

PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL May 13th, 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: Mayor Andy Gall

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Elaine Rakovan, Foreman Rodney Keenan and Assistant Fire Chief Matt Loftus

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. **PIRMA Insurance Rate**
We can reduce our premium by \$4,253 by raising our deductible for comprehensive/collision from \$100/\$250 to \$500/\$500.
2. **Borough Code**
The Code Book has been updated.
3. **Public Works**
Two summer help have started to work.
First round of interviews for the full time position were held on Tuesday. A second round will be held on Thursday.
4. **No Parking Ordinance Update**
Engineer is working on the update.
5. **Baden Fire Department Lease**
Copy was emailed to council for review. This is a rough draft. Adding verbiage regarding all alteration/additions to the building must have the approval of council. Does council have any additions or changes.
6. **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.
7. **Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street**
No update.

Elaine Rakovan gave an overview of the debt obligation.

The quote for mulch with installation at the two parks came in at approximately \$18,000. Discussion took place and the manager will get another quote.

Public Works – Written Report

4/1/26-4/6/26

- ❖ Meeting with contractors on sight
- ❖ Working on plow blades
- ❖ Monitoring of pumps
- ❖ Call backs for current water billing
- ❖ Meeting with contractors on sight
- ❖ PA One Calls
- ❖ Monitoring of pumps
- ❖ Work orders
- ❖ Meters and exchanges
- ❖ 4/3/26 Ethan off
- ❖ TTHM/HAASS
- ❖ Signs

4/4/26-4/5/26

- ❖ Rodney monitoring of pumps

4//6/26-4/13/26

- ❖ 4/6/26 Rodney off
- ❖ Water samples
- ❖ DWELR
- ❖ IXOM
- ❖ Council Reports
- ❖ Meetings with contractors
- ❖ Call backs
- ❖ Meter repairs
- ❖ Water line repairs
- ❖ 4/7/26 Joel off
- ❖ Removal of salt spreader
- ❖ Taking down of banners
- ❖ Washing of trucks
- ❖ PA Once calls
- ❖ Meter repairs, Rodney
- ❖ Down wires, Joel and Rodney
- ❖ Tying into Camillia and Moore, Rodney
- ❖ Flag brackets, Joel and Ethan
- ❖ ½ day sewer work, Joel
- ❖ ½ day sewer work, Rodney
- ❖ Meeting with contractors on sight, Rodney
- ❖ Mowing begins, Ethan

4/13-4/20/26

- ❖ Street sweeping begins Ethan
- ❖ PA One calls, Rodney
- ❖ 4/17/26 Rodney off
- ❖ Street sweeping Ethan
- ❖ Lead line with meter
- ❖ 4/18-4/19 Joel monitoring pumps
- ❖ Jetting of sanitary sewer near Hilltop Rodney
- ❖ Water line project
- ❖ Jetting of sanitary sewer line Joel

4/20/26-4/30/26

- ❖ Hot mixing, Rodney and Joel
- ❖ Water break, Rodney
- ❖ Work orders high readings, Ehtan and Rodney
- ❖ Monitoring of water line project, Rodney
- ❖ Tilling of library area, Joel and Ethan
- ❖ Pulled shrubs, Rodney and Joel
- ❖ Water samples, Joel
- ❖ Cutting grass Ethan
- ❖ Pa One Calls, Rodney
- ❖ Cutting of library grass, Joel and Ethan
- ❖ Pa One Calls, Rodney
- ❖ Water line project ½ day, Rodney
- ❖ Hanging of banners, Joel and Ethan
- ❖ Checking the Welcome to Baden sign, Rodney and Joel
- ❖ Final readings, Ethan and Joel
- ❖ Camera inspection 644 State St., Rodney and Joel
- ❖ Fixing catch basins near Dettmar Ave., Joel
- ❖ Pulled bushes at borough building, Joel and Rodney
- ❖ Checking curb boxes for water line project, Rodney
- ❖ Pa One Calls, Joel
- ❖ Monitoring waterline project, Rodney
- ❖ Hung Banners, Joel
- ❖ 4/24/26 Ethan off
- ❖ Chlorine samples Rodney
- ❖ Cutting of grass, Ehtan
- ❖ Dug ditch for municipal authority, Joel
- ❖ Cut grass , Ethan
- ❖ Chlorine samples, Ethan
- ❖ Monitoring of water line project, Rodney
- ❖ Cleaning of Phillips St., Rodney
- ❖ Street sweeping, Ethan
- ❖ Walk through of water line project with Dan Sell, Rodney
- ❖ Restocking recycling bins to borough office, Rodney
- ❖ Emptying of community garbage cans, Rodney
- ❖ Installing new water fountains at borough building, Joel
- ❖ Street sweeping, Ethan
- ❖ Monitoring of water line project, Rodney
- ❖ Pa One Calls, Rodney
- ❖ Cleaning street sweeper, Rodney
- ❖ Street sweeping of State St., Rodney and Ethan
- ❖ Purchased spray for weed killing, Joel
- ❖ Pa One Calls, Joel
- ❖ Maintenance on mowers, Joel

5/1/26-5/5/26

- ❖ Remove tree and debris from Tevebaugh Rd.
- ❖ Cathodic Report, Joel
- ❖ Street Sweeping, Ethan
- ❖ Rodney weekend monitoring of pumps
- ❖ Oil change, Rodney
- ❖ Monitoring of contractors, Rodney
- ❖ Sample readings, Joel
- ❖ Grass cutting, Ethan and summer help
- ❖ Monitoring of contractors, Rodney

- ❖ Spraying of weeds, Joel
- ❖ Bucket truck, Joel
- ❖ Grass cutting, Ethan and summer help

Fire Chief - Not present, No report

Code Enforcement - Not Present, No Report

Tom Turney, stated that he has not received any information or had contact with the code enforcement office.

Dawn Singleton had a complaint from a neighbor. The information was given to Tom Turney and he will look into the complaint.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$153,558	Expenses \$239,006
Water Fund Balance	\$443,109	Expenses \$104,867

Public Safety (Becky Gallagher)

Becky Gallagher stated that she had a list of concerns regarding the fishing pier and she asked that a fishing pier committee be organized to oversee the project. Tom Turney and John Shelkons are currently involved with the project. There were no other volunteers to be on the committee.

Fire Department Calls to Aliquippa

Assistant Fire Chief, Matt Loftus addressed concerns council had with the fire department. The first was the response to the fire on Wayne Street and the operation of the fire hydrant. The hydrant was slowly turned off by public works employee Joel to try and avoid a waterline break which unfortunately still occurred. Matt confirmed that the fireman that instructed Joel to turn the hydrant off quickly was not a Baden firefighter, but one from a mutual aid department, Harmony Township. Matt assured council that all of the Baden firefighters are told time and time again to operate the hydrants with abundance of caution opening and closing them.

The second concern was Baden responding to Aliquippa fires and if Baden is covered and protected in case of an incident in Baden. As a volunteer fire department there could be a call at anytime where none of the Baden fire department members are available because they are on their actual jobs. Fortunately, this has not happened.

There is a county wide mutual aid department that was adopted in the 1980's. It was signed by everyone in Beaver County and adopted by resolution that fire departments can respond to mutual aid across borders to help each other out without any jurisdictional restrictions. For the last 26 years the Baden Fire Department has responded all over the county in a mutual aid capacity. Under Chief Trzcianka's years ago Baden was a part of the Beaver County Technical Rescue Team with the city of Aliquippa and Chippewa to respond throughout the county and region for structural and trench collapse as well as road rescue. In the mid 2000's Baden became a part of a of the Beaver County Strike Team which is a collision of departments that professionally trained and certified interior firemen to respond to large fires. Our local fire departments cannot fight a structural fire by themselves. We all rely on mutual aid. We can't dictate what other municipalities call in for mutual aid. We can only control what we call into Baden. Over the past few years, we have expanded our mutual aid to include Ambridge Fire Department and Aliquippa Fire Department. If there is a fire in Baden and not Baden fireman is available, we are guaranteed to have 4 professional paid fire fighters.

Economy, Harmony, Conway and Rochester fire departments are also on Baden's mutual aid card.

In particular to Aliquippa, they requested that Baden only sends their rescue truck for structure fires. The squad with additional manpower may also go with rescue truck. Rarely the ladder truck will respond to large structural fires.

2026 calls:

Dispatched to 134 calls

83 of the calls were in Baden Borough

51 were mutual aid outside of Baden Borough

22 of the 51 were mutual aid requests to Aliquippa

Only 8 of the 22 mutual aid requests to Aliquippa resulted in Baden responding. The other 14 were cancelled and Baden did not leave the station.

Often time when responding to mutual aid, there are still firefighters present in Baden. Matt shared with council copies of letters from neighboring municipalities regarding the importance of mutual aid.

7 of the 23 firefighters on Baden's roster do not live in Baden.

Lastly, Matt addressed the reason why an in person meeting with the fire chief has not taken place. The fire department members strongly agree that the meeting is inappropriate. They have a concern regarding what goes on social media and the comments about the Baden Fire Department made by Baden council president, Dave Trzcianka. Matt stated that the Baden Fire Department is always willing to help, support and work with our community.

America 250

Becky Gallagher acknowledged Michael Stuban for his endless hours of hard work and Jeff Olson for helping to organize this weekend's America 250 events. Becky gave an overview of the vendors and events for the day.

Public Works / Municipal Authority (Dawn Singleton)

Dawn Singleton noted that the military banners are up on the poles and the flags will be up before the weekend.

The second round of interviews for the public works position are taking place on Thursday.

Technology / Legislation (Joe Bosh)

Joe Bosh gave brief overview of the handout form Representative Matzie regarding grant opportunities.

Joe went over some samples of Street Opening Ordinance and some changes at the state level. The PA Public Utility Code preempts any law that municipalities have. This mainly effects variable fees which Baden currently has in their ordinance. A two tier pay structure may be needed. Elaine Rakovan commented that the fees are one issue but restoration of the road is also a concern, especially on newly paved roads.

Public Relations / Administration (Shannon Reynolds)

Shannon Reynolds reported that newsletter is done and getting ready for printing. The cost will be \$3,472.36 plus postage which is a huge savings from previous newsletters. Shannon saved the borough on the cost for designing the newsletter.

Building / Property / Code Enforcement (Tom Turney)

The Community Yard Sale will be June 6th. There are 70 participants. \$2,600 was collected for advertisements.

A grant for the fishing pier will be applied for next year.

Tom Turney spoke about a meeting with West View Water (WVW) regarding the fishing pier. WVW was more concerned about wanting to supply water to Baden Borough as well as possibly taking over the water system. Tom felt that Baden should give WVW the opportunity to speak to council and the residents regarding their interest in supplying water to Baden.

MAYORS REPORT (Andy Gall)

Not present

Library

Nothing to report.

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

John Shelkons asked for clarification regarding having a meeting between the fire chief and public safety committee (does not include the president of council). Becky Gallagher stated that she will have the manager send a letter to the fire chief requesting a meeting with the public safety committee. The meeting will also include code enforcement issues.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Dave Trzcianka)

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tom Turney, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager