

PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL MARCH 11th, 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, Foreman Rodney Keenan and Fire Chief and CEO Dennis Baker

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

Scott Presler, a new resident of Baden Borough addressed council in regards to wanting to get know the council and being involved in the community. He has an organization called Early Vote Action that is run in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Wendy Elwell from Harmony Road addressed council in regards to starting a monthly farmers market in Baden from May to October.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. PennVest Waterline Project Loans

- There will be an invoice approval next week.
- Saturday, March 21st there will be a wide area shut off of water to switch over to the new waterlines.
- Field Lok Gasket
- Straube Avenue Waterline Extension

2. No Parking Ordinance Update

Engineer is working on the update. Need to set up a meeting with public works, police and engineer.

3. Baden Fire Department Lease

Copy was emailed to council for review. This is a rough draft. Still need to add verbiage regarding all alteration/additions to the building must have the approval of council.

4. Solicitor Opinion Letters

Council was emailed a copy of the two opinion letters regarding council stipend pay and fishing pier.

5. Ordinances

Will work with legislation chair to update the street opening ordinance. No update.

6. Statement of Financial Interest

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

7. Water Rate

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

8. Garbage Contract

Waste Management presented their rates for the one year extension. This was presented during last council meeting.

9. Ambridge Water Authority Contract

The Ambridge Water Authority Contract expires this year. They have not responded to past requests for water rate information. No update.

10. Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street

No update.

11. Copier and Printer Lease

The copier and printer lease with Toshiba ends in a few months. We have not been happy with their product for the past couple of years. Sasha was asked to reach out to other copier leasing businesses. Ford Office Technology is a COSTAR business and their lease pricing is comparable to what we are paying now. They upped our base usage rate so that we won't get hit with high overage rates during water bill printing. Monthly lease cost for desk printers, officer copier and fire department copier is \$659.21. This includes maintenance and toner. This is a 63 month lease.

12. Insurance Coverage

Insurance company recommends obtaining a Certificate of Insurance from vendors (i.e. food trucks). For crafters they should sign a Hold Harmless Agreement. The cost to insure the pier is \$1,000 per year for a pier value of \$300,000 to \$400,000

13. Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street

2026 Liquid Fuels in the amount of \$121,543.21 was deposited this month.

14. Straube Avenue

Rodney Keenan, Tom Turney, Tony Sadaka, Elaine Rakovan and John & Diane Senkowski met at the Straube Avenue road erosion. The engineer said that what was placed on the right of way is fine. John and Diane Sendowki disagreed as they want the concrete removed.

15. PennDOT Invoice

Thank you letter sent to Secretary of Transportation Michael Carroll for funding 90% of the sinkhole repair bill. The remaining 10% was requested to be taken out of Liquid Fuels across five years.

Correspondence

- Email from Kevin Bowers from Representative Matzie's office regarding the Duquesne Light Pole replacement.
- Letter from PennDOT regarding Traffic County in Municipally Owned Roads.
- Letter from property owner on Milton Street regarding the property line and borough ally by their house.

Public Works – Written Report

2/1/26 – 2/1/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings

2/2/26 - 2/8/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings

- Water samples & DWELR reports
- IXOM booster station filter change and maintenance
- PA one calls
- Plow and salt roads
- Repair WB Lincoln
- Repair salt spreader F250
- Work orders/meter replacements
- Water leak detecting
- Water project site check ins w/contractors

2/9/26 - 2/15/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Repair WB Burkhardt
- Water samples and reports
- PA one calls
- IXOM calibration
- Water leak detecting
- Work orders
- Water shut off/turn on for water project
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- LLI update
- Sewer jetting
- Repair WB Johnson

2/16/26 – 2/22/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Repair WB Tevebaugh
- PA one calls
- Work orders
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- Repair WB Dettmar
- Water leak detecting
- Water Samples & DWELR Reports
- Fill WB holes
- Catch basin repairs Harmony Rd

2/23/26 – 2/28/26

- Pump monitoring & water intake readings
- Water samples
- Salt roads
- Work orders
- Water project site check ins w/contractors
- Water leak detecting
- IXOM calibration
- PA one calls
- Install new plow blade on F250
- Dig waterline State Street Pump house to look for leak

Notes:

Repaired water line break on Lincoln 2/4/26, repaired water line break on Burkhardt 2/10/26, Repaired water line break on Johnson 2/12/26, Repaired water line break on Tevebaugh 2/16/26, Repaired water line break on Dettmar 2/17/26

Fire Chief – Written report

Monthly Activity & Operations Report

February 2026

Incident Activity

In February 2026, the Baden Fire Department responded to a total of **22 incidents**. These calls represented a variety of emergency responses and operational demands throughout the Borough of Baden and surrounding mutual aid areas. The department averaged **six (6) firefighters per incident**, with staffing levels ranging from **16 firefighters responding to a structure fire to 2 medical personnel responding to a medical call**.

Of the 22 total incidents, the department **provided or received Automatic Aid on 16 incidents**, reinforcing the importance of regional cooperation and mutual support among neighboring agencies.

Call Type Breakdown

- **Fire Alarms:** 1
- **Fires (Possible / Confirmed):** 4
- **Medical Responses:** 5
- **Rescue Incidents:** 4
- **Service Calls:** 1
- **Dispatched / Cancelled:** 7

Year-to-Date Incidents: 58

Personnel, Staffing & Response

A total of **465 man-hours** were logged during February. These hours include:

- Emergency incident responses
- Station staffing
- Training activities

Training & Job Performance Requirements

Members completed the **February Job Performance Requirement (JPR)**, which focused on **SCBA**. This training ensured continued familiarity and confidence with using our SCBA.

Looking ahead, the **March JPR will focus on Vehicle Stabilization / Lifting**, and members are encouraged to maintain momentum by ensuring these JPRs are completed and staffing the station when available.

Upcoming Trainings / Classes:

- 3/23 EMS ConEd
- 3/28-3/29 Live Fire (Engine and Truck) BC3
- 4/7 Forcible Entry
- 5/2 Highrise Class (with Strike Team)
- 5/1 - 5/3 BC Fire Association Training Weekend
- 8/14 - 8/16 Elis Fire Training Weekend

Apparatus & Equipment Readiness

All **monthly truck checks** were completed in February, except for E47. Additionally, all **monthly medical equipment inspections** were completed by a medical provider, ensuring compliance with readiness standards and operational reliability.

Our new QRS vehicle should be arriving towards the end of the month.

Upcoming Community Events and Meetings

May 16th Event (America 250). The following group will be planning the logistics for the day and overseeing its success: Captain VanDyke, Captain Jones, Firefighters Wolz (2), and Firefighter Cade.

Some preliminary ideas for the day include:

- Department History Display
- Display of Apparatus / Equipment
- Junior Firefighter Obstacle Course
- Fire Safety Trailer
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Vehicle Rescue Demonstration
- Community CPR

Our Annual Tool Bash will be held on Sunday, April 19th

Grants & Funding Updates

- Norfolk Southern Grant Application Submitted, for acquisition of Heart Monitor / Defibrillator.
- **OSFC State Grant in the amount of \$16,136.55.** *(has been Deposited)*
- **Matzie / DCED Grant totaling \$50,000** was awarded to support the completion of projects around the fire station. (Required signatures have been submitted to complete the funding process and allow for electronic deposit.
- **The AFG grant application period is not currently open, and there are no updates at this time.**
- **There are no new updates on the Local Share Grant related to engine replacement.**

Station Project Updates

- Electrical permit obtained; materials for electrical work ordered.
- Elements visited the site yesterday (regarding the replacement of Memorial Patio).
Projects to follow the addition completion.
 - Office update
 - 5th bay organization
 - Front shower room update
 - Replace remaining non-led lights throughout the station

Code Enforcement - Written Report

Reporting Officer: Dennis Baker, Code Enforcement Officer

Reporting Period: February 2026

2026 Inspection Program

- 7 Inspections Completed
- 4 Inspection on the Schedule
- Several more are waiting to be scheduled.

General Violations / Complaints

- 5 code complaints received in February
- 3 of them have been mitigated, still working on the other 2 issues, along with 3 new ones this month

- Chestnut issue (tree branches and yard waste at the dead end). There is no real way to verify who is dumping. I suggest posting the area with a no dumping sign. (Public Works can't access shut-off valves to Trailer Park)

Court & Appeals

- An **appeal has been filed** regarding a citation issued for the **Baden Theater**. **(No Update)**
- Recent hearing did not take place due to a guilty plea/fine paid prior to the hearing date.
- Next upcoming hearing is April 9th at 1:30. This will be a phone hearing and a continuance of the garage issues on Williams' property by Kellinger Water Tanks. The owner is in the process of fixing the garage. Due to the winter weather, the Court gave him an extension on the timeline.

The Schiller Street house has been vacated and the property owner is going to sell it. The water was shut off due to a break. He will look into pulling the electric and gas meters.

Dave Trzcianka asked for fire department budget expenses excluding grant funding. This is for the municipal consolidation of services that is in the very early stages of discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$134,635	Expenses	\$203,604
Water Fund Balance	\$378,916	Expenses	\$161,689

Public Safety (Becky Gallagher)

Nothing to report

Public Works / Municipal Authority (Dawn Singleton)

Tevebaugh Road needs to be tarred and chipped. It is at the 3 year mark and the road is already cracking.

Technology / Legislation (Joe Bosh)

There was a grant workshop on February 19th that Joe Bosh, Shannon Reynolds, John Shelkons and Tom Turney attended. It was very informative and helpful. Let the project drive the funding not the other way around.

A draft of a complaint driven inspection ordinance was given to Joe Bosh by the solicitor for review.

Tom Turney asked that the yard sale information be placed on the borough website.

Public Relations / Administration (Shannon Reynolds)

Newsletter is in progress.

Building / Property / Code Enforcement (Tom Turney)

Tom Turney is still waiting to attend a magistrate hearing for code enforcement.

Tom Turney requested that a dedicated account be set up for the fishing pier. An overview of the plans was presented. Still waiting to speak with West View Water Authority.

The Community Yard Sale will be June 6th. Tom Turney is currently soliciting business for advertisement on the yard sale map.

MAYORS REPORT (Andy Gall)

Mayor Gall addressed council in regards to the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department leasing the Baden police department space. Upon the mayor and Chief Priolo meeting and looking at the space, they concluded that the only space the police needs is the garage. They are also asking for the police lockers. Discussion followed regarding restoration of the floor and walls.

Library

Lesabeth Trzcianka gave the library report.

- They have 7 chicken eggs to hatch
- March 26th – Veterinary Clinic
- March 28th Easter Egg Hunt at the park
- Flag pole has been fixed. The tie-down needed replaced.

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Dave Trzcianka)

Dave Trzcianka is the EMA Coordinator for Baden and he attended the quarterly county meeting. Declarations of emergencies are only good for 7 days. He asked that another declaration be done for the potential flooding that may occur as the snow melts. PEMA did not request FEMA money for snow storm assistance funding.

On February 26th Dave Trzcianka will meet with the regional municipal members to discuss shared services with fire, public works and code enforcement.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Shannon Reynolds, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager