

REGULAR MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL JULY 16, 2025

No Pre-meeting on July 9th due to 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: Joe Bosh, Becky Gallagher, Doug Miller, John Shelkons, Michael Stuban and Dave Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT: Dawn Singleton

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Judi Montell, Solicitor Jimmy Amato, Manager Elaine Rakovan

This meeting is being electronically recorded by the Borough Manager.

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

ORDINANCES - None

VISITORS - None

MINUTES

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of June 11th and 18th, 2025.

BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

RESOLUTIONS - None

ORDINANCES – None

BIDS

- Bids were open on July 9th. Tabulations will be presented by the engineer. Motion to award the bid to the lowest bidder. Available construction funds are \$2,752,220

	Base Bid	Add On No. 1 Johnson Avenue	Add On No. 2 Bryan Avenue	Add On No. 3 Straube Avenue	Add On No.4 Johnson/65 FH	TOTAL PROJECT
Wright Asphalt and Concrete, LLC	\$ 2,499,999.18	\$ 277,111.68	\$ 153,218.29	\$ 129,488.72	\$ 33,914.73	\$ 3,093,732.60
W.A. Petrakis Contracting Co.	\$ 2,833,273.60	\$ 367,465.00	\$ 160,956.25	\$ 134,975.45	\$ 35,513.60	\$ 3,532,183.90
Alex E. Paris Contracting Co., Inc.	\$ 2,863,554.00	\$ 281,581.50	\$ 145,117.50	\$ 123,289.00	\$ 25,943.00	\$ 3,439,485.00
Cronin Enterprises, LLC	\$ 2,982,698.10	\$ 322,128.06	\$ 162,499.93	\$ 146,467.96	\$ 36,839.60	\$ 3,650,633.65
Mortimer's Excavating, Inc.	\$ 3,080,281.00	\$ 321,913.00	\$ 185,922.00	\$ 157,964.00	\$ 37,647.00	\$ 3,783,727.00
Stefanik's Next Generation	\$ 3,257,164.30	\$ 379,301.70	\$ 204,025.80	\$ 207,531.70	\$ 30,560.00	\$ 4,078,583.50

Representatives of Wright were present to address any questions that council may have.

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to accept the base bid of \$2,499,999.18 and Add-on No. 3 Straube Avenue for \$129,488.72 from Wright Asphalt and Concrete, LLC.

CORRESPONDENCE

- July 7th Letter from Tony Caltury Director for the America 250 PA Beaver County Committee regarding participating in the event.
- June 24th letter from William Wolf requesting a handicap parking sign in front of his house on Mellon Avenue. (Copy of state placard is included in the request)

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Doug Miller, carried unanimously to authorize the handicap sign placement on Mellon Avenue.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. **PennVest / Paving Project Loans**

See Engineer's Report

2. **Keyless Entry and Cameras**

M&P Solutions is a COSTAR company. Reaching out to them for current pricing and options available. No update.

3. **Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street**

Will discuss with PennDOT at the meeting scheduled on July 17th.

4. **Grant Avenue**

Open item. Paving of the end of Grant Avenue. A copy of the letter was given to council at the January meeting.

5. **Street Opening Ordinance**

Open item.

6. **Harmony Water Tank – Mid Atlantic Proposal**

Deluzio's office was unable to help. The extra USDA funding is being applied to the back end of our payments.

7. **Non-Uniform Union Contract**

No update.

8. **No Parking Signs**

There are over 20 no parking signs in the borough that the road/area is not listed on a borough ordinance. Further research is needed to confirm what signs are needed. (i.e. No parking here to corner, No parking this side.....) No Update

9. **Multimodal Grant Application**

The engineer is working on the budgeting portion of the grant.

10. **Ambridge Water Authority Rate Increase**

Reached out to AWA asking them to update the contract and give calculations for our charges.

11. Sinkhole In Parking Lot (old Shiela's)

The current owner called. The estimated price to repair the storm sewer pipe is \$262,000. This price includes making the parking lot level per their prior request. Labor is \$122,000 and Material is \$140,000.

Discussion followed.

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Doug Miller, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor, engineer and borough manager to do whatever research is necessary on this matter.

PennDOT Meeting

Reminder: PennDOT meeting tomorrow at 10AM in Council Chambers.

Some items to be addressed include PennDOT paving minimizing storm water access to drains, storm sewer responsibilities (State Street, Phillips Street, Route 65), snow removal, communication and assistance between Baden and PennDOT.

Public Works – No Report

Fire Department – No Report

John Shelkons addressed a situation with ARC3 Gas company over the Fourth of July weekend where there was a sound of gas coming from their parking lot and the fire department being called out multiple times. Dave Trzcianka explained that ARC3 has a truck that carries liquid oxygen and when it is hot outside it has a release valve for off gassing. He stated that the fire department was called out at least 5 or 6 time over the last two weeks. Dave Trzcianka commented that the gas company should do something about it and recommended not filling the tank up as much to allow for expansion. John Shelkons commented that they should put a sign up about the release of the expansion gas. Discussion took place regarding having after hours contact information for emergency services.

Joe Bosh asked council if they had any question or input on his written notes that he shared (emailed) with council regarding his conversation with the fire chief. Joe stated that he spoke with the fire chief about obtaining the price estimates for the fire department addition. Joe asked the manager if she had received anything from the chief and she stated no she did not. Discussion followed. Joe Bosh stated that all requests to any department must be in writing. He stated that he will email the chief tonight reminding him that that we want the price quotes/estimates, grant award letter and building details/drawing.

Code Enforcement Officer – No Report

Michael Stuban asked Joe Bosh about the SharePoint point reports for updated code violations. Michael Stuban stated that he did not see updates when he asked the office to print them out. Joe Bosh stated that SharePoint absolutely should show all updated (if they were done). Joe Bosh explained how the SharePoint process works. Michael Stuban stated that he will be asking the code enforcement officer for an update and status on all of the code violations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$314,202	Expenses \$174,525
Water Fund Balance	\$213,324	Expenses \$45,417

Tax Exoneration

- **MOTION** by John Shelkons, second by Michael Stuban, carried unanimously to exonerate the 2022, 2023 and all future taxes for 391 Prospect Street . The property is owned by Baden Borough and should be tax exempt.

PUBLIC WORKS (Doug Miller)

Nothing to report.

TECHNOLOGY / PUBLIC RELATIONS / LIAISON (Joe Bosh)

Website

Joe Bosh stated that he installed Google Analytics on the website to track the website usage. In a few months we will have data collected for reporting.

Garbage Contract

Joe Bosh addressed surveying the residents to get input on going from unlimited to limited garbage pickup in the hopes of saving money. He recommended using the utility bills, website and newsletter as a means to respond to the survey. Discussion followed including the survey not being the deciding factor for council decision. The responses will be needed the first half of 2026.

Library/Parks

John Shelkons asked if the depth of the mulch placed in the playground was deep enough. Dave Trzcianka stated that he will ask Butch Singleton if he remembers how deep the mulch is supposed to be.

The Harvest Festival is Saturday, September 13th.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL (Becky Gallagher)

America 250

Becky Gallagher went over the Beaver County America 250 planned events.

October 25th of this year will be the liberty tree planting. This is a big event with many dignitaries invited. Council and Mayor should try to attend.

September 26th there will be an underground railroad event with tours starting the next morning on September 27th.

Fort McIntosh day is October 20th this year.

May 2026 will have the Beaver County History weekend.

The 4th of July Parade will be in Midland.

Boom next year will be on June 27th and the fireworks will be going up the river starting in Ambridge. They recommend each community having events that day.

March 20th to the 21st there will be a Community Days at the CCBC. Each municipality is being asked to set up a table with facts about their town.

The Liberty Bell is being handled by the Beaver County Tourism. The cost is \$10,000 and they are going to reach out to artists to submit their artwork for the bell. The chosen artist will receive \$1,200.

In Baden, on May 16, 2026 we will have an event to salute the military and veterans in honor of Armed Forces Day. June 20th, 2026 we will have an event for Labor and Industry. September 17th, 2026 we will have a community event.

Becky addressed a bicycle trail starting in Leetsdale and continuing down the river through the various communities. Harmony Township is interested and asked that Baden join with them in supporting this project. Dave Trzcianka stated that this was starting years ago (2015) and went nowhere. Mayor Montell stated that we even donated \$200 towards the project and we heard nothing. Becky stated that she told Harmony Township that the only way Baden could consider this would be if there were a grant funding the entire project.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Dawn Singleton)

BVRPD

Becky Gallagher stated that the BVRPD approved Wells Fargo for the police pension plan. The regional is also working on making a corporal SRO for the schools.

BUILDING / GROUNDS / EQUIPMENT (Michael Stuban)

Baden Video

Michael Stuban stated that the video is complete and the viewing is taking place tomorrow at 1:45.

Grant

Michael Stuban asked for authorization to apply for a grant for special local transportation that includes mitigation of storm water problems. Michael stated that Phillips Street drainage is a major concern.

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to apply for the Special Local Transportation Grant.

Water That Can't Be Shut Off

Discussion took place regarding rental property that only has one tap in but multiple meters where one or more tenants are not paying their bills and we can't shut them off without turning off the entire building (that includes tenants who paid their bill). No final decision was made.

Route 65 Sinkhole

A sinkhole (48' X 17' X 5.5') is under Route 65 that has been caused by the excessive rain. Discussion took place regarding who is responsible for the repair. Michael Stuban stated that the manager and the foreman have both reached out to PennDOT over the last 2 weeks (PennDOT was first notified in late June) to make them aware of the sinkhole but no one from PennDOT came to look at it until yesterday when the manager, Elaine Rakovan and Foreman, Rodney Keenan called Michael Zimmerman and begged him to come look at it. After a second phone call from Rodney Keenan to Michael Zimmerman where Rodney told him that the medial strip cement slab sunk another 2 inches did Michael Zimmerman and Heather from the Rochester PennDOT office come out to look at the sinkhole. Michael Zimmerman confirmed it to be a

sinkhole but did not show much concern. His resolve was to fill the hole with slurry to which Rodney stated that the water will just push up through the road elsewhere if the source is not found. Rodney told them that this is a big problem and offered to camera the sinkhole for them to which Michael Zimmerman replied, "You would do that for us." Rodney took care of calling the police to help with traffic control while they looked at sinkhole and we placed the camera in the hole this morning where the magnitude of the problem was revealed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. Harmony Water Storage Tank Upgrades

Future funding is needed to rehabilitate the Harmony Water Storage Tank. The total COSTARS quote amount is \$221,950 and we most likely will need to have a temporary water storage tank setup during construction (estimated separate cost of \$25,000).

2. Drainage and Other Issues on PennDOT Roads

A meeting is scheduled with PennDOT for 10 AM on Thursday July 17.

3. PennVEST - Waterline Replacements

The Borough has a total of \$2,752,220 available for construction through the Pennvest loan and it would be prudent to reserve \$125,000 to \$130,000 for contingency (5%). Bids for the project were opened on July 9. The low bidder is Wright Asphalt and Concrete, LLC, 338 Concord Church Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010 in the Total Bid amount of \$3,093,732.60 (Base Bid - \$2,499,999.18 plus Add Bid No. 1 - \$277,111.68 plus Add Bid No. 2 - \$153,218.29 plus Add Bid No. 3 - \$129,488.72 plus Add Bid No. 4 - \$33,914.73).

Borough Council should award their selected combination of Base/Add bids at the meeting tonight to stay on schedule. (*Motion to award done under Bids*)

Base Bid includes Dettmar, Union, 5th Street (Dead End), 3rd To 4th Street Loop, 5th Street (paper street loop North to 5th/Rose area), Camilla, Wolfe, Steele, Wilson, Ehman.

Add Bid No. 1 includes Johnson Ave including hydrant at Johnson/SR 65

Add Bid No. 2 includes Bryan Ave

Add Bid No. 3 includes Straube Ave

Add Bid No. 4 includes Hydrant at Johnson/SR 65 (standalone replacement)

We are working with PennVEST, the Borough Manager and the bond counsel to progress the project, moving towards closing the PennVEST loan in September. Below is our planned timeline provided to PennVEST (subject to revision going forward as necessary).

Milestone Date

Award Bid at Regular Meeting 7/16/2025

Collect documents from Contractor by 8/15/2025

Pennvest Closing (Settlement) 9/24/2025

MAYOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dave Trzcianka addressed his dislike for the signs that are posted throughout town on poles and in the grass areas for yard sales, lost dogs and business advertisements. Jimmy Amato is going to look into if there is a law regarding the signs.

Dave Trzcianka mentioned Hopewell Township having paving done with a very thin layer of pavement that almost looks like sandpaper. He would like to call Hopewell and ask about type of payment they used. It is the hope that it would assist with extending the life of our roads.

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

Michael Stuban stated that we need to review the Storm Water Management Board and Ordinance, especially with the recent storm sewer issues. This will be returned for discussion at next month's meeting.

Joe Bosh addressed complaints about old telephone poles not being removed next to the new poles that have been installed. Dave Trzcianka stated that Duquesne Light has to wait for Verizon and Comcast to transfer their lines over to the new poles. Once this is done, the old poles will be removed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Doug Miller, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted for Approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager