

REGULAR MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL MARCH 19TH, 2025

No Pre-meeting of Baden Borough Council

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, Dawn Singleton and Dave Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT: Michael Stuban, Mayor Judi Montell

ALSO PRESENT: Solicitor Jimmy Amato, Manager Elaine Rakovan

This meeting is being electronically recorded by the Borough Manager.

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

Tom Turney from 336 State Street updated council on the advertisement solicitations for the yard sale. He has approached 49 businesses within the last month. To date he has received \$1,875 in payments and pledges. He asked about permitting set up of tables in the borough parking lot (the community room is in use that day) as well as getting permission from the Catholic church to use their parking lot. Dawn Singleton stated that she spoke to the police so that they may patrol the area. Elaine Rakovan is working on the speed sign from PennDOT. Tom asked each councilmember and mayor to try and get two people to sale. The American Legion instructed Tom to ask Dawn Singleton about what size advertisement the legion will do. He also asked if the yard sale may be posted on the American Legion sign. Tom said that he did get donations from businesses and representatives to raffle off to the people that register on the map.

MINUTES

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Doug Miller, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of February 12th and 19th, 2025.

BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Doug Miller, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

RESOLUTIONS - None

ORDINANCES – None

BIDS – None

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from the Beaver County America 250 Committee asking if Baden is interested in hosting a parade that will feature participants representing the full story of Beaver County's past, present and a look toward the future.
- Thank you note from Michael Stuban for thoughts, prayers and gift to the library in memory of his brother, Steven.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Borough Manager

1. **PennVest / Paving Project Loans**
Will go for review in April. Easement for Sisters of Saint Joseph still needs completed.
2. **Keyless Entry and Cameras**
No update at this time.
3. **Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street**
No update at this time.
4. **Back door to Stairwell**
Need pricing to replace the door.
5. **Emergency Response Coordinator**
Documents have been submitted to the county for the new ERC, Dave Trzcianka.
6. **Flower Fund Memorial Donation to the Library**
A Memorial Donation of \$100 was made to the library in memory of Steven Stuban.
7. **Grant Avenue**
Open item. Paving the end of Grant Avenue. A copy of the letter was given to council at the January meeting.
8. **State Ethic Commission Statement of Financial Interest for 2024**
If you haven't submitted your Ethic Form, please return to the Borough Manager by May 1st.
9. **Street Opening Ordinance**
Open item. Hope to have a draft for next month's meeting.
10. **Southern Corrosion Tank Maintenance Proposal**
Agreement was signed. The start date for the contract/agreement is April 1, 2025.
11. **Newsletter**
Articles written. Draft approved. Sent to the printer. On time for distribution by April 1st.
12. **Yard Sale**
Residents are asking if they could use the borough parking lot to set up a table. Only discrepancy is the community room is rented that day for a party.

13. Ordinance Regarding Recreation Board

A copy of the ordinance is in council's packet. A motion will be needed to advertise the ordinance repealing Chapter 3, Article 1 of the Baden Borough Code of Ordinances titled "Recreation Board".

14. Remote Water Meter Reader

Two of the readers (15+ years old) need to be replaced. Cost is \$1,150.

15. RAFA System

Annual maintenance agreement with new antenna and mounting pole will cost \$3,568. The antenna are needed to hopefully improve the communication of the system and solve the issue with false alarms.

16. JMI Consultants, LLC

This is a company based out of New York wanting Baden to participate in an energy curtailment program during times of critical grid stress.

17. PSAB News Communication Contest

Baden Borough's Newsletter has been awarded second place in the PSAB Borough News Communication Contest. If anyone plans to attend the PSAB annual conference in Hershey from June 1st to 4th let the borough manager know so that a representative may accept the award for Baden Borough.

18. Harmony Water Tank – Mid Atlantic Proposal

Council has a copy of the proposal. We are waiting to hear back from the USDA to see if the balance of the loan funding could be used for the tank. For all options the cost is \$130,860. A temporary holding tank will also be needed to keep pressure on the system stable. Estimated cost for the temporary holding tank is \$25,000. We have until May 26th to sign the proposal.

19. Non-Uniform Union Contract

The union's contract ends this year. They are meeting with their Teamster Union 250 representative next week. The union steward is Jordan Faust.

20. Garbage Contract

The garbage contract with Waste Management ends this year. We will need to advertise for bids within the next couple of months.

21. No Parking Signs

The police have brought to my attention that we have no parking signs up with the borough that they can't enforce because they are not in the borough code (no ordinance).

22. Soliciting Permit

Our first permit was done for Trinity Solar. There were no issues. All documentation was submitted and permit paid for.

23. Delinquent Water Bills

Letters are going to be sent to the property owners of delinquent water bills. If they do not respond with payment or payment arrangements, the will state that a lien will be placed on the property. If payment is not received the information will be given to the solicitor to file the lien.

Visitor permitted to speak (arrived late to the meeting)

Bob Szymoniak 418 Bryan Avenue addressed council regarding the condition of his neighbor's property. They have not cut their grass since Bob has lived in his house (over 1 year) and there is junk lying around the yard and a pool that is caving in on itself. Bob asked if the alley behind his house is ever going to be paved and commented that there is a pipe at the end of the alley that is sticking up. He was told that the alley would not get paved and public works will be notified about the pipe.

Public Works Report

2/1/25-2/9/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Cold patch roads
- Replace GFI Kellinger Tank
- Leak detection
- Monte Cello's front clean up

2/10/25-2/16/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Leak detection
- Snake garage drains
- Raise 1125 Harmony curb box
- Columbia gas one call measurements
- Prep for snow

2/17/25-2/23/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Salt and cinder roads
- Dump truck maintenance
- Shovel sidewalks
- Water samples
- Borough building furnace
- Schiller driveway

2/24/25-2/28/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Clean trucks from snow and salt
- Water samples
- Work orders
- Repair Schiller St Hydrant
- Leak detection
- Found Harvey's water leak

Notes:

Updated RAFA system with new antennas and sim cards
Monaca Borough employee has been contacted about Harmony Tank licensing
Water shut offs and quarterly water reading to be done in March

CEO

Not Present. No Report

FIRE CHIEF

Not Present. No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance:	\$107,857	Expenses:	\$242,324
Water Fund Balance:	\$217,937	Expenses:	\$207,882

John Shelkons referred to the budget and noted that the over expenditure under winter maintenance was due to purchasing and stockpiling cinders since it will not be available next year.

PUBLIC WORKS (Doug Miller)

Water Meter Readers

MOTION by Doug Miller, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to purchase two new water meter readers at a cost of \$1,150.

RAFA System

MOTION by Doug Miller, second by Dawn Singleton, carried unanimously to authorize the payment for the annual RAFA maintenance agreement with antenna installation in the amount of \$3,568.

Certified Operator Contract

MOTION by Doug Miller, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to have the solicitor write a contract for Jared McKay to be the Certified Operator for the Harmony Road Water Tank chlorination system until our operators obtain their subclass 12 certification. \$400 per month and \$25/hr. (minimum 2 hours) for any call outs.

TECHNOLOGY / PUBLIC RELATIONS / LIAISON (Joe Bosh)

Library

Joe Bosh gave an overview of the library events which included a representative from Rob Matzie's office assisting residents with filling out the rent rebate forms, June 24th local author will be at the library discussing his book *Abandoned Beaver County*, and on May 6th Vintage Debbie will be sharing vintage music and memories.

The fire inspection was done at the library. The fire extinguishers need to be replaced. This will be done during the next fire extinguisher inspection for the borough properties.

Friends of the Library are planning their Wine and Cheese event. They are looking into the barn at Economy Park or the Conway Borough Fire Department social hall.

Joe thanked Elaine Rakovan for overseeing the newsletter and getting it done and submitted on time for printing.

Recreation Board Ordinance

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to advertise the ordinance repealing the borough code in regards to the disbandment of the Recreation Board.

CEO SharePoint

Joe Bosh stated that he had a demo last month for the office staff and CEO, Dennis Baker. He went over SharePoint, answered questions and took notes for changes. Once he has the changes done a training session will be set up to show how to use SharePoint. The CEO has already started to upload his information to SharePoint.

FirstNet

Joe Bosh went over the data usage of the Fire Department iPads. After speaking with the fire chief, during the fire department meeting the chief will see if the fire department will pick up and pay for three of the iPads with the borough paying for the other three.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL (Becky Gallagher)

America 250

Next meeting is Monday, March 24th at 6 PM in Council Chambers. Becky gave a recap from the Beaver County America 250 meeting held on March 18th.

- BCA250 is interested in collaborating with Baden Borough regarding the events we planned for 5/16/2026 (Military event) and 6/20/2026 (Labor/Industry/Farm event)
- They will publish a BC Experience Guide – need info by June. Will include a timeline of events planned for 2026, County History article may focus on Legionville & Logstown.
- Discussion took place to bring back Regatta for 3rd weekend in August.
- Parade and Liberty Tree placement are the focus at this time
- Possible event at the Dome where each community may have a booth to present the history and information about their town
- Next BC America 250 meeting will be on 4/15 at 1:00 pm – location will possibly be at the Beaver Falls Library - public is welcome.

BVRPD Meeting

Becky gave a recap of the regional police meeting.

- Mayor of Kingstown is filming in New Sewickley, Freedom, and Rochester Twp on Thursday. They requested 5 officers.
- New hire, Officer Roach is now trained and on duty. Officer Howard is the Rochester School Resource Officer.
- AED supplies were purchased at \$391. License plate reader split cost between New Brighton & BVRPD for YMCA.
- 501c3 established for K9
- Considering a 501c3 suggested by grant writer for potential fundraising with I commissioner on that board.
- Vote on Resolution - Bridgewater is interested in joining BVRPD. They currently have 31 shifts they can't cover. Chief Steve Roberts has been with Bridgewater for 2 years. Will not affect the pension. He retired from Aliquippa PD formerly served as a detective sergeant. Bridgewater would have 2 seats on board with full partnership. Commissioner Camp is looking into grant money to help with startup costs. Target date is June 1st due to Summer activities/ Bars police themselves (there will be 3 SRO's available for Summer). Bridgewater averages 30 calls per month with the State Police average of 30 calls.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Dawn Singleton)

Dawn asked that Andy Gall speak regarding the regional police department. Andy stated that Officer Steve Roberts is an excellent officer and investigator. The regional would like to put Officer Roberts on a daylight shift to handle investigations and follow-up investigations. Officer Roberts would also be mentor to other officers wanting to become investigators. He would be coming in at the 75% salary rate. Officer Roberts would cover 4 hours of the Bridgewater shift. The current 11AM to 11PM officers will change to 3PM to 3AM so 4 officers will be on patrol for all except 4 hours from 3AM to 7AM.

Dawn gave an overview attending the Bridgewater meeting. Bridgewater councilmembers asked question to the BVRPD commissioners in attendance. The mayor, police and majority of the council are in favor of joining the regional, but they first want to notify and get the merchants and businesses the opportunity to comment and support the decision. Their next Bridgewater council meeting will be on April 8th.

Dawn stated that the K9 Officer, Drex is officially on duty with the handler officer.

BVRPD Bridgewater Resolution

MOTION by Becky Gallagher, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to approve resolution accepting Bridgewater into the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department.

BUILDING / GROUNDS / EQUIPMENT (Michael Stuban)

Michael Stuban was not present

Thank You Dinner

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to cancel this year's thank you dinner.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. Harmony Water Storage Tank Upgrades

- A. WEI has obtained an updated quote for re-sealing the Harmony Tank from Mid Atlantic (the original tank installer) and has provided it to the Borough Manager. The preliminary response from USDA is that they do not object to using the remaining funds for this work but they are working on figuring out what bidding requirements that the Borough would need to follow to do so. More details from USDA to follow.
- B. The disinfectant residual management (chlorine booster) system can't receive an operations permit from DEP until an operator with the appropriate class and subclass is lined up to cover operations. This is required to resolve the DEP notice of violation. WEI recommend approval of an operator as soon as possible.

2. Prospect Street Tank #1

The taller prospect street tank (Prospect tank #1 erected in 1930) has an approximate replacement cost of \$700,000. Due to age of the tank itself, and condition of the tank's cover, the most economical option to address this tank is complete replacement as opposed to retrofitting a new tank cover onto a 95 year old water tank.

3. Water Allocation Permit Application

The application was submitted to DEP for approval.

4. PennVEST - Waterline Replacements

We are on track to be considered at the April 23, 2025 Pennvest Board meeting and will likely be funded. Construction should be able to start in the fall of 2025.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Not Present.

Dave Trzcianka stated that we received an invitation from the Baden American Legion to council inviting them to participate in the annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26th. Line up is at 9:15am and the parade starts at 10:15am.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dave Trzcianka stated that he appointed Michael Stuban to attend the budget the meetings for the BVRPD.

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

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted for Approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager