

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MARCH 13TH, 2024**

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:

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Judi Montell, Foreman Rodney Keenan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

Resident asked about the DEP lead waterline detection mandate. Mr. Trzcianka explained that the DEP requires 4 confirmations of what each residential waterline is made of.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. PennVest

Up front bank loan amount for the PennVest loan/grant is \$380,000. Working with First National Bank on the loan process at 5.49% fixed rate. No Update.

2. Street Light Request

Residents at the dead end of Camilla are requesting a street light for safety reasons stating there have cars broken into and an attempted house break-in. There are no names or signatures on the letter. (From December's report – resident called and asked about the request)

3. Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street

Zoning hearing on March 25th has been rescheduled for April 22nd.

4. Utility Billing Ordinance Update

Started to write a new ordinance for the water and garbage billing. Once completed the municipal authority will need to amend (write) their sewage billing ordinance. No Update.

5. Beaver County ARPA Municipal Infrastructure Grants

All funding has been received.

6. Property Encroachment Letters

No action at this time. Will walk the property with Michael Stuban to see who is actually encroaching on our property.

7. Harmony Road Property

Need updated documents from the county and Ambridge School District signature.

8. SPC Regional Traffic Signal Grant

Project in progress.

9. Theater

No update

10. Completed in February/March

- DCED Survey of Financial Interest
- Library Report
- Recycling Report
- SAMs # Renewal
- Started DEP Water Reports

11. USDA Water Project

Next invoice approval for funding will be on the agenda for the regular meeting. Requisition #19 – Engineering \$20,300 and Contractor \$375,196.03 for a total of \$395,496.03

12. Billboard Ordinance

Ordinance is being worked on. The permit application for a billboard will be presented to the zoning board. The attorney is currently reviewing the documents.

Public Works – Written Report

2/1/24 - 2/11/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Shut down for service line hit on North Ave
- Shut down for Schiller St fire hydrant
- Remove 4-inch valve that blew apart from Schiller St shut down
- End of Dettmar had dirty water
- Water samples
- Shut down for 379 Prospect hydrant
- Shut down for Wilson and Prospect fire hydrant
- Shut down for 308 Prospect hydrant
- Repair water break on dead end 5th St
- Install library window
- Take down Christmas decorations

2/12/24 - 2/18/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Shut down for service line hit on Franklin Ave
- Shut down for Franklin and North tie-in
- Stefanik's punch list
- Fix borough building vinyl fence
- Shut down for 340 Camilla fire hydrant
- Fix Maple St alley
- Replace plow blades on truck
- Salt and cinder roads
- Replace bearing on 550 spreader
- Locate 1021 Franklin curb box

2/19/24 - 2/29/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Shut down for 3rd St tie-in
- Shut down for Steele St fire hydrant
- Shut down for McNair fire hydrant
- Shut down for Wolfe St fire hydrant
- Shut down for Walnut fire hydrant
- Blow off McNair St-resident had dirty water after hydrant installation
- Shut down for 5th St tie in

- Fill potholes
- Clean up garage and trucks
- Shut down for 6th St tie-in
- Shut down for Beaver St fire hydrant
- Shut down for Lions Club fire hydrant
- 1016 North had no water-stones got into pressure regulator
- Shut down for fire hydrants between Terrace entrance and Beaver St

Notes:

JRC contracting has all of the new water line installed but tie-ins to the existing system still need to be made. The water service tie-ins to the house also need to be completed. Their goal is to have the new water line fully in service by the middle of March, then restoration will take place.

A 4-inch valve has been removed on Schiller St because it blew apart during a fire hydrant shut down.

1016 North Ave did not have water after being tapped off of the newly installed water line. Dirt and stones got into the pressure regulator. Public Works had to come out at night and drop off water and hook up a hose to a neighboring house to provide water. In the morning Public Works removed the regulator and cleared the dirt and stones. The contractor should have flushed out the service line before hooking up to the house.

All of the fire hydrants have been replaced in the project except for the fire hydrant on Johnson Avenue which is off a 4inch water line.

The only remaining fire hydrant that will need replaced is the hydrant on **5th St and Virginia**, across from Pine Cone Village. There are still 6 hydrants that are old but are on 4 inch water lines:

Carle and Straube

Lower Bauman and State

Phillips and Burkhardt

Middle of Wolfe St

Berry and Ehman

Johnson across from McDonald's

Mr. Stuban asked when street sweeping will be done. Mr. Keenan stated after they read the meters and before Easter.

Mr. Stuban stated that curbs need to be painted yellow. Discussion followed regarding curbs that have never been painted and need to be.

FIRE CHIEF

Incidents / Training:

25 Incidents (February)

69 Incidents (Year to Date)

94 Training / Staffing Hours / 15 firefighters (February)

192 Training / Staffing Hours / 19 firefighters (Year to Date)

Grants:

The 2023 State Fire Commission Grant Program: The State has released individual funding amounts. We were awarded \$16,951.99. This funding will be used for rescue equipment upgrades.

The 2023 FEMA AFG Grant Application Period has closed. We submitted two grant applications for two different projects. One was a microgrant for equipment totaling \$69,497.00. If awarded, the fire department would be required to fund \$3,309.38 towards the project. The second application is for funding to replace our rescue truck, totaling \$1,445,000.00. If awarded, the fire department would be required to fund \$68,809.52 toward the project.

The Local Share Account Statewide Program (gaming funds) Update: This grant was submitted on behalf of the borough for funding to replace our Fire Engine (Pumper Truck). Applications are in the review process. Received email confirmation that this application made it through the initial review process and is now in the second step of the review

process. The only change to the application was that we submitted the application for the maximum amount of \$1,000,000.00. However, the cost estimate for the Fire Engine came in at \$961,000.00, so they adjusted the figure, stating that they could not provide additional funding based on expected cost increases.

Is there any update on the council's decision to support or not support the fire department's efforts in firefighter health, safety, and fitness as it pertains to workman's comp? Information was provided to council on the program we implemented, and email verification from the insurance company that this is allowable coverage for active department members, pending a motion by the council at a public meeting. The program and equipment are up and running and used regularly. Currently, those active members participating have signed a waiver that will not hold the Baden VFD or the Borough liable for any injury. However, we still feel the Borough should support this program without hesitation for the efforts our volunteers are putting forth to help better themselves individually and as a department as it pertains to health and fitness.

Storage update, along with the gym project it was mentioned in the past about the need for additional storage at the fire station. We have looked at a few different options one was the construction of a free-standing building between the main driveway and fire station near the emergency generator, However, due to the location and depth of underground utilities, this will not work. We have explored adding a small addition along the back of the building, with the only real issue up front being drainage. However, we had a contractor look at the site, and we will install proper under-drainage so that this will not be an issue. We are looking at two options for the building itself. One would be a metal lean-to style building that would attach to the existing building. This report includes plans to provide council with a better visual of the project. Additionally, we are getting a price to construct the addition in block to match the existing building. We are not asking council for any funding for this project. We are just asking for your permission, along with waiving any associated building permit fees. We are in the process of obtaining funds through our state representative to support this project along with upgrading our fire station kitchen and office, which are pushing 30 years old.

Mr. Stuban asked that the fitness program be explained. The process started when Council was informed that the fire department was obtaining donated gym equipment and they wanted to start a health, safety and fitness program. Prior to bring gym up to council, Mr. Baker reached out to the insurance company regarding workers compensation coverage. The email he received back from the insurance company was either put on clip board or provided to Mr. Stuban stated that it would be covered for active fire fighters in a program at the station, but the municipality has to approve in a public meeting that council supports the fitness program and if a firefighter gets injured while participating in the program it will be covered under workers compensation. Mr. Baker stated that it would be another approved activity for workers compensation coverage.

Mr. Baker stated that the program is up and running. A waiver has been written up and signed by the firefighters. Mr. Stuban thought that council had to approve everything. Mr. Baker stated that he typed up the program information and it is on the clipboard. Mr. Trzcianka asked that it be put the workers comp on the agenda for next week.

Mr. Baker addressed adding a storage area on the back side of the building. They are asking for councils blessing. There will be no cost to the borough. Mr. Trzcianka had concerns regarding the setback for the building. Discussion followed.

Code Enforcement

Commercial Fire & Property Maintenance Inspections / Reinspection: 20 (Year to date)
General Code Issues Addressed: 12

*AWT, we have a few issues with some living conditions that I am working on with the Association. **Update: the attorney for AWT has issued a letter to the tenants regarding these issues; a copy of the letter is on the clipboard. If tenants fail to comply by the end of the month, citations will be issued through the magistrate's office. (Inspection Completed on 3/6/24, no major issues found.)***

1010 4th Street. Next of Kin addresses were provided to the magistrate **(No Update)**

851 Schiller - Awaiting review of making Schiller Street - No Parking.

755 Schiller- they are finally addressing the issues, as they have a potential buyer for the property.

700 State St - has acknowledged the lack of property maintenance regarding the siding issue along the upper portion of the dwelling and is working to correct the problem.

423 Moore Ave - The property was Condemned due to Hoarding / Sanitation and Fire Safety Concerns. The property owners acknowledged the notice and are slowly beginning to address the issues. This is a big project, so it will take some time to bring it into compliance.

Lincoln / Kellinger (Cat Issue): A TNR group has been working on the issue. As of last Friday, 19 cats had been trapped and fixed. Four to six of those have found homes so far.

I will be putting together a social media post about grass and general property maintenance as we approach the spring season.

My goal is to address any other code issues with commercial properties through and during the inspection program.

Mr. Bosh addressed the cat ordinance that was presented to council at last months meeting. He felt it need to be simpler and he asked if council wanted to proceed with the cat ordinance. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gallagher stated that more research needs to be done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$228,188	Expenses \$158,559
Water Fund Balance	\$203,939	Expenses \$186,917

Public Works (Doug Miller)

Mr. Miller stated that he sent a text to Mr. Keenan regarding the distance for stop signs and intersections according to state law.

Technology / Public Relations / Liaison (Library, Parks & Recreation, Municipal Authority)

Emergency Alert System – OnSolve

Mr. Bosh stated that the testing of the program is ongoing. Weekly training meetings are now complete. Mrs. Gallagher is working on the marketing materials. Mr. Bosh is working on training and webpage information. The office staff attended a training session. He hopes to have a letter in the next water bill regarding signing up for OnSolve.

Newsletter

Mr. Bosh stated that he is meeting with Erica Loftus on Friday to start the next newsletter.

Library

Mrs. Trzcianka stated that the American Library Association gave them a \$10,000 grant that will be used for large print and audio books. Friends of the Library sold \$1,400 in candy as a fundraiser. The next fundraiser will be in October 12th – Wine and Cheese Event at the Lion's Club.

Administration / Personnel (Becky Gallagher)

Nothing to Report

Public Safety (Dawn Singleton)

April 20th the Legion Auxiliary is going to have a cleanup day along State Street and the parks like they did last year.

Mrs. Singleton stated that the park is in bad shape. We are unable to get grants because we do not own the property. She will be meeting with the Ambridge School District to see if the school would be willing to donating the property to the borough.

Building / Grounds / Equipment (Michael Stuban)

Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

Mr. Stuban asked what council would like to do regarding addressing payment in lieu of taxes with non-profit (tax exempt) organizations. He read a list of the properties (organizations) that are tax exempt. Discussion followed. Mr. Shelkons recommended having a meeting with all of the organizations to address the PILOT with them. Mr. Trzcianka addressed asking for donations towards the fire truck fund. Mrs. Gallagher asked if there are any other municipalities that receive PILOT from churches and non-profits. Mrs. Gallagher mentioned sending a letter to the non-profits asking for donations to support our public safety (fire) department. Mr. Trzcianka commented on noting what the nonprofit would pay in taxes, list everything they benefit from what the tax payers contribute and asking for them to consider making a donation. Further discussion followed. More research needs to be done before moving forward.

Paving

Mr. Stuban presented a list of streets that need to be paved. North, Franklin, Collins and Third Street under the 2023 estimate was \$456,000. Bauman Avenue will cost between \$47,000 and \$87,000 depending on what type of surfacing. We need to move on this because the North, Franklin, Collins, and Thirds are in major need of resurfacing due to the waterline project. Liquid Fuels has \$420,000 that could be spent. Street openings has \$62,000 that could also be used. If we expand and add other streets that need paved, then we could borrow the funds and use liquid fuels for the payments. Other roads that are being looked at are Harmony, Jones, Straube, Dorothy, McKee and Hickory Alley.

MAYORS REPORT

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Trzcianka handed out information regarding the NIMS testing.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mrs. Gallagher, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager
04/17/2024