

REGULAR MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL MAY 21st, 2025

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, Doug Miller, John Shelkons, Michael Stuban, Dawn Singleton and Dave Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT: Becky Gallagher

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Judi Montell, Solicitor Jimmy Amato, Engineer Tony Sadaka, 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 asked for recognition of three individuals who were extremely helpful and great resource for putting together a successful completion of the community yard sale map. The individuals are borough office employees Michele Miketa, Sasha Diccico, and Elaine Rakovan.

Brian Coennen from 500 Beech Alley thanked council for taking action on parking situation on Dippold Avenue.

MINUTES

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 9th and 16th, 2025.

BILLS TO BE PAID

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

RESOLUTIONS

25-02 Making a declaration of official intent for capital expenditures to be reimbursed from subsequent tax-exempt borrowings (Required per PennVest for closing documents)

25-03 Processing a donation check (written to Baden Borough Manager) intended for the Baden Fire Department through Baden Solicitor's escrow (IOLTA) bank account.

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by John Shelkons, carried unanimously to adopt resolution 25-02 and 25-03

ORDINANCES – None

BIDS – None

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from Police Chief Priolo addressing the parking concern on Dippold Avenue. It is recommended to make the south side of Dippold Avenue no parking along the entire length between Beech Alley and State Street.

Motion by Doug Millet, second by Dawn Singleton, carried unanimously to place the no parking signs on Dippold Avenue and amend the parking ordinance.

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)

Summer Help

MOTION by Doug Miller, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to hire two summer help at a rate of \$18/hr.

TECHNOLOGY / PUBLIC RELATIONS / LIAISON (Joe Bosh)

Library

Joe Bosh addressed the librarians request to dig up small portion of the front yard (grass area) of the library for a science club archeology project before public works reseeds the yard.

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by John Shelkons, carried unanimously to authorize the

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL (Becky Gallagher)

Not Present

PUBLIC SAFETY (Dawn Singleton)

BVRPD

Dawn Singleton stated that the regional police department received a grant for a bullet proof vest for the K-9 officer.

BUILDING / GROUNDS / EQUIPMENT (Michael Stuban)

PennDot Meeting

Michael Stuban stated that the meeting date with PennDot will be July 17th.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. Harmony Water Storage Tank Upgrades

A. Future funding is needed to rehabilitate the Harmony Water Storage Tank. The total COSTARS quote amount is \$221,950 and we most likely will need to have a temporary water storage tank setup during construction (estimated separate cost of \$25,000).

B. The new disinfectant residual management system is in service.

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.

Borough council should decide if they want to pursue a PennVest loan or other loan for the replacement of this tank.

3. PennVest - Waterline Replacements

We are working with PennVest, the Borough Manager and the bond counsel to progress the project, moving towards closing the PennVest loan later in the year.

WEI has provided draft versions of water rate adjustment calculations for consideration by Borough Council. A rate increase is needed to support loan repayment. WEI is also working on the Certificate of Engineer Regarding Self-Liquidating Debt Report as part of the loan closing process and a draft of the report will be available in the next week. Below is our planned timeline provided to PennVest (subject to revision going forward as necessary).

Milestone	Date
Bid Advertising Date	6/11/2025
Bid Opening	7/9/2025
Award Bid at Regular Meeting	7/16/2025
Collect documents from Contractor by	8/15/2025
PennVest Closing (Settlement)	9/24/2025

Water Rates and PENNVEST Loan

Michael Stuban asked Elaine Rakovan to go over the rates.

Current Water Minimum:	\$57	New Water Minimum:	\$69
Current Additional 1K gallons:	\$8.75	New Additional 1K gallons:	\$11.90
Current Total Minimum:	\$218.25	New Total Minimum:	\$230.25

The new rates will give the funding to do the complete PennVest Project as well as take into consideration a water rate increase from Ambridge Water Authority. The last time Ambridge Water Authority raised their rates, they did not tell us and the borough had a deficit of approximately \$70,000 that year.

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Joe Bosh carried unanimously to increase the water rates as presented starting 1/1/2026.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Christ Lutheran Church

Mayor Montell stated that Michael Stuban, John Shelkons and herself attended the historical plaque dedication at Christ Lutheran. It was very nice and she was thankful to attend a present a proclamation.

Memorial Day Parade

Mayor Montell asked who all would be in attendance for the Memorial Day Dedication at the Library. Dawn Singleton and John Shelkons will attend.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dave Trzcianka commented that the town is looking horrible (high grass, garbage...) Joe Bosh stated that SharePoint has not been fully set up due to his busy work schedule. Dave Trzcianka stated that he knows a guy who is certified Code Enforcement that is looking for additional work. Council discussion followed which included bring another person on in addition to the current CEO (sharing the current CEO's hours). Council asked Elaine Rakovan if the office gets complaints about the current CEO not returning phone calls for following through. She stated that the office does get complaints, but they also explain that the CEO position is not full time. She also had a conversation with the CEO regarding knocking on the doors or placing a door hanger on the property regarding the violation instead of just sending letters. Joe Bosh felt that this is not the time to consider bring someone else on board. Joe Bosh wants to get SharePoint up and training done so there is better tracking and communication with code enforcement issues. No action was taken by council.

A resident spoke up about the condition of sidewalks. Joe Bosh stated that the code enforcement "complaint" form is online and this is the best way to send notification to the CEO.

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

John Shelkons stated that he will be contacting Deluzio's office for assistance with using the balance of the USDA funding (loan) for water tank repairs.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Michael Stuban, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted for Approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager