

REGULAR MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL JANUARY 19, 2022

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, Mr. Jones, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Stuban and Mr. Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT: Mr. Shelkons and Mayor Judi Montell

ALSO PRESENT: Fire Chief Dennis Baker, Police Chief Christner, Solicitor Jimmy Amato, Engineer Tony Sadaka

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

- Firefighter, Mike Loftus addressed the need for better snow removal from the fire department parking lot. Snow is left piled up in front of the garage doors and slippery conditions is unsafe and prevents the fire department to quickly and safely respond to a call.

Under the direction of council, Mr. Stuban will meet with the foreman to go over the concerns and issues presented council.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of December 8th, 15th 2021 and January 3rd 2022

BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Stuban, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

BIDS – None

RESOLUTIONS – None

ORDINANCE – None

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

- General Fund Account Balance \$186,954 Expenses \$185,544
- Water Fund Account Balance \$314,326 Expenses \$173,403

- Exoneration of Taxes for property on the county repository - (Motion)
- Pay one public works employee from the water fund for 2021 (Motion)

Tax Exoneration

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to exonerate the borough taxes (approximately \$575, parcel 13-003-0608) for property on the county repository.

2021 Funding for Public Works employee

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to pay one additional public works from the water fund for the 2021 budget year.

Public Works, Sanitation & Municipal Authority (John Jones)

Old Grader

MOTION by Mr. Jones, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to repair the old grader at a cost of \$600.

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

Newsletter

MOTION by Mr. Bosh, second by Mr. Stuban, carried unanimously to have Nala Marketing (create, write, edit) the borough newsletter letters at a cost of \$1,995.

Administration & Legislation (Doug Miller)

Education Service Board

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to eliminate the education service board.

Covid Policy

Discussion to clarify that the policy is separate from Act 17 regarding police pay during the Covid pandemic.

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Stuban, carried unanimously to adopt the Covid Policy.

PUC Appeal

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor to assist with the appeal involving the railroad and Pinney Street bridge.

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

Floor replacement after water/mold damage

Motion by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Stuban, carried unanimously to add on to the floor repair/replacement downstairs of the borough building not to exceed borough cost of \$16,500 after insurance.

Flag Poles from the Sons of the Legion

Mr. Miller stated that he went and measured distance of the half circle where the current flags are located in the memorial park. He stated that we have 68 feet and it was said during last meeting that we needed 50 feet. A few trees may need to be trimmed but the flag poles should fit in the area. (NOTE: The Sons of the Legion are donating 5 flag poles so that we may display the military flags in the park.)

Motion by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Miller, carried unanimously to accept the five flag poles from the Sons of the American and place them in the Memorial Park.

Parks and Recreation

Mrs. Singleton stated that the reorganization meeting for Parks and Recreation Board will take place next week.

Public Safety (Michael Stuban)

Part Time Police Officer

Mr. Stuban tabled the hiring of a part time police officer at this time.

Appointment of Boards

Motion by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Miller, carried unanimously to appoint Dawn Singleton to the Planning Board.

Motion by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to appoint Andy Gall as an alternate to the Civil Service Board.

Motion by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Jones, carried unanimously to accept the resignation of Justine Woytovich from the Civil Service and Planning Board.

Motion by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Jones, carried unanimously to move Butch Singleton from an alternate to a full member of the Civil Service Board

Police Vehicles

Mr. Stuban addressed the need to move forward on the purchase of a new police vehicle through a government contract. We can choose between a Durango and a Charger. Discussion followed and Chief Christner preferred the Durango as it would be useful to have the SUV when needed to haul equipment when needed (i.e., line painter).

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to purchase a 2021 Dodge Durango for \$41,490.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Jones, carried unanimously to have the upfit done for 17,162 through IBISTech.

Repair of Police Vehicle

Mr. Stuban asked what council wished to do with the other police vehicle that needs repaired. Mr. Stuban stated that the first repair quote was over \$12,000. Mr. Trzcianka stated that we are waiting on another quote. Chief Christner stated that the undercarriage of the vehicle is extremely rusty. Chief Christner stated that he would rather keep the old Charger which has a check engine light that keeps going on but is a minor repair.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Nothing to Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. USDA - Water System Improvements

WEI has not received feedback on the preliminary plans from USDA's engineer yet but will address all comments received in the development of the final plans and specifications for the project.

2. State Street Waterline Replacement (North to Virginia)

WEI will prepare plans and specifications for the project so that we can bid concurrently with the USDA project. Estimated project cost is \$125,000.

3. Library ADA Access Updates – CDBG Grant

The project is complete.

4. Fire Department Roof

Shop drawings have been reviewed and approved and the contractor is ordering materials.

5. Borough Building and Fire Department Property Boundary

Based on information gathered, the plan reflecting the property boundary will require a revision requiring the involvement of the borough solicitor.

6. Water System - EPA Required Emergency Response Plan

The required plan was completed and the certification submitted to EPA in December as required.

7. CDBG FY 2022 Grant Application

The CDBG grant application is due March 31, 2022. The Borough should identify projects soon.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Montell - Not present

PRESIDENTS REPORT**Old Business Not on the Agenda, New Business or Unfinished Business**

Mr. Miller asked council why during last week's meeting when Mrs. Rakovan informed council that the individual who we were looking at being the Code Enforcement Officer could not do it for 8 to 10 months the fire chief offered to do it and council didn't consider it, why? Mr. Stuban spoke up stating that some members of the board would like an outside person not connected with the community. He stated that in addition to the fire chief there are two (Tina Jones and Bob Weber) other individuals interested in doing it. The other company we were looking at was from out of town. Mrs. Rakovan stated that currently we have Building Inspector Underwriters (BIU) doing both Building and Code Enforcement. The commercial building inspector does a phenomenal job. The regular inspector is new and the Code Enforcement Officer doesn't come in often

enough. Discussion followed. Mr. Trzcianka asked that council put together a list of what is expected from the Code Enforcement Officer so that we are comparing apples to apples. We also need to decide on a salary. Mr. Trzcianka stated that we can't hire anyone unless we know what to expect from them. Council was asked to give the manager their list so that she could send it to council for review.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Trzcianka how he determined which councilmembers should be on which committee. Mr. Miller stated that he has over 32 years of being a policeman and he was not put on the public safety committee that he could bring his knowledge too. Mr. Stuban spoke up and said it is the president's choice to put the committees together as he/she feels fit. Mr. Trzcianka stated that it also has to do with experience as a councilmember.

Mr. Miller asked about Act 17 and Covid pay for part time police officers. Mr. Stuban recommended to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session over the Act 17. We will make the decision next month as to if the officer will be paid. Mr. Trzcianka explained that since this was not on the agenda we can't take official action upon it until next months meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Jones, second by Mr. Miller, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Relative to a part time police officer who has asked to be compensated for unworked scheduled work hours due to his status of having Covid.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
February 9, 2022