

REGULAR MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL OCTOBER 16th, 2024

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: Mr. Bosh, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Miller, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Stuban and Mr. Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Judi Montell, Solicitor Jimmy Amato, Engineer Tony Sadaka

This meeting is being electronically recorded by the Borough Manager.

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

Beverly Kotis addressed council about the trailer that is parked on Berry Street. The trailer is blocking the view of drivers coming down Wilson Avenue and making the turn tight or impossible for larger vehicles. The CEO will be told to address this matter. The borough code states that it must be removed by November 1st.

The gentleman from Second Street addressed council about the alley along the Second Street apartments and the trees that need cut. He came to council a few months ago regarding this matter and he stated that nothing has been done. Mr. Trzcianka stated that the road crew did check into this matter and stated that the tree branches are high enough for vehicles and the borough truck to go through. His complaint was about pine cones falling from the trees and hitting the vehicles. He had two pine cones fall on his truck already. Mr. Trzcianka stated that he would drive down the alley and look into this.

MINUTES

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of August 14th, 21st and September 11th 2024

BILLS TO BE PAID

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

RESOLUTIONS

24-03 Authorizing the borough to submit a Financial Assistant Application to PENNVEST in the amount of \$3,184,700 for the Baden Borough Water System.

MOTION by Michael Stuban, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to adopt resolution 24-03

ORDINANCES – (Advertised in the Beaver County Times)

Ordinance 984 – Requiring a permit for solicitation within the borough with rules, guidelines and fines for non-compliance

Mr. Bosh addressed paperwork and using CenturyLink for background checks (noting that Concord Township using CenturyLink and he spoke to a representative from Concord Township to get more information and see how satisfied they are with CenturyLink). Baden needs a policy regarding what would disqualify a permit from the background check findings. Mr. Bosh then went over and reviewed the Ordinance with council.

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to adopt Ordinance 984.

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Dawn Singleton, carried unanimously to accept the solicitation paperwork and background documentation.

No Soliciting Window Stickers

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to purchase 5,000 window cling stickers at a cost of \$2,300

BIDS – None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance: \$336,154	Expenses: \$220,973
Water Fund Balance: \$227,186	Expenses: \$162,655

Jake Breaks

MOTION by John Shelkons, second by Becky Gallagher, to purchase two “refrain from jake break” signs at a cost not exceed \$1,000. Mr. Miller voted no. Roll Call Vote.

Roll Call – To purchase signage to refrain from using Jake Breaks on Route 65.

Mr. Bosh	No
Mrs. Gallagher	Yes
Mr. Miller	No
Mr. Shelkons	Yes
Mrs. Singleton	Yes
Mr. Stuban	Yes
Mr. Trzcianka	Yes

Five (5) yes, Two (2) no – motion carried

PennVest Loan Project

MOTION by John Shelkons, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to advertise the required information for the PennVest Loan project.

2025 MMO Pension Requirements

MOTION by John Shelkons, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to budget the 2025 MMO Pension requirements in the amount of \$52,915 for the police and \$83,011 for the non-uniform pension.

USDA Loan

MOTION by John Shelkons, second by Dawn Singleton, carried unanimously to approve requisition number 24 of the USDA Loan the amount of \$4,200.

PUBLIC WORKS (Doug Miller)

Line Painting Harmony Road

Mr. Miller discussed the cost to paint the lines on Harmony Road by an outside contractor which came in at \$6,600 which is too expensive. He confirmed with Mr. Stuban that there was one complaint regarding the need for the yellow lines to be painted on Harmony Road. Mr. Stuban stated that he has gotten complaints in the past however recently it has only been one individual. Mr. Bosh asked if the borough was obligated to paint the lines. There is no obligation. Mr. Trzcianka stated that borough doesn't paint lines anywhere else in the borough. Mr. Miller agreed and noted the cost associated with the road crew wages and the paint to appease one person.

MOTION by Micheal Stuban, second by Becky Gallagher to paint the lines on Harmony Road and Bauman Avenue. Mr. Bosh voted no.

Roll Call – To paint the yellow lines on Harmony Road and Bauman Avenue

Mr. Bosh	No
Mrs. Gallagher	Yes
Mr. Miller	No
Mr. Shelkons	No
Mrs. Singleton	Yes
Mr. Stuban	Yes
Mr. Trzcianka	No

Four (4) No, Three (3) Yes – **Motion Not Carried**

TECHNOLOGY / PUBLIC RELATIONS / LIAISON (Joe Bosh)

Website Widget

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Dawn Singleton to authorize the Course Vector to install a widget to assure compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

Code Enforcement Document System

Mr. Bosh is working Bob Bickerton at MGSoft to get a document system through Microsoft that will give easy access for the borough office to obtain CEO documents as needed as well as putting the files and documents under the supervision of borough council. He feels that there should be little to no cost to the borough for setting this up.

Library

Fundraiser letters were mailed out on October 18th.

The library will participate in the Baden Trunk or Treat on October 26th.

Recognition of the Librarian Jennifer for how much work she puts into the library and the efforts she makes for cost savings with the minimal budget that she has to work with.

The loss of funding from the Ambridge School District has made this year's budget very tight.

The county funding for next year is projected to be \$5,138. The county changed the calculation formula and this is a drop in funding from the previous years.

Discussion took place regarding trying to get Economy Borough per capita to be included in the funding calculation for the Baden Library.

The Wine and Cheese Fundraiser was over the weekend. They made over \$8500 before expenses taken out.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL (Becky Gallagher)

Beaver County Commissioners Meeting

Mrs. Gallagher attended the commissioners meeting and she noted that the community develop directed spoke about a blight renewal program where municipalities can apply for funding to renew blighted areas where municipalities can show that it will bring new neighbors or businesses to the community. There is half a million dollars set aside for this program.

Mrs. Gallagher commented that channel 2 had an exposé on the Beaver County Times Building that the commissioners want to buy. The county controller was very unhappy with the possible purchase. The building was originally purchased for \$675,000 and the commissioners want to pay \$3.2 million to buy it. An additional \$10M may be needed to bring the building up to the standards required for storing the files that are currently offsite in the mines in Wampum. They are also looking at putting the SWAT Team in the building too.

The commissioners are also looking at bringing an environmental center to the Brady's Run Park. It is supposed to attract people to move to Beaver County and bring school fieldtrips and visitors to the facility.

America 250

Mrs. Gallagher stated that the current meeting was productive. They are looking a commemorative booklet where each municipality will have two pages in the booklet.

Mrs. Gallagher stated that she would like to go into executive session at the end of the meeting regarding personnel.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Dawn Singleton)

Dawn Singleton made a motion to approve the QRS Unit for Emergency Response from home. (Fire Department presented to council during work session)

Mr. Trzcianka questioned the motion and asked if we ever got an explanation of the benefit to Baden if the responder lives out of town. Mrs. Gallagher stated that this is emergency medical response to Baden residents. Mr. Trzcianka commented that 2 air miles can translate to 5 or 6 road miles. Discussion followed regarding response time. Mr. Trzcianka commented that this will burn out the responders who are covering for ambulance calls. Mr. Stuban commented to table this motion until next month and he noted that he totally supports the QRS Unit because one life saved is worth it. Mrs. Singleton stated that she has a motion on the floor.

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Becky Gallagher to approve the QRS Unit for Emergency Response from home. (Fire Department presented to council during work session) Mr. Trzcianka voted no.

Roll Call – To approve the QRS Unit

Mr. Bosh	Yes
Mrs. Gallagher	Yes
Mr. Miller	Yes
Mr. Shelkons	Yes
Mrs. Singleton	Yes
Mr. Stuban	Yes
Mr. Trzcianka	No

Six (6) Yes, One (1) No – **Motion Carried**

Mr. Bosh noted that he has no problem asking for detailed monthly reports regarding the QRS Unit.

BUILDING / GROUNDS / EQUIPMENT (Michael Stuban)

BVRPD 2025 Budget

Michael Stuban went over the BVRPD 2025 Budget. He noted that the retirement incentive for Chief Adam Johnston does not effect this budget. The increase is due to wages, healthcare increase of 5% and the overall police pension went up \$302,000. This is the first year that Baden is paying into the regional pension because for 2023 and 2024 Baden has paid into the police pension through our budget due to the 2 year lag in pension contribution calculations.

Mr. Stuban made a motion to accept the BVRPD 2025 Budget.

Mr. Trzcianka questioned the costs associated with the K9 Officer and what happens when there is not enough money fundraised to support the K9. Discussion and concerns followed including what is budgeted for the K9. Mr. Stuban noted that the K9 is not included in the budget because it is a separate account.

Mr. Stuban explained that any change to the budget would have to come before the individual municipalities to approve at that time.

There was no second to Mr. Stuban’s motion to approve the BVRPD 2025 Budget. Mrs. Rakovan was told to notify the BVRPD that the budget was not approved by Baden.

Multimodal Grant

- **MOTION** by Michael Stuban, second by Joe Bosh, carried unanimously to approve a resolution that will meet the requirements of the Multimodal Grant Application

Lead Lines

Mr. Stuban went over the PennVest Loan and DEP input that requires the borough to determine if lead lines are present and who is responsible for replacement of the private service lines. He commented that the borough is not responsible for private lines from the curb stop to the house. A letter is being sent to the residents regarding confirmation of what their service line is made of.

Political Signs

Discussion took place regarding not placing political signs on borough property. Mr. Stuban commented that years ago council agreed that political signs are not permitted on borough property except along the borough driveway on election day. Discussion followed and there was no change to this matter.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Nothing to Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. Paving Project

The paving project is complete and is being closed out.

2. DEP Water System Notice of Violation (NOV) – Harmony Water Storage Tank Upgrades

The disinfectant residual management system can't receive an operations permit from DEP until an operator with the appropriate class and subclass is lined up to cover operations.

3. PennVEST - Waterline Replacements

WEI submitted plans and specifications to PADEP on 9/30/24 along with other items required to make the application complete by the 10/30/24 PennVEST application cutoff date.

The anticipated schedule going forward has the following milestone dates:

Plans and Specifications Submittal to DEP	9/30/2024 (Complete)
Pennvest Application Cut-off Date	10/30/2024
Pennvest Board Meeting Date (Approval of Project)	1/22/2025
Anticipated Construction Start Date	5/15/2025

4. Philips street

Pipe repair was completed. Cost for slip lining was provided to the borough manager.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report

PRESIDENTS REPORT

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

- **Resident Letter Regarding the BVRPD**

Discussion took place regarding notifying the residents that the Baden representatives did not vote to give the police chief the retirement incentive. Sending a letter or posting to social media was discussed. It was determined to post the letter to social media and if needed a letter may be sent later. Discussion took place regarding the legal guidelines of posting to social media.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session at 7:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted for Approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager
November 20, 2024