

PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL JANUARY 14th, 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 Foreman Rodney Keenan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

No visitors

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. Municipal Authority Ordinance

The USDA gave the go ahead for the Municipal Authority to proceed with the Closing on their loan. Last year council indicated its intent to provide a Guaranty of the debt as required by the USDA. They are at the point where the ordinance needs to be done. (Note: All costs associated with the USDA Loan are paid for by the Municipal Authority) The motion for next week will be to approve Ordinance 992 authorizing the incurring of lease rental debt of \$1,848,000 by guaranteeing the bond to be issued by the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Baden for the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving and/or extending its sanitary sewage facilities and authorizing the application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to have the debt approved and excluded from the Borough's net nonelectoral debt as self-liquidating or subsidized debt.

2. PennVest Waterline Project Loans

Current project. Invoice will be presented at next week's meeting for council approval.

3. Straube Avenue Erosion

The property owner did a Right To Know request for information. Right To Know response letter was sent. The property owner has responded with another letter again requesting that the concrete that was used to prevent further erosion be removed within 30 days. The letter has been turned over to the attorney.

4. Kids Connexion

Letter received asking that a crosswalk be painted on Virginia Avenue from the parking lot behind Punk's to their childcare center. This was addressed by the engineer before and the crosswalk is not legal in the requested location.

5. Library

Complaint was submitted to the borough regarding the inside condition of the library. The library was notified of the complaint.

6. Snow Plow

Public works would like to be able to place the plow that came with the new truck onto the GMC. The plow mount and plugs will cost \$2,714.49 with labor of approximately \$1,300. By approving this purchase the plow could be used on either truck and if one truck breaks down there will be a backup for plowing.

7. No Parking Ordinance Update

Work in progress.

8. Baden Fire Department Lease

Solicitor is working on the lease agreement.

9. Ordinances

Will work with legislation chair to update the street opening ordinance.

10. Statement of Financial Interest

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

11. Water Rate

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

12. 2026 Bidding Thresholds

Below \$13,200 – No formal bidding required

\$13,200 to \$24,500 – At least three written or telephone price quotations are needed

Over \$24,500 – Formal public bidding process is required

13. January To Do / Done List

- 4th quarter Uniform Construction Code report and payment – Completed
- 4th quarter Unemployment Compensation report & payment – To be submitted
- Recycling Report – To be submitted
- Liquid Fuels Report – To be submitted
- Library Report – To be completed
- DCED Election Report – Completed
- DCED Tax Report – To be submitted
- 1099 Misc Tax Forms – To be completed
- AG Act 205 Report – Submitted to AG office for review and approval
- AG 385 Report – Submitted to AG office for review and approval

14. Garbage Contract

The Garbage contract expires this year. Bids will need to be put out by July at the latest.

15. Ambridge Water Authority Contract

The Ambridge Water Authority Contract expires this year. They have not responded to past requests for water rate information.

16. Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street

No update.

17. Thank You

Note from the Michael Josapak family thanking council and mayor for their sympathy and monetary gift.

18. PUC Letter

Letter was sent to the PUC regarding the removal of the utility poles that need to be removed by Duquesne Light. A copy was also sent to Representative Matzie.

Public Works – Written Report

12/1/25 - 12/7/25

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Water samples and reports
- Snow preparation (trucks, plows, salt bins etc.)
- Plow and salt roads
- Shovel/clear snow from sidewalks
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- Winterize street sweeper
- PA one calls
- Work orders
- Grease truck spreaders/plows
- Lead line inventory document
- Repair plow harness plug
- IXOM booster station calibration
- Sweep & clean borough garage

12/8/25 - 12/14/25

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Water samples & DWELR reports
- Report street light outages to DLC
- IXOM booster station maintenance
- Vac & clean curb box/curb box repair
- PA one calls
- Work orders/meter replacements
- Water leak detecting
- Water shut-offs (unpaid water bills)
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- Plow and salt roads
- Shovel/clear snow from sidewalks
- 2013 F550 plow blade replacement

12/15/25 - 12/21/25

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Plow and salt roads
- Shovel/clear snow from sidewalks
- Water samples and reports
- IXOM booster station calibration
- Meter reading
- PA one calls
- Repair WB on Straube
- Water leak detecting
- Work orders
- Prospect tank pump house window repair
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- Truck maintenance

12/22/25 – 12/28/25

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- IXOM booster station calibration
- Meter reading
- PA one calls

- Water samples and DWELR report
- Water leak detecting
- Work orders

12/29/25 – 12/31/25

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Water samples
- IXOM booster station filter change
- Plow and salt roads
- Shovel/clear snow from sidewalks
- Grease/prep salt spreaders/plows/backhoe
- Work orders
- Water leak detecting

Notes:

- Repaired waterline leak on Straube Ave between Phillips St & Carle St – 12/18
- Rodney received quote to install new plow bracket and accessories on 2009 GMC 4500 (would fit the plow we currently have for our Chevrolet Silverado utility truck. Current plow side to side movement is extremely limited and has been getting worse. During multiple call outs for snow this year it hasn't worked at all.
- Fuel tank and protection plate on 2013 F550 is rusted through and leaking. New fuel tank and skid plate have been ordered.

Fire Chief

Not Present. A full written yearend report was given to council.

Fire Safety & Property Maintenance Inspections yearend report:

- A total of **71 Fire Safety and Property Maintenance Inspections** were completed during the reporting period.

Properties Not Inspected

The following properties did not have inspections completed in 2025:

- Baden Plaza
- Baden Theater
- Pine Cone Village / Virginia Terrace ○ These properties are currently under **new ownership**.
 - A **phone meeting was conducted with the new owner last week**, and inspections will be coordinated moving forward.
- Baden Bowl ○ Inspection was not completed due to a **scheduling conflict on my part** and will be addressed in the upcoming inspection cycle

Code Enforcement

Not Present. Year end written report give to council.

- A total of **133 code complaints** were filed with Code Enforcement in 2025.
- **118 complaints have been resolved.**
- **15 complaints remain active** and are currently being addressed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$218,071	Expenses	\$240,650
Water Fund Balance	\$98,489	Expenses	\$92,897

Public Safety (Becky Gallagher)

BVRPD

Police Call Report: (Full report available on the BVRPD website)

	<u>December</u>	<u>2025</u>
Baden	92	1,482
Conway	73	989
Freedom	35	725
Rochester	78	1,248
TOTAL	314	4,855

America 250

January 25th – Rally at the Courthouse
January 26th – Baden America 250 meeting

Public Works / Municipal Authority (Dawn Singleton)

Dawn Singleton asked to go on record commending public works on the great job they do with clearing the road during snow storms.

Public works was reminded to remove the banner/flag brackets from the old utility poles.

Technology / Legislation (Joe Bosh)

Website was updated for the new year.

Joe Bosh is reviewing the borough's cyber security and will address any issues with

Bob Bickerton (IT company) to implement whatever is needed to prevent outside threats.

Review of email addresses were discussed to determine if some may be consolidated or shared as well as the cost associated with email addresses.

An analytic report was given to council regarding the performance of the Baden website.

Public Relations / Administration (Shannon Reynolds)

Nothing to report.

Building / Property / Code Enforcement (Tom Turney)

Tom Turney is the liaison for the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO). *The CEO controls and maintains his own reports. The office and the CEO use SharePoint software to track complaints.*

Library – Dave Trzcianka asked about a library report. Lezabeth Trzcianka, library board president stated that the library had their reorganization meeting last week. They received an increase in state aid. She went over the library programs for the coming month and presented council with the library statistics for 2025.

The librarian was informed about the complaint regarding the condition of the library. The librarian cleans the bathroom every morning. The coffee bar is being removed and utility closets are going to be installed. The librarian is doing her best with the short staffing. Tom Turney stated that as code enforcement (liaison), he will follow up within the power of his position with the complaint about the library.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Andy Gall reported that he has been appointed co-chairman of the Beaver Valley Regional Police Commission. He gave a report on the BVRPD. The 2026 Budget had a reduction of 2% for the municipalities. There is a surplus of monies that the commission is planning to invest in an emergency fund, as well as adding an additional officer to be trained as an investigator/detective and creating the manpower to have a supervisor (Corporal) for each shift.

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

Elaine Rakovan commented that the water fountains in the building are old and leaking. She is going to get prices for replacements.

Tom Turney asked if he could pursue the possibility of building a fishing dock on Baden's waterfront property. John Shelkons gave an overview of what he did in regards to obtaining grant funding for a boat dock and welcomed Tom Turney looking into building a fishing dock.

Michael Stuban asked if there is a waterline break that can't be found. Foreman, Rodney Keenan stated that they looked and listened and found nothing. The water readings for the recent billing cycle didn't flag any extremely high readings. He feels that the water is being used and going through a meter.

Lezabeth Trzcianka addressed her concern with cars running through the stop sign in front of her house. Dave Trzcianka mentioned trailers that need removed from State Street. The mayor will address the matters with the regional police. Shannon Reynolds mentioned the dumpster on Prospect Street being on the street for months. Elaine Rakovan will have the office contact the owner.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Shannon Reynolds, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager