curb boxes
- Replace front brakes F-250
- Fix Daly Ave yard from plowing
- Remove 250 spreader
- Take down Christmas lights power line
- Clean trucks from salt

3/17/25-3/23/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Quarterly meter reads
- Update RAFA system with antennas and sim cards
- Cold patch

3/24/25-3/31/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Sweep streets
- Water meter call backs
- Meter work orders
- 917 4th St service leak

Notes:

Widmer has contacted DEP about a final inspection for Harmony Tank
Advertise for summer help
Street sweeping has begun

Rodney Keenan asked council if he could purchase a chop saw to build emergency, free standing stop signs. Elaine Rakovan told council about the traffic signal that got taken out by a hit and run at the intersection of State Street and Harmony Road. PennDOT was asked to assist by lending the borough two stop signs for State Street (a state road). We were denied the signs and told that it was a borough issue. Elaine stated that she called her contact for PennDOT and was told the same thing, but after stating that this intersection handles all of the traffic for the elementary school PennDOT agreed to lend two stop signs for one day. Michael Stuban stated that he will inform all of our representative and legislators of this matter. We were asking to lend us signs as a good neighbor that cost PennDOT nothing.

Rodney Keenan asked to have the new truck undercoated. Cost will be around \$300.

Discussion took place regarding putting up the banners. We will wait until Duquesne Light completes the pole replacement.

Doug Miller asked about how many stop signs will be made. Rodney Keenan stated that he has enough materials to make 4 signs.

Michael Stuban asked about the old fire hydrants. Discussion took place scrapping them versus trying one more time to sell them.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Dennis Baker

4 Commercial Fire & Property Maintenance Inspections have been completed this past month and 11 year to date.

7 active code issues are being worked on that includes open storage at the end of Center Street, sidewalk on State Street and Center Street (letters have been sent to both property owners). Both property owners have reached out to Dennis Baker. The one property owner can't financially afford to replace the sidewalk. Dennis linked both property owners up so that they may get a price to replace the sidewalk and possibly save some money.

The wall on State Street by the pump house has been fixed. It was an insurance issue that held up the repair. The Schiller Street property is a continued battle regarding multiple issues as well as animal safety of dogs that live on the property.

Dennis Baker has had 3 hearings for the month of March and 7 hearings year to date. All of the hearings are for citations for commercial properties that have not signed up for their fire safety inspection for last year.

There are two citations that are in limbo from last year. Both of them have warrants since neither one responded to the hearing date.

Dennis Baker addressed scheduling this year's fire inspections and confirming licenses.

John Shelkons asked about Harvey's and the cleaning up of the property on Tevebaugh Road. Dennis stated that he has spoken to them, but have not sent letters. If nothing is being done, he will send a letter. The minutes will be looked through to find notes on Harvey's.

Mechanical Device taxes are being paid.

Fire Chief – Dennis Baker

Incidents / Training:

98 Incidents for 1st quarter 2025

106 Incident Year-to-Date

Members completed their annual hazmat training and those who needed, completed/renewed their certification in CPR and First Aid.

The kitchen remodel will take place the week of April 21st.

The engineer drawings have been completed for the addition to the fire station. Michael Stuban asked that a copy of the drawings be supplied for council review. Applications will be filled out for the building permit.

The ladder truck is having electrical issues. It will be going out for evaluation/repairs next week.

Chief Baker went over a packet that was given to each council regarding the purchase of a new fire truck. Michael Stuban commented that the borough does not have the money at this time, but it will be considered when possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$85,594	Expenses \$151,008
Water Fund Balance	\$164,877	Expenses \$58,700

John Shelkons addressed the fire inspection at the Library. The wires on the outside of the building were discussed and clarified. The exit signs will be repaired (batteries).

Public Works (Doug Miller)

Doug Miller addressed a letter received from a resident on Beech Street regarding cars parking all the way to the curb (on yellow lines) on State Street and Dippold when events are taking place at the church. This is causing a visual safety issue when pulling out onto State Street. Doug will address this matter with the police. Michael Stuban asked Doug to have the police look at the parking on the corner of Dippold and Prospect. It causes a visual obstruction of oncoming traffic.

Technology / Public Relations / Liaison (Library, Parks & Rec., M/A) (Joe Bosh)

Library – John Shelkons gave an overview of the library meeting. Wise Little Owl will be doing a field trip to the library. There is a question regarding federal funding to the libraries. All of their events are on the monthly library calendar. There is a new member that the board would like council to appoint to the board. Her name is Allison Carpenter.

Administration / Personnel (Becky Gallagher)

Police Officer Donation/Support – Mrs. Gallagher reported that one of the police officers had a baby who is now in the hospital recovering from surgery. She addressed collecting money for a gift card to assist with fuel/food costs. Each council member agreed to make a personal donation. Joe Bosh addressed assisting to facilitate a fundraiser if needed.

Public Safety (Dawn Singleton)

BVPRD - Dawn Singleton stated that the Bridgewater meeting was well attended by individuals and business owners who do not want to consolidate services and merge with the BVRPD. There were concerns about timing for police response and not knowing the police officers.

Dawn noted that there is a meeting coming up with Pulaski Township regarding their interest in the BVRPD as well as Fallston Borough.

Building / Grounds / Equipment (Michael Stuban)

Unpaid Garbage Bill – Michael Stuban addressed the unpaid garbage bill that the borough has been addressing for some time now. He asked that council approve to cite and take the resident to court again. This will be on next week's agenda.

MS4 Authority/Commission – Michael Stuban went over handouts (ordinance & information/bylaws) regarding the creation of storm sewer authority to collect fees for the repairs of storm sewers that are required by the federal government. Non-profits are not exempt so schools, churches, the railroad, Villa St. Joseph and Concordia have to pay the determined fee.

Dave Trzcianka was against the fee. Discussion followed regarding the calculation of the fees.

MAYORS REPORT

Not Present

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

None

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dave Trzcianka informed council that he spoke to the resident who sent the letter requesting the paving of Grant Street. He told the resident that there is no funding at this time, but it is on the list for future consideration.

Dave Trzcianka stated that the memorial park is falling apart. The benches, gazebo, and bridge all need to be repaired/replaced. Michael Stuban commented that we can't get grant funding because we do not own the property. It is owned by the school district.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by John Shelkons, second by Michael Stuban, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session regarding personnel at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager