

REGULAR MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL JANUARY 15TH, 2025

Note: No January Pre-Meeting – Not advertised

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: Becky Gallagher, Doug Miller, Dawn Singleton, Michael Stuban and Dave Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT: Joe Bosh, John Shelkons

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Judi Montell, Solicitor Jimmy Amato, Engineer Tony Sadaka

This meeting is being electronically recorded by the Borough Manager.

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS - None

MINUTES

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Dawn Singleton, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of December 18th 2024.

BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Doug Miller, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

RESOLUTIONS - None

- **25-01** Beaver County Tax Collection Committee (BCTCC) Voting Delegate Appointment of Elaine Rakovan, Borough Manager and alternate Sasha Diccico, clerk

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Doug Miller, carried unanimously adopt Resolution 25-01.

ORDINANCES – None

BIDS – None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. PennVest / Paving Project Loans

2PM on January 27th – Meeting with the engineer to go over the construction plans. A small set of the plans are in the borough office. Public works has been

given the larger plan to review prior to the meeting so that they may give input and corrections if needed into the project.

2. Keyless Entry and Cameras

Keyless Entry is not working properly. Software is outdated. M&P Solutions recused us twice last month. Need council input regarding keyless access and possible camera upgrade/replacement.

3. Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street

No Update

4. Beaver County COG

The monthly meeting schedule has been received. The Baden delegates (Becky Gallagher and Joe Bosh) have been given their meeting schedule.

5. 2025 Bidding Threshold Increase

Below \$12,900 requires no formal bidding

Between \$12,900 and \$23,800 requires three written/telephone quotes

Over \$23,800 requires formal bidding

6. Online bill payments

\$379,275 was paid via the online bill paying service for 2024.

7. Southern Corrosion Water Tank Service

January 21st at 10AM – meeting with Southern Corrosion to go over quotes for a Baden water tank repair/maintenance program. The engineer was asked to attend the meeting.

8. Grant Street

Copy of a letter from a resident on Grant Street regarding the condition of the road is included in Councils packet for review and discussion at next month's meeting.

9. Phones

With the police substation down stairs, there is no need for the number of phones. Going to work with MGSoft and the Net2Phone to remove phones and phone numbers from our account.

10. 2024 Audit

All 2024 bank statements are balanced. Contacted the Auditor and asked that they start the 2024 Audit immediately.

Public Works

Foreman, Rodney Keenan was present for the meeting. He informed council about Cinders not being available after the vendor runs out. Rodney Keenan will try to find more space for cinders so that we may stockpile a reserve.

Written report as follows:

12/1/24-12/7/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Fix water break Harmony Road
- Clean up from water break
- Put out salt bins and shovels
- Lead line inventory

- Continue sweeping streets
- Repair plow
- Salt and cinder roads
- Shovel sidewalks

12/8/24-12/14/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Quarterly water meter reads
- Quarterly water shut offs
- Jet backed up sewer on Burkhardt

12/15/24-12/21/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Continue reading meters
- Continue sweeping
- Put up sled in park
- Meter re-reads
- Salt and cinder roads

12/22/24-12/31/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Final meter reads
- Lead line inventory
- Cold patch potholes

Notes:

Snow call outs

Over 200 residents responded about the lead line inventory

Waiting on response from DEP about Harmony Tank licensing

Fire Department

Not Present – Written report as follows

Incidents / Training:

See 2024 End of Year Report, Copy on Clipboard

In the process of renewing our Participating Department Recognition Program Status with the PA State Fire Commission Office

Letter Received from the Borough of Conway Regarding Fire Protection Services. The Borough of Conway recently sent a letter regarding fire protection services to the Baden Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD), as well as to the Economy VFD and New Sewickley Fire District. In alignment with our ongoing commitment to sustaining and strengthening the future of fire service, BVFD recognizes the significance of mergers, regionalization, and collaborative efforts to address these needs.

In response to the Borough's letter, BVFD has submitted a detailed proposal outlining three potential paths for consideration:

1. Merger/Consolidation: Integrating fire departments to pool resources, reduce redundancies, and enhance efficiency.
2. Regionalization: Transitioning the current Police Commission into a Public Safety Commission to govern fire and emergency services on a regional level.
3. Contracted Services: Establishing a fair and equitable cost model for BVFD to provide fire protection and emergency services to Conway.

The proposal emphasizes that final decisions should involve collaboration between the municipalities and fire departments to ensure the best outcomes for all stakeholders. A copy of the letter from the Borough of Conway and BVFD's proposal has been placed on the department clipboard for review. It's also worth noting that all fire departments receiving the letter from Conway have submitted some form of proposal for consideration.

We hope this process will lead to meaningful discussions and a unified approach to the future of fire and emergency services in our region.

CEO

Not Present – Written Report as follows

Commercial Fire & Property Maintenance Inspections: 56 Completed
16 Properties have made no attempt to have an inspection completed, they include
377 Linmore
371 Linmore
373 State
200-250 Ohio River BLVD
285 Johnson
Pine Cone
Virginia Terrace
830 State
514 State
540 State
546 Ohio River BLVD
369 State
501 State
535 State
1004 State
547 State

General Code Issues Addressed: 82 (2024)
General Code Issues Abated: 63 (2024)

Still have three active citations from 2024.

As we know, Cats have been an ongoing issue within the Borough. Additionally, chickens are now becoming a common complaint issue. We may want to explore adding something to the Ordinance regarding chickens under Chapter 78

In the process of setting up a simple Google form for the Office Staff to use to send me code complaints they receive from residents over the phone or walk-ins. Also working on sharing the complaint spreadsheet with the office staff so they can see the status of the complaints should residents question them, etc.

Michael Stuban questioned the CEO not citing the 16 inspections that have not been done.

Michael Stuban addressed council about a request (letter dated December 6, 2024) from Conway Council to the Baden Fire Department asking the fire department to give them a proposal to supply service to Conway. Council was not aware of this and Chief Baker put the proposal (response) on Council Clipboard earlier this morning. The proposal addressed three things; consolidation, merging, contractual services. Conway also approached New Sewickley and Economy Borough fire department with the same request. Chief Baker did state in his response that councils need to be involved. Discussion took place regarding the fire department coming to council before

responding to the request. The fire department building and two trucks belong to the borough. Will monies received from Conway cover the expenses and who gets that money? Michael Stuban went over the formula that Chief Baker used. Council was not in agreement with the formula being accurate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

John Shelkons was not present.

General Fund Balance:	\$76,122	Expenses:	\$407,405
Water Fund Balance:	\$152,029	Expenses:	\$321,857

PUBLIC WORKS (Doug Miller)

Nothing to Report

TECHNOLOGY / PUBLIC RELATIONS / LIAISON (Joe Bosh)

Joe Bosh was not present. Michael Stuban addressed the topics on the agenda.

Recreation Board – Michael Stuban addressed and discussion took place regarding the disbandment of the recreation board. The library will pick up most of the activities that the recreation board did. The community event (fall festival) was always done by community volunteers and council members.

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Dawn Singleton, carried unanimously to disband the recreation board and have the attorney write the legal documents needed to disband the board, noting that in the future the recreation board may be reformed.

Newsletter – Articles due by February 28th. The goal is to have the newsletter in hand on April 1st. This newsletter will include an article on last years major projects and well as the Pennvest projects for the coming year.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL (Becky Gallagher)

America 250 – Mrs. Gallagher stated that she and Mr. Stuban held a meeting on the December 9th. Several people and organization representatives were in attendance. Their next meeting is January 27th. 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 – Becky Gallagher and Dawn Singleton went over what was discussed at the Beaver Valley Regional Commission meeting. This included uniform allowance lump sum payments to avoid the need for tracking individual officers, elimination of part time officers, obtaining prices from ADP to track time off (vacation, sick, comp...) and getting a fuel tank on the Conway property so that officers don't have to go to Rochester Township for fuel.

Council was against the unbudgeted expense for a fuel tank and questioned the liability and insurance since it will technically be on Conway Borough property. Council asked that a letter be sent to the BVRPD Commission expressing their concerns for larger expenses that are not a part of the 2025 budget and they will not support increasing of the budget next year if there is questionable spending this year. They also asked to request a copy of the year-end 2024 budget.

Doug Miller mentioned an app that police departments use to track their schedules and sick, vacation, personal time, and anniversary date.

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 - We are on track to be considered at the April 23, 2025 Pennvest Board meeting and will likely be funded. Construction should be able to start in the fall of 2025. Copies of the plans have been delivered to Borough staff for review and a meeting to review plans is being scheduled for the last week of January to get feedback. 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 applications are still in process but will be submitted by WEI by the end January.

MAYOR'S REPORT

PRESIDENTS REPORT

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

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