

# REGULAR MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

*Note: No December Pre-Meeting – Lack of quorum*

Council President Dave Trzcianka called the Regular 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, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Stuban and Mr. Trzcianka

**NOT PRESENT:** Mr. Miller

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Judi Montell, Solicitor Jimmy Amato

*This meeting is being electronically recorded by the Borough Manager.*

## AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

President Trzcianka addressed adding an antenna for the ham radio club on the Kellinger water tank. The foreman will be asked to meet with the representative to show Rodney where they would like to put the antenna.

## VISITORS - None

## MINUTES

**MOTION** by Michael Stuban, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to approve the minutes November 6<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## BILLS TO BE PAID

**MOTION** by Dawn Singleton, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

## RESOLUTIONS - None

## ORDINANCES – *(Advertised in the Beaver County Times)*

- **985** AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 952 to include specific language under the Nuisance Ordinance concerning the feeding, ownership and violations regarding feral cats. **(MOTION)**
- **986** BILLBOARD ORDINANCE to regulate the location, size, placement and certain features of Billboards within the Borough of Baden. **(MOTION)**
- **987** AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 972 to include general parking regulations for any “passenger car” not to include any bus, motor home, passenger car attached to a trailer of any kind, recreational boats on or off trailers, recreational vehicles and any commercial vehicle. **(MOTION)**
- **988** ADOPTING an amendment to the article of incorporation of the Baden Municipal Authority, Beaver County, PA **(MOTION)**

**MOTION** by Michael Stuban, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to adopt ordinance 985, 986, 987 and 988.

- **989 2025 TAX ORDINANCE** sets the tax rate for the year 2025 at the rate of 6.0 mills on each one dollar of the valuation of said real property as assessed for county purposes. The total tax rate of 6.0 mills represents a 1.0 mill tax increase for Baden Borough **(Will be adopted after adoption of the budget)**

## **BIDS – NONE**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Invitation to Baden Borough Council and Mayor from Conway Borough to their Christmas Party and Chief Adam Johnston's Retirement Celebration on December 20<sup>th</sup>.
2. Letter from Tom Turnley regarding the 2025 Community Yard Sale and his soliciting of advertisements for the event map. All profits from the sale of the advertisements will go to the library. Yard Sale date will be June 6th with June 14th as the rain date.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Manager**

Waterfront Property – Confirmation was received correcting the tax status of the borough property to tax exempt.

Youngblood Paving – Final invoice of \$40,886 was received and paid for out of the loan fund for the street paving that was done this year.

Shiela's Restaurant Property – The property was sold to the owners of Economy Welding.

### **Public Works**

Not Present

### **Fire Department**

Not Present – 2024 End-of-Year Report was emailed to council

### **CEO**

Not Present – No Report

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- General Fund Balance \$158,515                      - Expenses \$157,711
- Water Fund Balance \$284,140                      - Expenses \$193,434

## **PUBLIC WORKS (Doug Miller)**

Not Present

## **TECHNOLOGY / PUBLIC RELATIONS / LIAISON (Joe Bosh)**

**Solicitation Ordinance** – Mr. Bosh stated that the ordinance will be ready to go into effect January, 2025.

**Share Point for CEO** – Mr. Bosh stated that he is still working on it. The technical build is complete. He is working on training materials that everyone will need before he presents it to the employees and starts training.

**Library** – The library is waiting to hear back from their attorney regarding the funding from the Ambridge Area School District. The council was informed of the sudden passing of Jason, a library employee. Council will make a donation from the flower fund in his memory.

## **ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL (Becky Gallagher)**

**America 250** – Mrs. Gallagher stated that she and Mr. Stuban held a meeting on the December 9<sup>th</sup>. Several people and organization representatives were in attendance. Their next meeting is January 27<sup>th</sup>. The next Beaver County meeting will not be until February. The county does have a website, beavercountyevents.com. The county is asking for input on the website.

Mr. Stuban commented that they discussed having themes for different events and he gave examples of salute to the veterans and salute to labor and industry working men and women. There is grant funding available that we may apply for in April.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY (Dawn Singleton)**

**BVRPD** – Mrs. Singleton stated that during the most recent meeting of the BVRPD Commission they discussed hiring two new police officers. An SRO for Rochester School District and an officer to replace the vacancy once the current police chief retires will be starting in January. They also hired a part time administrator that will start in January. The new chief will be making \$115,000 per year.

## **BUILDING / GROUNDS / EQUIPMENT (Michael Stuban)**

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Nothing to report.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

1. DEP Water System Notice of Violation (NOV) – Harmony Water Storage Tank Upgrades - The disinfectant residual management system can't receive an operations permit from DEP until an operator with the appropriate class and subclass is lined up to cover operations.
2. PennVEST - Waterline Replacements - Due to the fact that we didn't receive approval for the NPDES permit until it was too late to make the January Board Meeting consideration for the project, the application has been pushed to the next round. The Pennvest Board meeting where we will (in all likelihood) be funded is April 23, 2025. Construction should be able to start in the fall of 2025. The project requires an easement to connect the ends of 3rd Street and 4th Street water mains.

A plan has been provided to the Borough Manager for use by the Solicitor in creating the necessary agreement. PennDOT highway occupancy permit application will be submitted by WEI by the end of the year. We were able to come to an understanding with DEP regarding the handling of lead service lines encountered during the project. The Borough will have their contractor stop line replacement at the customer curb box and property owners would be responsible for any line replacement beyond that if necessary.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Mr. Trzcianka stated that his neighbor stated that cars are blowing through the stop sign on Virginia Avenue. Mrs. Rakovan stated that the police want all complaints to go through the 911 Center (non-emergency) so that the information is documented.

Mr. Trzcianka addressed looking into the IBW would do the wiring of the Christmas lights as part of their electrician training. Mr. Bosh stated that he will look into this.

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

1. Motion to adopt the General Fund 2025 budget in the amount of \$2,920,715
2. Motion to adopt Ordinance 989 setting 2025 tax rate at 6.0 mills
3. Motion to adopt the Water Fund 2025 budget in the amount of \$920,425
4. Motion to pay street lights from the Liquid Fuels Account per the budget
5. Motion to close the borough books and balance funds on December 31, 2024
6. Motion to enact all 511 taxes
7. Motion to authorize the transfer of all existing Baden Borough Police Pension Plan Assets and Liabilities to the Beaver Balley Regional Police Pension Plan
8. Motion to continue with WesBanco as the borough Depository
9. Motion to reappoint Elaine Rakovan as Borough Manager/Treasurer with agreed upon terms
10. Motion to reappoint Widmer Engineering as the Borough Engineer
11. Motion to reappoint James Amato & Associates as the Borough Solicitor
12. Motion to adopt the 2025 IRS mileage rate
13. Motion to hire a full time office clerk (Sasha Diccico)
14. Motion to appoint Mark Turnley to do the audit for year 2024 and begin immediately
15. Motion to advertise the monthly Council meetings to be held at 6:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month with workshop on the second Wednesday at 6:00 PM
16. Motion to maintain MDIA as the borough's building Inspector

Mr. Stuban asked if there were no objections he will make a motion for numbers 1 to 16.

**MOTION** by Michael Stuban, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to adopt motions 1 to 16 as presented to council.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

- Municipal Authority - 1
- Zoning Hearing Board – 1 & 1 alternate
- Planning Board – 1
- Library Board - 2
- Parks & Recreation – 6
- BVRPD Commission – 3 representatives and 3 alternate
- BC COG – 1 representative and 1 alternate
- PSAB Voting Delegate – 1 representative and 1 alternate

**MOTION** by Michael Stuban, second by Dawn Singleton, carried unanimously to appoint the following individuals:

Municipal Authority - David Trzcianka  
Zoning Hearing Board - Butch Singleton  
Library Board - Lesabeth Trzcianka  
Planning Board - Joe Bosh

Mr. Stuban addressed disbanding the Parks and Recreation Board and have other organizations sponsor and benefit from events. He gave an example of the library taking over the Easter Egg Hunt. Fire Department taking over Santa on the Fire Truck. The Community Day event is done by residents, volunteers and borough employees. Mr. Stuban didn't feel having a recreations board was necessary and it is very difficult find members. Mr. Trzcianka agreed. At this time no action will be taken on the Baden Parks and Recreation Board openings. It will be addressed at the January meeting.

### **BVRPD Commission**

**MOTION** by Michael Stuban, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to appoint the following:

3 members: Becky Gallagher, Dawn Singleton, Andy Gall  
3 alternates: John Shelkons, Michael Stuban, Joe Bosh

### **Beaver County COG**

**MOTION** by Michael Stuban, second by Dawn Singleton, carried unanimously to appoint Becky Gallagher as the representative and Joe Bosh as the alternate.

### **PSAB Voting Delegate**

**MOTION** by Dawn Singleton, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to appoint Becky Gallagher as the representative and Michael Stuban as the alternate.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Dawn Singleton, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted for Approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan  
Borough Manager