

**PRE-MEETING  
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AUGUST 9<sup>th</sup> , 2023**

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:** Mr. Bosh, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Stuban and Mr. Trzcianka

**NOT PRESENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Montell, Engineer Tony Sadaka

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES**

**AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)**

**VISITORS – None**

**ENGINEERS REPORT**

Mr. Stuban asked the engineer to attend the work session so that he may be included discussions regarding infrastructure projects.

**USDA Project**

Reviewed the USDA bid openings from the previous month. Council needed to decide what add-on bid projects they will move forward with since there is not enough funding to do all of them.

After discussion, council determined to move forward with the water hydrant replacement and put the Bauman Avenue waterline on hold.

Mr. Sadaka stated that the USDA will need to approve add-on bid project.

**County Funding – Storm Sewers**

Mr. Stuban noted that the bids will be open on Monday for the storm sewer repairs on State Street and Milton Street. The engineer's estimate is that the cost will be around \$240,000. The county funding is for 80% of a project cost. 20% must be a borough match.

**Federal Covid Funding**

The borough received two grants in the amount of \$204,000 each. One will be covering the waterline replacement from Virginia Avenue to North Avenue (Old State Street area) and waterline replacement on Fourth Avenue. The bid came in at \$272,000. The borough will have to come up with the \$68,000 which we do have.

The second project is the water tank repairs that have an estimate cost of \$185,000 and the backhoe purchase will give a total of \$365,000. The borough would have to pay \$161,000 of the total. We have saved for a lot the cost but there are projects that are not getting done due to lack of funds. Mr. Stuban listed off the additional repairs and replacements that need done to our infrastructure. He recommended looking into a PennVest Loan to get the other projects done. PennVest is offering grant funding as part of the loan process.

## **Johnson Avenue – Water on Roadway**

After testing and investigating the possible water source, it has been determined that the water is coming from an underground stream. The engineer got estimates from \$300,000 to \$700,000 for the repair. This is a cost above what the borough can afford at this time. Mr. Sadaka stated that to do all of Johnson Avenue the cost came in at \$740,000 which includes underdrains and rebuilding the entire road. To underdrain the lower portion of Johnson Avenue the will be around \$340,000. The other option is to do one underdrain and patch the road but this would most likely be a shorter term repair.

Council will review the options and make a motion at next months meeting.

## **Grant**

Mr. Stuban stated that there is another grant available that includes waterline / streets. The funding comes from gambling monies. A resolution will be need for next weeks meeting to apply for the grant.

## **State Operations Consultant**

Mr. Stuban noted that the consultant met with him and the manager to review the efficiency of the borough public works and office. He had very informative information. The consultant asked if the borough had a leak detection system and a master water plan. Mr. Sadaka commented that a master water plan is a great thing to have but you have to stay on top of it. Mr. Stuban stated that there is new equipment available that may help with leak detections.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Manager**

1. **Up & Running Computers**  
Solicitor sent a letter to Up & Running Computer Company.
2. **State Street Storm Sewer**  
Bid opening is Monday.
3. **Waterfront Dock Permit Documents**  
Signatures and notary complete. Emailed documents to the DEP. They needed additional information which was supplied. Waiting for confirmation before mailing the originals.
4. **Public Works**  
Today they repaired a valve leak at Schiller Street and Jefferson Street. Replaced the seal and bolts.
5. **Property Encroachment Letters**  
Before we send out any letters, all of the property lines need to be marked. Asked Widmer to place more markers on the individual properties.
6. **Tax Assessment Appeals**  
Multiple emails are received daily listing all the hearing time for the appeals. The appeals are 10 minutes apart and being held across 5 rooms. They are averaging 180 – 200 appeals per day.
7. **2022 Liquid Fuels Audit**  
State Auditor was in the office today to do 2022 Liquid Fuels Audit.

**8. Bauman Avenue Multiple Water Line Repair / Replacement**

Emergency – contacted Bonzo Excavating who was able to assist immediately.

Break #1 \$4,356

Break #2&3 required replacing 200 feet of pipe \$26,200

**9. Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street**

The wall has been hit by vehicles three times since the property owner lived there. The most recent being a few months ago. The property owner asked if a permit was needed to replace the wall. They were asked if it was staying the same and not exceeding 3 feet in height to which they responded that it was going to be the exact same thing. They were told no permit was needed. The borough office started to get complaints about not being able to see when pulling out of Lincoln when turning left onto Phillips Street. The Building Inspector was sent up where they were told that a variance and a permit is needed for the wall which appears to be over 5 foot tall as well as a property survey to confirm property lines. The owner stated that they had the property survey. Because the wall is along a PennDOT road the variance may have to fall under PennDOT approval (A phone call has been made to PennDOT). The attorney and engineer are involved due to the liability issue that has been created by the resident complaints. The engineer has done a distance/sight study to PennDOT specifications. The Building Inspector sent a stop work order pending the variance.

Council discussed that some members got phone calls from the property owner. No permit was given for the wall or the sidewalk that does not meet borough specifications. With the complaints we are receiving regarding visibility issues, legally we have to address this matter. It was determined that this is a building / zoning code matter and BIU will handle it.

**10. Decal and Seal for the Borough Building**

Confirming prices to replace the signs on the windows within the borough building. Will have prices for next week.

**11. Microwave**

The microwave in the community room needs replaced. Will pick one up at Walmart tomorrow so that it will be available for the weekend rentals.

**12. Crossing Guard**

Jennifer Woolstrum confirmed that she will continue to be the crossing guard this school year.

**13. State Operations Consultant**

Met with the consultant last week. He will be coming in to spend the day with and the public works department this Friday. Michael Stuban will give more details.

**14. New Backhoe**

The new backhoe is in, council needs to decide what they are going to do with the old backhoe. Trade it in or try and sell on Municibid.

**15. Theater**

No update.

**16. Utility Billing Ordinance Update**

No update.

**17. SPC Regional Traffic Signal Grant**

No update.

**18. Beaver County ARPA Municipal Infrastructure Grants**

We received a letter on February 21, 2023 from the county stating that the \$204,000 ARPA funding must be spent by December 31, 2024. This money carries with it, a 20% contribution by the borough. NO UPDATE

**19. Harmony Road Property**

The county updated the borough cost to a lower amount. Need to get the school district to sign off on the form. NO UPDATE

**20. H2O Grant**

NO UPDATE

**21. T-Mobile**

Emails and documentation from previous T-Mobile representatives have been sent to the solicitor. NO UPDATE.

**Public Works**

Written report will be submitted for the regular meeting.

**7/1/23 - 7/9/23**

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Tevebaugh catch basins and pipe
- Down tree on Phillips St
- Empty park trash cans
- Cut grass
- Water meter work orders
- Clean out gutters on Tevebaugh
- Restore yard from water break on Murphy

**7/10/23 - 7/16/23**

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Meet with engineer and Stefanik about Johnson Ave water
- Tevebaugh catch basins and pipe
- Cut grass
- Clean up downed tree on Tevebaugh
- Locate water line on Kellinger
- Cold patch roads

**7/17/23 - 7/23/23**

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Take down flags
- Cut grass
- Cover manholes and water valves on Phillips St for tar and chipping
- Clean up right of way on Berry St
- Camera Johnson Ave for possible sanitary break
- Cut back dead ends streets and guard rails
- Clean up from storm
- Locate manholes on Tevebaugh to be raised for paving

**7/24/23 - 7/31/23**

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Tevebaugh catch basins and pipes
- Cut grass
- Wood chipping downed trees in park and work order

## Notes:

New Backhoe to be delivered week of August 14

Johnson Ave water has been correlated, listened for leaks, and camera inspected by State Pipe. It has been determined it is not a water leak, nor sanitary pipe leak. Most possible cause is a natural spring that has moved from Pizza Hut parking lot to the middle of Johnson Ave. PW met with our engineer and Stefanik excavation about possible fixes such as installing under drains.

Tevebaugh Hollow is anticipated to be paved beginning in mid-August. PW has replaced 9 catch basins and 120 feet of pipe leading to the creek. The plan is to have them pave up to and around the catch basins so the water run off does not erode the around the catch basins.

5-6 manholes have been located on Tevebaugh and may need raised to accommodate the paved road. Currently they are covered by 6 inches of dirt. Harmony tank building electrical has been installed but recommends a new electric panel because of severe corrosion.

The chlorine tank has been delivered and will need to be plumbed in. 2 electrical conduits and 3 water lines need to be run to the top of the tank and inside the building.

August plans are to fix sinkhole on 4<sup>th</sup> and North Ave before the water line project starts and then begin line painting.

Valves will need to be exercised and water curb boxes found before water project begins.

On August 2 a waterline broke on Bauman Ave. It was determined that there were multiple breaks on the line. Approximately 200 foot of lead joint cast iron waterline was replaced with ductile iron waterline. Approximately 9 pieces of cast iron pipe were taken out of the ground and 8 of those pieces had either a crack or hole in the pipe. 400ft of pipe remains going up Bauman that is in the same state of deteriorated pipe. It is highly recommended to replace this in the near future. The 2 service connections affected appeared to be copper on the system portion.

Mr. Trzcianka asked about the window for the library being the wrong size. The manager will ask public works about it.

Mr. Trzcianka addressed the end of Grant Street not being maintained since we owned the property that Mr. Rosinski purchased from the borough. Mr. Rosinski is asking that that portion of the road be paved because it is all mud. Mr. Rosinski even would pave the road himself if the borough would deed it over to him, however the property on the other side of the road is owned by someone else so this can't be considered. Grant Street goes to the end so we need to look into this.

Mr. Stuban noted that two employees took the water certification test and only 1 passed. The other missed passing by 1 point. Confirmed councils' approval to permit the employee to take the test again.

Mr. Stuban asked about emergency notifications to the residents in the event water alerts or other emergencies. In the past Beaver County Emergency Services had an alert system that the borough was able to utilize at no cost. The system got bought out by another company and the alert service is no longer available to the borough. Looking into other options through the utility billing software or other third party entity.

## Police

Mr. Stuban stated that Rochester Township has officially joined the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department.

## **Fire Chief**

### **Incidents / Training:**

16 Incidents (July)

180 Incidents (Year to Date)

110 Training Hours / 18 firefighters (July)

### **Congratulations on the following achievements:**

Firefighters Riley Tkatch and Michael S. Longo, who recently obtained their Pro-Board Firefighter 1 Certification

### **Apparatus:**

New Squad's certification was completed by the Department of Health and is now a certified QRS response vehicle.

### **Grants:**

2021 FEMA AFG Grant, no updates

2021 FEMA SAFER Grant, no updates

The 2022 State Fire Commission Grant Application has been approved; the award amount is \$15,000. All equipment under this grant award has been purchased.

Regarding the 2022 FEMA AGF application, FEMA started the award process a few weeks ago.

### **General:**

Starting Hydrant Flow testing this week, area of Ehman Ave over to Harmony Road.

### **Waterline / Hydrant Project:**

I have a few recommendations regarding this project. Ideally, it would be great to have the entire project completed. However, funding will not allow that to happen. My two suggestions are as follows.

**Option 1:** Eliminate the Berry / Ehman Ave waterline replacement project and complete the other waterlines and all proposed hydrants.

My reasoning. To my knowledge, we haven't had any recent breaks on the waterline along Berry and Ehman. Additionally, that line was originally a dead-end line that was looped down to state street within the last ten years; this provided an excellent hydrant at the dead end.

**Option 2:** Complete all proposed waterline replacements per the plans and limit the hydrant replacement project to reduce costs. I've included below a list of hydrants I recommend moving forward with replacement for you to look at. This was determined based on high-hazard areas and areas with a significant lack of working / reliable hydrants. Historically, hydrants at the end of a dead-end line usually do not provide the needed flows. So, that is why none of those hydrants are on the list. The only way to drastically improve the flow of dead-end hydrants is to loop the system, which has been proven in a few areas of town over the years.

### **Recommended Hydrants to Replace:**

4th Street - Sheet 12 Panel 4

Union / Detmar - Sheet 12 Panel 5

Cottage / Dettmar - Sheet 12 Panel 6

Jones / Kellinger - Sheet 12 Panel 8

McKee / Carle - Sheet 13 Panel 2

Straube Ave - Sheet 13 Panel 3

Dorothea / Hartman Way - Sheet 13 Panel 4

Schiller St - Sheet 13 Panel 6

Prospect St. - Sheet 14 Panel 1

Moore / Camilla - Sheet 14 Panel 3

Prospect St - Sheet 14 Panel 5

Steele St - Sheet 14 Panel 6  
Harmony Rd - Sheet 15 Panel 3 and 5  
Behind AWT - Sheet 15 Panel 8

## Code Enforcement

95 Code Issues have been addressed (Year to Date)

60 of those have been abated

35 are still in progress

The Inspection Ordinance was updated and sent to Elaine and Joe.

*438 Prospect Street, Hoarding House that was vacated, Bank took over the house. They brought in subcontractors to begin cleaning out the house. Received a complaint about items from inside the house being thrown over the hillside in the rear of the property. I visited the site and found a 30-yard dumpster in the driveway full of items, and in the rear of the property over the hill was an area about 40'x40' covered with items from inside the house. I was able to track down all responsible parties and the property was cleaned up within 48 hours. Apparently, the company hired to perform the clean-out work had a few unhappy employees, and they threw the stuff over the hill one day and walked off the job while the boss wasn't on site. (Property has been cleaned up, and they are slowly working on some cosmetic improvements.)*

*AWT, we have a few issues with some living conditions that I am working on with the Association, in the process of working with CYS and another agency assisting this family to address the conditions of Unit 43.*

**Due to the horrific living conditions found at Unit 161 during a recent medical call, this unit was condemned, and the report is on the CEO clipboard. I am working with AWT Board to address the issues. The Mayor also stopped by to see the conditions found in person.**

*1010 4th Street. Next of Kin addresses were provided to the magistrate (Magistrate received a letter from the next of kin that they want nothing to do with the property, However, they seem to have no interest in completing the process to sign it over.) Council comment to refer this to the attorney.*

*533 Ehman. Reinspection was completed on 2/28/23 (they are still addressing a few items on the interior.) (Will most likely be lifting the condemnation of this property upon final inspection within the next few weeks)*

*851 Schiller - Starting to receive complaints again. Will speak with the property owner and follow up with a letter and citation if needed. (I will be sending a letter this week regarding the lack of progress) Council ask that this move forward.*

*755 Schiller. Mortgage Company PA Housing Finance Agency has Safeguard Properties taking care of see curing and preservation of the property. (no current updates)*

*255 State Street - I have been in contact with the foreclosure company. Issues will be addressed. In the process of cleaning up the property. (Property has been cleaned up)*

*423 Moore Ave - Complaint filled with DEP regarding the property's condition. An Exterior inspection was completed on 2/16/23 also spoke with the complainant. A letter was sent to the property owner on 2/16/23 and also sent to DEP, so they are aware it is being addressed. (No response to a letter from the property owner, will be issuing a citation. Multiple Attempts have been made to contact the property owner. ( I will be stating the citation and condemnation process next week)*

*1016 Phillips - House Fire - They have finally started cleaning out the house.*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Finance (John Shelkons)**

General Fund Balance	\$181,678	Expenses	\$268,943
Water Fund Balance	\$407,611	Expenses	\$99,604

### **Public Works, Sanitation & Municipal Authority (John Jones)**

Not Present. Nothing to Report.

### **Technology, Social Media, Library & Community Relations (Joe Bosh)**

#### **Library**

Mr. Bosh stated that the librarian has been promoted in her other job so it has affected her hours working at the library, but all work times shifts are covered. They are participating in a couple of events. One is a back to school event at State Street School on September 5<sup>th</sup> and open house of September 14<sup>th</sup>. The library is also hatching more eggs. Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> they will have a cocktail tasting fundraiser in the borough community room. Council agreed to make a donation (gift card) from the council flower fund for the event.

**History of Baden**– Mr. Bosh asked Mr. Stuban was asked to give a program on the history of Baden for the State Street School.

**Streaming Meetings** – Discussion took place regarding the rules and guidelines (Sunshine Law) regarding streaming public meetings. There are different rules for school districts and municipalities. Mr. Bosh stated that if it is going to be done it needs to an easy process.

### **Administration & Legislation (Doug Miller)**

Not Present

### **General Government, Building Property/Grounds, Parks & Rec (Dawn Singleton)**

**Harvest Festival** - Applications are coming in. Letters have been sent to the fire department and borough asking for the use of their facility.

**Banners** – There are 100 banners so far.

**9/11** – The legion has asked for State Street to be closed in front of the Legion for a 9/11 service that will be held between 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. The regional police have been notified.

### **Public Safety (Michael Stuban)**

#### **Water Shut-Off**

Mr. Stuban asked council to consider writing a policy (ordinance) regarding water shut-off. Currently public works shuts off customers and then that customer runs down to the borough to pay their bill and then public works has to run back to turn that customer back on. Mr. Stuban recommended that when a customer is shut-off, they are turned back on the following business day. Ambridge Water Authority starting doing this and it cut back their shut-off list. The goal is to start this January 1, 2024.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Montell invited council to the Legions 9/11 event.

Mayor Montell stated that she did go with the Code Enforcement Officer to 161 Anthony Wayne Terrace for the condemnation. She stayed outside, but everything was handled professionally.

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

Mrs. Trzcianka stated that there is new board member for the Parks and Recreation Board. His name is AJ Gulish. A motion will be needed next week to appoint him to the board.

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mr. Shelkons, second by Mr. Stuban, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine K. Rakovan  
Borough Secretary