

PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 11th, 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, Becky Gallagher, Shannon Reynolds, Dawn Singleton, John Shelkons, Tom Turney and Dave Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT:

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

No visitors

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. PennVest Waterline Project Loans

Current project. Invoice #4 in the amount of \$63,611.79 will be presented at next week's meeting for council approval as well as a change order for \$6,482.27 for repair of an unmarked storm sewer coming into the project ditch line.

2. No Parking Ordinance Update

Engineer is working on the update.

3. Baden Fire Department Lease

Solicitor will have a council review copy at regular meeting.

4. Ordinances

Will work with legislation chair to update the street opening ordinance. No update.

5. Statement of Financial Interest

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

6. Water Rate

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

7. January Done List

- 4th quarter Unemployment Compensation report & payment
- Liquid Fuels Report
- Library Report
- DCED Election Report
- DCED Tax Report
- 1099 Misc Tax Forms

- AG Act 205 Report
- AG 385 Report

8. Garbage Contract

Waste Management representative will meet with the manager on February 12th to discuss possible extension and rates.

9. 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.

10. Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street

No update.

11. BVRPD K9 Unit Charity Golf Outing

Sunday, June 7th. There are sponsorship levels and donation requests if council is interested.

12. PUC Letter – Utility Poles

No response from the PUC regarding the removal of the old utility poles. Will reach out to Representative Matzie for assistance.

Public Works – Written Report

1/1/26 - 1/4/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Water samples and reports
- Plow and salt roads
- Shovel/clear snow from sidewalks
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- PA one calls
- Work orders
- IXOM booster station calibration

1/5/26 - 1/11/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Water samples & DWELR reports
- TTHM & HAA5 samples
- IXOM booster station maintenance
- PA one calls
- Meter reading call backs
- Cold patch potholes
- Work orders/meter replacements
- Water leak detecting
- Water project site check ins w/contractors

1/12/26 - 1/18/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Clear rock slide from Schiller/Straube
- Plow and salt roads
- Shovel/clear snow from sidewalks
- Water samples and reports
- PA one calls
- Repair WB on Grant
- Water leak detecting
- Work orders
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- Truck maintenance

- LLI update

1/19/26 – 1/25/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- IXOM booster station calibration
- PA one calls
- Work orders
- Plow and salt roads
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- Shovel/clear snow from sidewalks
- Repair WB on 4th

1/26/26 – 1/31/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Water samples
- Plow and salt roads
- Shovel/clear snow from sidewalks
- Grease/prep salt spreaders/plows/backhoe
- Work orders
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- Water leak detecting
- Repair WB Dettmar
- IXOM Calibration
- PA one calls
- Install plastic snow flap on plow
- Meter replacement
- Kellinger/Harmony water level sensor replacement for SCADA system

Notes:

- Repaired water line break on Grant 1/15/26, repaired water line break on 4th St 1/22/26, Repaired water line break on Dettmar 1/27/26

Water Breaks – Dettmar service line, Burkhardt and Quigley private water line

Fire Chief – Written report

January 2026

Incident Activity

During the month of January 2026, the Baden Fire Department was dispatched to a total of **26 incidents**. These responses included a variety of call types and operational demands throughout the borough and surrounding areas. The department averaged **five (5) firefighters per response**.

Of the 26 total incidents, the department **provided or received Automatic Aid on 12 incidents**, reinforcing the importance of regional cooperation and mutual support among neighboring agencies.

Call Type Breakdown

- **Fire Alarms:** 3
- **Fires (Possible / Confirmed):** 9
- **Medical Responses:** 9
- **Rescue Incidents:** 1
- **Service Calls:** 4

Personnel & Staffing

A total of **628 man-hours** were logged during January. These hours include:

- Emergency incident responses
- Station staffing
- Training activities
- Additional staffing and operational time during the recent winter storm

Member dedication during severe weather conditions was especially notable, ensuring continued readiness and response capability.

Training & Job Performance Requirements

Members completed the **January Job Performance Requirement (JPR)**, which focused on **Rescue 47 operations and equipment review**. This training ensured continued familiarity with apparatus capabilities and rescue equipment.

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

Apparatus & Equipment Readiness

All department apparatus successfully completed their **monthly truck checks** during January. Additionally, all medical providers completed **monthly medical equipment inspections**, ensuring compliance with readiness standards and operational reliability.

Winter Storm Operations

During the recent winter storm, department members went above and beyond normal duties by clearing snow from **approximately 75 fire hydrants throughout the Borough and ensuring there was a crew on station for nearly 3 days around the clock**. This proactive effort ensured that hydrants remained accessible for emergency operations and demonstrated an exceptional commitment to public safety.

Grants & Funding Updates

- The department was awarded the **OSFC State Grant in the amount of \$16,136.55**.
- **Matzie / DCED Grant totaling \$50,000** was awarded to support the completion of projects around the fire station.(complete addition, update office, update one shower rooms, replace remaining non-led lighting, new washer/dryer)
- 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.

Training Opportunities

HMOR/CPR class / QRS Review was held on Saturday, February 7th.

In the Planning Stages of our larger Spring Training, the focus will be on rescue-related activities.

Code Enforcement - Written Report

2026 Inspection Program

- The **2026 Commercial Property Fire and Property Maintenance Inspection notification letter** has been drafted and mailed to all commercial property owners.
- A copy of the notification letter is attached for Council's review.

This begins the 2026 annual inspection cycle in accordance with Borough ordinances and previously adopted codes.

2026 Amusement Device & Vending Machine Tax

- The **2026 Vending Machine and Amusement Device Tax notification letter** has been drafted and mailed to applicable businesses.
- A copy of the notification letter is attached for Council's review.
- I gave a March 15th Deadline for payment

2025 Inspection Enforcement Follow-Up

Of the commercial properties that did not complete their required 2025 Fire and Property Maintenance Inspection:

- **Two commercial properties** are currently in the citation process for failure to complete the required inspection.
- **One property** has come under new ownership.
- **One inspection** was not completed due to a scheduling conflict on my end and will be addressed during the 2026 inspection cycle.

Complaints – Snow & Sidewalks

- A few complaints were received about sidewalk snow removal following recent snowfall.
- Notifications were made to applicable property owners, reminding them of their responsibility under the Borough ordinance to clear sidewalks within the required timeframe.
- Compliance was generally achieved following notification.
- A general reminder was also posted on the Borough's Official Facebook Page.

Court & Appeals

- An **appeal has been filed** regarding a citation issued for the **Baden Theater**.
- As of the date of this report, no correspondence or scheduling notice has been received from the County Court.
- **Councilman Turney** has expressed interest in attending a magisterial hearing to observe the enforcement process.
 - A few hearings are currently scheduled.
 - I will provide him with the dates and times so he may attend if available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$113,043	Expenses \$174,522
Water Fund Balance	\$380,103	Expenses \$166,762

Public Safety (Becky Gallagher)

America 250

Baden is being awarded a \$10,000 grant from Beaver County. On February 24, the commissioners will have the America 250 kickoff and announce the grant awards as well as unveil the liberty bell.

Public Works / Municipal Authority (Dawn Singleton)

Water tank gauge are fixed. Still waiting on remotes.
New gas tank for the truck is in, but needs to be installed.
Bucket truck still needs to be dropped off repair (heating element for the hydraulic lift needs replace). New bucket truck or joint municipal purchase was briefly discussed.

Technology / Legislation (Joe Bosh)

Discussion took place regarding what the borough may do when renters have legitimate health and safety complaints (i.e. broken furnace) about a landlords. The solicitor will be asked to research what can be done without needing an annual rental inspection.

Public Relations / Administration (Shannon Reynolds)

Facebook messaging page has been shut off. Comment may still be made under comments.

Building / Property / Code Enforcement (Tom Turney)

Tom Turney will be attending the magistrate hearing for code enforcement.

The two water fountains in the borough building need to be replaced cost for each fountain is approximately \$800 each. This will be placed on the regular meeting agenda for council approval.

MAYORS REPORT (Andy Gall)

The Beaver Valley Regional Police Commission is on Thursday. Main point of discussion will be the discussion of surplus funds from the previous budget year. They are looking to set up a policy for reserve funds and/or refunding some of the surplus.

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

Tom Turney presented drawings for the fishing pier. He also, address his original list of stipulations regarding the dock which are under review by the borough solicitor. In a compromise, Tom Turney removed from the list naming the pier as well as refunding the \$10,000 donation that he is willing to use as start-up funds. Tom Turney will be submitting a motion to dedicate an interesting bearing account at the bank utilized by the borough for the fishing pier. The second motion will be with regards to rescinding or elimination of compensation for borough council members as well as the mayor.

Council was informed by manager, Elaine Rakovan, that there is still \$15,000 left from the original money set aside for the boat dock.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Dave Trzcianka)

Dave Trzcianka is the EMA Coordinator for Baden and he attended the quarterly county meeting. Declarations of emergencies are only good for 7 days. He asked that another declaration be done for the potential flooding that may occur as the snow melts. PEMA did not request FEMA money for snow storm assistance funding.

On February 26th Dave Trzcianka will meet with the regional municipal members to discuss shared services with fire, public works and code enforcement.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager