

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MAY 8TH, 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: Becky Gallagher, John Shelkons, Dawn Singleton, Michael Stuban and Dave Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT: Joe Bosh, Doug Miller, Mayor Judi Montell

ALSO PRESENT: Fire Chief and CEO Dennis Baker, Foreman Rodney Keenan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS - None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. **Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street**
Zoning Hearing is cancelled. Property owner is speaking with PennDOT. No update
2. **2024 Paving Project**
Contract was awarded last month. Will start next week.
3. **ARPA Grant**
2023 Report was submitted online
4. **MDIA – New Building Inspector**
June 1, 2024 is the changeover date to MDIA
5. **Tevebaugh Road Speed Limit Ordinance**
No update at this time.
6. **Schiller Street No Parking Signs**
Signs have been placed up. There were 2 complaints.
7. **Duquesne Light Project**
Met with Duquesne Light regarding their pole replacement project. 186 poles throughout Baden. Will take a year and a half to complete. Notification to residents and businesses will be handled by DQL when the time comes for switching over to the new service lines. Christmas light lines are the responsibility of the borough to take down or switch over to the new poles. The current wires are not grounded and brittle. Looking into options and cost. The DQL engineer is to reach out to us to assist us with this matter. Discussion took place that included banners, flags and Christmas lights will not be put up this year. Wiring for the Christmas lights is under review. Elaine Rakovan stated that she was waiting for a phone call from DQL engineer to discuss and get input on the wiring for Christmas lights.
8. **New Server**
The current office server can no longer have software upgrades. The software expired in 2023. Cost for a new server is approximately \$7,100. (\$4,250 for the

server and between \$1900 and \$2850 for labor, setup, install and moving of data/programs from the old server.

9. Schiller Street Slide

The Geotech company for the borough will be doing core samples this Friday.

10. USDA Water Project

No invoice for payment at this time.

11. Zoning Hearing - Billboard

Hearing for a billboard variance / conditional use under review with the attorney and discussion with the billboard company. Hearing will also include the setback variance for Kingerski. Hearing date is not set yet.

12. Right To Know Requests

Responded to 7 Right To Know Requests.

13. Ethic Statements

Reminder that Ethic Statements were due by May 1st.

14. PennVest

Up front bank loan amount for the PennVest loan/grant is \$380,000 is being worked on.

15. PIB Loan

Started the PIB Loan in the amount of \$350,000 for the street paving project. Balance of what Liquid Fuels could not cover.

16. Harmony Road Property

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

17. SPC Regional Traffic Signal Grant

Project in progress.

18. Theater

No update

19. 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.

Public Works – Written Report

4/1/24-4/7/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Continue lead line inventory
- Continue sweeping streets
- Jet Oak St
- Water samples
- Cold patch pot holes
- Clear blockage in garage sewer line
- Repair FH in Terrace and Franklin with JRC

4/8/24-4/14/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Fix Oak St stop sign
- Prepare mowers for summer

- Cut grass
- Continue sweeping
- Cold patch
- Raise Bowling Alley catch basin
- Clean catch basins
- Schiller St land slide

4/15/24-4/21/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Cut grass
- Fill pot holes alley
- Begin graveling alleys
- Pick up branches from storm
- Camilla St sewage backup
- Pull police signs from parking lot

4/22/24-4/30/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Begin flushing hydrants
- Bring tables up for voting
- Continue graveling alleys
- Investigate Bauman sinkhole
- Post Schiller St bend "No Parking"
- Put up "road closed signs" for Schiller St Ext

Notes:

Harmony tank water mixer will be delivered 5/9/24. We are waiting for a date from IXOM as to when it will be installed. Possibly in June. A few electrical and plumbing items will need to be finished once installed. IXOM engineers return after it has been installed for the initial commissioning.

Punch list items are still being finished by JRC, primarily concrete restoration for curbs. Schiller St Ext slid on 4/12/24 after all of the rain. Engineers from EJ Brenneman and Widmer are being consulted. The road will be closed until further notice. Alleys have been graveled.

Hydrant flushing has started and will continue into the middle of May.

Bucket truck failed inspection. The hydraulics needs repaired on the lift.

Two applications received for summer help.

FIRE CHIEF

Incidents / Training:

22 Incidents (April)

115 Incidents (Year to Date)

112 Training / Staffing Hours / 18 firefighters (March)

535 Training / Staffing Hours (Year to Date)

3 Smoke detector installs in April

Grants:

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. **(No Update as of the date of this report)**

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. **(No Update as of the date of this report)**

Norfolk Southern Grant - Application has been Submitted

Received notification from state representative Matzie's office that we will receive \$60,000 towards our fire station improvement project.

Due to the concerns about the hillside behind the fire station, the membership has had discussions on a new location for the addition and through much discussion amongst the members and with the Barto family we have decided that the best location for the addition would be in the area of where our existing memorial patio is in memory of Eric Barto. The plan will be to relocate the existing patio by moving it forward towards the front of the building and tie it into the area of where the flag and firefighter memorial is and to locate the new addition where the existing patio sits.

Quick Response (QRS) medical recertification site inspection through the Department of Health will take place tomorrow.

Annual NFPA ladder testing of our aerial truck took place this week and passed recertification.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Commercial Fire & Property Maintenance Inspections / Reinspection's: 30 (Year to date)
General Code Issues Addressed: 10

Working on some pretty bad Property maintenance issues pertaining to 3 different properties on Holmes Ave. Currently I do not have a feeling the owners are going to be very cooperative.

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

851 Schiller - road has been posted as no parking and it appears the property owner is starting to clean up the area some.

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. **(No Update)**

Second Street Cat issue: I have visited several times and seen only one cat in the rear of Building A. I will continue to monitor.

Will be starting the annual Mercantile Tax collection process for 2024.

43 properties will be notified by letter regarding high grass, vehicles, or structures and disrepair

Reached out to Sheets regarding complaints received about the loud music coming from the property after daylight hours waiting for them to contact me back

Performed a site visit at Harvey's earlier today regarding council concerns that were passed along to me from last month's meeting. They advised they will work to get things straightened up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$147,345	Expenses	\$189,601
Water Fund Balance	\$259,977	Expenses	\$105,062

Public Works (Doug Miller)

Not Present

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

Not Present

Administration / Personnel (Becky Gallagher)

Nothing to Report

Public Safety (Dawn Singleton)

Nothing to Report

Building / Grounds / Equipment (Michael Stuban)

Michael Stuban reported that Columbia Gas is coming into Baden in 2025 and/or 2026 replacing gas lines along Route 65 and Baden roads, including Rotteck Street, West State Street....

There is a Multimodal Grant that is due by July. It is for major road work. The borough manager will need to submit the grant application. Want to include Milton Street and or Schiller Street Extension.

Trees need to be removed from the borough property and the stump needs ground down on Tevebaugh. Cost estimate is \$3,500.

MAYORS REPORT

Not Present

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

Chief Baker asked if the fire department can start flow testing the new hydrants. Discussion took place to wait until the project is cleared and finished. There is a punch list that needs to be finished by the contractor that include repairs and restoration of hydrants.

Chief Baker noted that a hydrant on State Street is broken and needs replaced. To replace the hydrant would require shutting down half the town because the hydrant is on the main line. A highway occupancy permit will also be needed since it is on a PennDOT road.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Shingleton, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:383 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager
06/19/2024