

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MAY 14TH, 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: Manager Elaine Rakovan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

No Visitors

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. **PennVest / Paving Project Loans**
We received \$3,184,700 in loan funding. No grant funding.
2. **Keyless Entry and Cameras**
M&P Solutions is a COSTAR company. Reaching out to them for current pricing and options available.
3. **Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street**
Reached out to the attorney regarding the most recent
4. **Back door to Stairwell**
Contacted Allegheny Door for a price to replace the door.
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**
Maps are done. Thank you letters have been written by the Library. Tom Turney is delivering the maps and thank you letters.
8. **Harmony Water Tank – Mid Atlantic Proposal**
The USDA backdown on using the balance of the USDA funding for the water tank. Best option is to apply the balance to the loan which will be taken off the back end of the balance.

Dave Trzcianka asked if we could contact Senators McCormick and Fetterman to assist with having the funding available for the water tank repairs.

9. Non-Uniform Union Contract

No update.

Michael Stuban stated that Council President will need to create a negotiating committee for the new contract.

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.

Elaine Rakovan stated that to keep costs low we may want to get a price for limited garbage collection.

11. 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). No update.

12. 2020 – 2025 Pension Audit

Almost done. Will have closeout meeting next week.

13. America 250 Grant

Submitted grant requesting for \$20,000.

14. State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF – Federal Covid Funding) Report

With great frustration, this year's SLFRF report has been submitted.

15. Multimodal Grant Application

Started the grant process for Schiller Street Slide Funding.

16. Fire Department Donation

Resolution is needed next week for processing of a check (donation) in the amount of \$1,000 for the Baden Volunteer Fire Department. Copy attached.

17. Recess Lighting

The recess lighting in the lower level is shorting out (over heating). Getting prices to replace all of the old recess lights in the building.

Public Works – Written Report

4/1/25-4/6/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Water report
- Street sweep
- Lead line inventory
- Set up new truck

4/7/25-4/12/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Street sweep
- Lead line inventory
- Work orders
- Remove plows from trucks
- Replace sweeper side broom
- Make stop temporary stop signs
- Sinkhole Sheila's parking lot

4/13/25-4/19/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Cut grass
- Cold patch roads
- Pick up garbage and sticks in parks
- Prep harmony tank for DEP inspection

4/20/25-4/30/25

- Pumps and one calls
- Clean trucks and garages
- DEP inspection
- Stone alley's
- Cut grass
- Storm clean up

Notes:

Harmony tank has passed the DEP inspection and is up and running
Flushing to start in May

Parking by Green Diamond (Dippold Street)

Doug Miller stated that he spoke to the Chief regarding the placement of no parking signs on Dippold Avenue. Elaine Rakovan stated that she needs an email/letter from the Chief stating that they did a study and recommend where the signs need to be placed.

Wall on Phillips Street

Elaine Rakovan gave an update. The email our attorney received from the property owner's attorney stated that PennDOT approved their drawings for correcting the wall. Baden has not seen the drawings and nothing has been done with wall. Our attorney has reached out to them asking for an update.

Summer Help

There are three applications for summer help. Discussion took place regarding hiring two or three summer employees.

Handicap Parking Signs

Discussion took place regarding possible unnecessary handicap signs within the borough. Recommended that summer help document where each the handicap signs are located so that the borough may confirm the need for the sign.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Dennis Baker

Not Present.

Elaine Rakovan reported that the CEO is addressing 30 high grass and 10 other issues. Annual inspections are steady and he is attending court hearings.

Fire Chief – Dennis Baker

Not Present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$217,721	Expenses \$190,438
Water Fund Balance	\$220,103	Expenses \$167,012

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 foreman accidentally killed the grass at the library with weed killer. Elaine Rakovan stated that she purchased grass paint to cover the dead areas until public works repairs the lawn.

The HVAC at the library is still not working properly. Albert's is coming back out to look at it.

The Fire Department is working on a summer reading program with the library.

The County Library System has confirmed that the Baden Library has met all of the system standards for the year.

The book sale will take place during the Community Yard Sale.

The issue between the library and school district has escalated. The library board is still attempting to schedule a meeting with the school board.

Administration / Personnel (Becky Gallagher)

Public Safety (Dawn Singleton)

BVPRD

Dawn Singleton stated that BVRPD Commission gave Pulaski Township the cost estimates to join the regional. It is promising that they will join.

The commission had the opportunity to meet the K9 Officer. The handler showed the commands which are either in French or German.

***Notice:** Dawn Singleton stated and wanted to go on record that she is utilizing attorney Vincent Restauri (attorney for Baden's Library and Zoning Board) for personal matters. Her interactions with the attorney will have no connection to Baden Borough.*

Building / Grounds / Equipment (Michael Stuban)

Storm Sewer Collapse

Elaine Rakovan explained that a storm sewer sinkhole occurred in the parking lot now owned by ARC3 Gas Company. Last summer the gas company came to the borough and asked about filling/paving the area between their two properties so that they may have driving access. At that time, they were told that a storm sewer goes between the properties so it can't be done. Now that sinkhole occurred, this is the perfect opportunity for ARC3 to accomplish what they originally wanted to do but they would need to properly route the storm sewer. The foreman and the contractor for the gas company tried to look into the sewer lines but they need to have a camera placed inside for inspection. Due to the storm sewer lines being put in by PennDOT years ago the borough does not know where or how many lines there may be, where they are coming from and where they go. It is recommended that we camera the sewer lines to get better insight on what needs to be repaired. Discussion followed.

Legionville

Michael Stuban stated that letters were sent to the President, Vice President, Secretary of Defense and Fox News asking to make Legionville a National Landmark.

PennDOT

Michael Stuban stated letters were sent to Governor and the Secretary of Transportation about PennDOT lousy service and all the problems we are having with them. PennDOT responded that they want to meet with us. We want to address the Phillips Street wall, the drainage off of Phillips Street by the trailer court, and overall dissatisfaction. Representative Matzie office will be present at the meeting because they also have problems with PennDOT. Other municipalities will be welcomed to attend the meeting. Tentatively we are looking at July 17th for the meeting.

MS4 Ordinance

Michael Stuban asked to table this until next month's meeting.

PENNVEST Loan

Michael Stuban addressed the approved Pennvest Loan. We were approved for \$3,184,700. Originally our project scope was half this amount but more was added over time and it was our hope that Pennvest would fund some of the project as a grant which did not happen. The payback amount of the loan would be \$175,755/year for the first 5 years and then \$185,520/year for the remaining 15 years. No matter what we do, making the scope of the project smaller or doing the entire project will require an increase in water rates. Another option is to not accept the loan and do nothing. Discussion took place regarding the need to fix the remaining waterlines. If we take the full loan, that should cover all of the remaining waterlines in town. It was determined that we first need to see the engineers rate study before further discussion takes place. The payment breakdown (minimum and per gallon cost) would also need to be determined. It was also noted that the USDA will have to approve our taking the loan since we have a payment obligation with them for our other loan.

MAYORS REPORT

Not Present

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

None

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dave Trzcianka reminded everyone about the Lutheran Church historical marker dedication on Saturday, May 17th at 3:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Doug Miller, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session regarding personnel at 7:11PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager