

PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL JUNE 11TH, 2025

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, Doug Miller, John Shelkons, Dawn Singleton, Michael Stuban and Dave Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT: Mayor Judi Montell

ALSO PRESENT: Foreman Rodney Keenan, Manager Elaine Rakovan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

No Visitors

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. **PennVest / Paving Project Loans**
Work in progress. The bid packages are done and advertised. A PennVest Ordinance has been advertised and will need to be adopted at the regular meeting.
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**
No update
4. **Back door to Stairwell**
Allegheny Door came and looked at the door. Will be supplying an estimate.
5. **Grant Avenue**
Open item. Paving of the end of Grant Avenue. A copy of the letter was given to council at the January meeting.
6. **Street Opening Ordinance**
Open item.
7. **Yard Sale**
Very successful.
8. **Harmony Water Tank – Mid Atlantic Proposal**
Waiting to hear back from Deluzio's office.
9. **Non-Uniform Union Contract**
No update.

10. Garbage Contract

The garbage contract with Waste Management ends this year. We will need to advertise for bids within the next couple of months. No update.

11. 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.....)

12. 2025 Pension Audit

Completed, motion will be needed at the regular meeting to accept the audit.

13. America 250 Grant

Submitted grant requesting for \$20,000. No update

14. Multimodal Grant Application

Started the grant process for Schiller Street Slide Funding. The engineer is working on the budgeting portion of the grant.

15. 2024 Audit

Motion will be needed to accept the audit next week.

16. Ambridge Water Authority Rate Increase

Currently AWA is charging Baden \$4.51 per 1,000 gallons of water. The rate should have been risen to \$5.07 on 1/1/2024 but it was overlooked. They are currently doing a rate study so the price will be going up, but there is no confirmation at this time. The rate of \$5.07 will cost Baden an additional \$45,000 to \$50,000 per year.

Discussion followed. Council asked that AWA be asked for the rate study to confirm the price increases.

17. SharePoint

Joe Bosh trained the office on SharePoint. The software is very easy to use and should make taking and checking on code issues much easier.

18. Thank You Note

A thank you note was received from Dawn and Butch Singleton for the passing of her father. A \$100 donation was made to the library in his memory.

Public Works

Road Pavement Patches

Rodney Keenan presented the cost of \$9,700 for paving patches for winter waterline repairs.

Salt Spreader

Rodney Keenan presented the COSTAR pricing for an aluminum salt spreader in the amount of \$6,923.93.

Storage Tank on Harmony Road

Rodney Keenan was asked to get paint pricing for painting the old storage tank on Harmony Road.

Fire Chief – Dennis Baker

Not Present. Written Report.

Incident Activity

- **April Incident Responses:** 46
- **May Incident Responses:** 26
- **Year-to-Date Total Incidents:** 179

While May saw a lower incident count compared to April, our crews remained actively engaged and ready to respond. With summer approaching, we expect a rise in call volume and continue to emphasize readiness and response efficiency.

Staffing & Duty Crew Coverage

- **April Staffing Shifts Completed:** 11
- **May Staffing Shifts Completed:** 14

Staffing continues to trend upward, with dedicated personnel providing consistent shift coverage. This support ensures a strong initial response capability and improves our effectiveness on the scene.

Training Recap: Rescue Operations – May 31, 2025

On Saturday, May 31st, the Baden Fire Department hosted a full-day, hands-on **Rescue Operations Training** at our station grounds. This event featured **multiple vehicle extrication scenarios** designed to challenge members in realistic crash conditions.

Personnel worked through:

- Stabilization and extrication from side-impact and rollover scenarios
- Coordinated victim removal with EMS integration
- Use of hydraulic tools, cribbing, and hand tools
- Scene safety, size-up, and command decision-making

Additionally, the day included a **low-angle rope rescue drill**, simulating an ATV accident with a patient down a slope, requiring both patient packaging and haul system operations.

The training emphasized teamwork, critical thinking, and multi-agency coordination. Thank you to all participants for your commitment to growth and operational excellence.

Facility & Apparatus Updates

- **Fire Station Kitchen Renovation:**
The kitchen renovation has been completed, offering a much-needed upgrade for crews during extended shifts and call-backs. The space is now more functional and better equipped to meet the needs of our personnel.
- **Fire Station Addition Project:**
The plans for the fire station addition were submitted to the Borough Manager last month. We are awaiting the final masonry and foundation plans to complete our permit application process. The **metal structure portion** of the addition has already been delivered and is staged on-site for future installation.

- **Tower 47 Repairs:**

Repairs on Tower 47 are nearing completion. The final component—an electrical part—is on order and expected shortly. Barring any further delays, the unit should return to service within the next **one to two weeks**.

Fundraising Update

The Baden Volunteer Fire Department relies heavily on the generosity and support of our community to maintain the high level of service we are proud to provide. In addition to the time and commitment our members dedicate to training and emergency response, financial support is critical to sustaining our operations, equipment readiness, and safety initiatives.

Our Fundraising Committee is finalizing the details for an upcoming **Vehicle Package Fundraiser** that will directly benefit the department. Proceeds from this initiative will support the department's essential needs and operations.

As costs for firefighting gear, apparatus, and operational resources continue to rise, fundraisers like this are not just helpful—they are essential. Every dollar raised directly impacts our ability to protect lives and property in Baden and the surrounding communities.

Fire Department Addition

Michael Stuban noted that all of council was emailed a copy of the building plans for the fire department addition. Building materials have already been delivered to the lower parking area. Discussion took place regarding the addition being a metal structure. Original conversation with chief were about getting prices for both a brick versus metal building. The use of the building was also addressed (dayroom, bunk room, storage...). When the fire department was originally council was adamant about not have a metal building. The concern is what will the additional actually look like. Metal buildings look cheap. It was the hope to see a drawing of what the final structure was going to look like with the addition.

Dave Trzcianka commented that the borough owns the building and should have the final say in any changes to the building. He also felt that moving the memorial patio was disrespectful to the Barto family. Becky Gallagher stated that it was her understanding that they (fire department) was supposed to come back to council for approval of what they plan to do. Dawn Singleton stated that she spoke to Chief Baker and she expressed to him that council wants to see what the building will look like before they did anything with it. Dawn stated that the chief stated he would get council the drawings. Doug Miller stated that he just ordered a metal building for his work and they actually sent a picture of the final structure would look like. Dave Trzcianka wanted to know how was the space going to be laid out (windows, man doors, garage door...). Council asked if the building was approved by the inspector. Elaine Rakovan stated that no documents have been submitted yet. She first has to receive the zoning application from the fire department before the plans may be submitted to the MDIA (building inspector). Doug Miller asked for the cost. It was a grant so we do not know the cost or who the contractor is.

Council asked the manager to send an email to the Chief addressing the questions and asking that he meet with council at next week's council meeting to go over the details.

Code Enforcement – Dennis Baker

Not Present. Written Report.

Active Cases & Citations

Currently, I am actively working on **15 open code enforcement cases**, several of which have resulted in **multiple citations** due to ongoing or unresolved violations.

These cases span a variety of property maintenance and ordinance compliance issues, including high grass, open storage, and refuse accumulation. Follow-ups and compliance monitoring are ongoing.

Inspection Status

Routine inspections are beginning to **slow down**, as most scheduled properties have already been inspected. However, **a final reminder letter will be sent out next month** to all remaining property owners who have not yet completed their **2025 property inspection**. This will serve as a final opportunity to schedule and comply before potential enforcement actions are considered.

Code SharePoint Platform

The recently implemented **Code Enforcement SharePoint Platform** has proven to be a highly effective and user-friendly tool for tracking cases, organizing documentation, and maintaining consistent communication. Special thanks to **Joe Bosh** for his initiative and support in developing and launching this valuable platform. It has greatly improved workflow efficiency and data management within the department.

Conclusion

Thank you for your continued support in upholding the Borough's property maintenance standards. As always, our goal remains to encourage compliance, maintain neighborhood integrity, and enhance our residents' overall quality of life through fair and proactive enforcement.

Michael Stuban commented that the hearing for the sewing center took place. The property owner showed up, but the Code Enforcement Officer did not (he was on vacation). The magistrate told the CEO to wait and then refile the citation/complaint.

Dawn Singleton stated that the house on Wilson has very high grass in the backyard and nothing has been done. Michael Stuban stated that we do not know if nothing has been done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$161,199	Expenses	\$337,322
Water Fund Balance	\$314,037	Expenses	\$141,788

Michael Stuban noted that the 2024 audit shows and documented that we depleted our large account balances (savings). This showed in the audit as expenses doubling from previous years. Dave Trzcianka noted that it is because we fixed and got a lot of projects down over the past year.

Public Works (Doug Miller)

Nothing further to discuss.

Technology / Public Relations / Liaison (Library, Parks & Rec., M/A) (Joe Bosh)

Library

Joe Bosh reported that the librarian said the building was struck by lightning during the recent storm. She hasn't seen any structural issues. Council asked that the roof to be looked at to make sure there are no leaks. Discussion took place regarding the storm causing the RAFA System issues. Rodney Keenan stated that the recent RAFA System problem was an internet (cellular) issue as other business and RAFA owners had the same issues.

The Science Club is doing a rocket project out of empty pop bottles.

July 1st, a naturalist is bringing animals to the library.

October 11th is the wine and cheese event at the Conway Fire Hall.

September 13th is the Harvest Festival.

The library made approximately \$1,100 from the community yard (book) sale.

A few months ago, the Board of Directors for the library board drafted and approved a policy regarding registered sex offenders in the library. The policy should be posted on the Baden website as well as the library webpage.

Technology

On June 6th SharePoint training was done for the office staff and code enforcement officer. That afternoon we officially switched over the SharePoint. The office staff also has access to the CEO's schedule.

Joe Bosh stated that he is working on reports that can give data trends. We first need to have a history built up before any analysis may be done.

Administration / Personnel (Becky Gallagher)

Labor Relations

Becky Gallagher asked what the steps are for contract negotiations. Elaine Rakovan stated that we are waiting on the union to present their wants. Michael Stuban stated that the old process was the union steward meeting with council negotiation committee and talking things out. The union officials only came in if needed.

America 250

The chairperson for the county America 250 has resigned do to getting no support from the county.

They are still talking about the parade and where it will be located. It will be held between Memorial Day and July 4th 2026.

This year on October 25th, 2025 - A liberty tree is going to be planted in Beaver. The Masons are overseeing this event.

The county committed \$10,000 towards a liberty bell.

There will be Community Day at CCBC on March 20th or 27th 2026.

September 27th 2026 will be an underground railroad tour.

Becky Gallagher stated that there is a lack of momentum with the county America 250 planning.

Public Safety (Dawn Singleton)

BVPRD

Dawn Singleton stated that BVRPD Commission meeting is tomorrow (June 12th) at 6PM.

Building / Grounds / Equipment (Michael Stuban)

Display Case

Michael Stuban addressed purchasing a display case for historical artifacts to be available for public review.

Baden Video

Michael Stuban stated that the video process is underway. Dan Dunlap volunteered to help and has written a great script for the video locations.

Memorial Park

The Ambridge Area School District has no problem in sponsoring a grant for the park improvements. Michael Stuban asked council if they had any issue with looking for and applying for grant funding for the memorial park. There were no objections.

MAYORS REPORT

Not Present

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

Handicap Parking Signs

John Shelkons presented a list of approximately 15 handicap signs that may no longer be needed at residential locations. In the past the police department confirmed and recommended the handicap signs. Discussion took place regarding who is responsible for checking and authorizing the signs. Doug Miller stated that he will contact the BVRPD police chief and ask that he confirm that there are handicap signs necessary at the locations. Further discussion took place regarding registration for a handicap parking sign.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session regarding personnel at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager