

# **PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup>, 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:** Becky Gallagher, Doug Miller, John Shelkons, Dawn Singleton, Michael Stuban and Dave Trzcianka

**NOT PRESENT:** Joe Bosh

**ALSO PRESENT:** Manager Elaine Rakovan

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES**

## **AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)**

## **VISITORS**

No Visitors

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Manager**

1. **PennVest Waterline Project Loans**  
Closing was on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Pre-construction meeting was held. Contractor to begin the second or third week of October.
2. **Non-Uniform Union Contract**  
Council has been given a final copy for review. Motion will be needed next week for signing.
3. **Resolution**  
There will be a resolution next week authorizing the borough to apply for the Statewide Local Share Assessment grant for the repair of storm sewers on Phillips Street.
4. **2026 Liquid Fuels**  
The estimated liquid fuels allocation for 2026 is \$118,935.70.
5. **2026 Veterans Day (Calendar)**  
The council pre-meeting will fall on Veterans Day (office closed) next year. Does council wish to move the pre-meeting day, keep it as is, or not have a pre-meeting?
6. **Straube Avenue Erosion**  
The engineer viewed the erosion area on Straube Avenue. The repair is within our right of way. Recommendation to have the solicitor send a letter to the property owner.
7. **Bauman Avenue**  
The engineer viewed Bauman Avenue on September 29<sup>th</sup> after the resident addressed the safety concern of putting yellow lines on the street. After a visual inspection and taking into consideration sight distance he does recommend yellow lines on the bend portion of Bauman Avenue.

**8. Fire Department Urinal Repair**

Two quotes have been supplied by the fire department. One is to repair the urinal only (\$409.07) and the other is to replace everything (\$2,282.71). The fire department is requesting that everything be replaced due to the age of the fixtures.

**9. Resignation**

Tom Cordell submitted his resignation on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. His last day was October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**10. Schiller Street Extension**

Under the guidance of the engineer, public works opened Schiller Street Extension with barriers and stop signs near the slide area. One complaint was received from a resident complaining about speeding on Schiller Street and they are requesting that a speed bump be placed on the road.

**11. State Aid**

Pension State Aid was received in Septembers. Final payment of \$52,915 (\$12,920.00 Baden and \$39,994.01 State Aid) was sent to the PSABMRT for the police pension. The balance of the state aid was sent to the PSABMRT to offset the MMO for the non-uniform pension.

**12. Fire Relief Funding**

The state funding of \$21,544.99 was received on September 17<sup>th</sup>, online documents submitted and payment was made to the fire department.

**13. No Parking Sign Ordinance Update**

Now that the PennVest Loan paperwork is complete, the engineer will start reviewing and make recommendations for no parking locations and signage on the borough streets.

**14. Building/Parking Lot Lights Replacement/ Repairs**

Choice Contracting did not include the driveway lights in their original quote because the lights are connected to the fire department. They are going to supply a quote.

**15. Back Door Replacement**

The door has been replaced.

**16. Police Department Phones**

The BVRPD do not need the phones in the police department. We are under contract with the phones so I have reached out to the company to see what is involved with removing the three phones from the current contract and what cost would be associated with it. The cost would be covered by the BVRPD.

**17. Bucket Truck**

Waiting on the part to be shipped.

**18. Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street**

Our zoning attorney is communicating with PennDOT's and the property owner's attorney.

**19. Street Opening Ordinance**

Open item. Needs updated.

**20. Ambridge Water Authority Rate Increase**

Reached out to AWA asking them to update the contract and give calculations for our charges.

## **Public Works – Written Report**

### **9/1/25 - 9/7/25**

- Pumps and one calls
- Water Samples
- Lead Line Inventory
- Grass Cutting/Trimming
- Build Barricades
- Clean Curb Drain Rotteck St. (Full of Dirt/Rocks)

### **9/8/25 - 9/14/25**

- Pumps and one calls
- Water Samples & Reports
- Hydrant Painting
- Set up for Fall Festival
- Replace Garbage Cans
- Shutoffs
- Grass Cutting/Trimming

### **9/15/25 - 9/21/25**

- Pumps and one calls
- Winterize Yellow Tractor
- Dump truck maintenance
- Bury Multiple Road Kill Deer
- Water samples
- Clean up from Fall Festival (Tents, Banners, Barricades, etc.)
- Hand weed Baden Memorial Library
- Borough Building Ceiling Tile Replacements
- Preventative Sewer Jetting
- Hydrant Painting

### **9/22/25 - 9/30/25**

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Jetter Maintenance
- Meter Reading
- Grass Cutting/Trimming
- Barricade slide and re-open Schiller Street with Stop Signs
- Pre Construction Water Project Meeting at Borough Building
- Meter Reading Work Order Call Backs/Rechecks

### **Notes:**

Tom Cordell resigned his position as Water Operator in Charge at Baden Public Works. Salt spreader on 2013 Ford F550 was replaced with a new stainless steel salt spreader at US Municipal Supply.

Schiller Street Extension slide was barricaded, cleaned, and partially reopened with stop signs on both sides of slide barricade.

### **Code Enforcement - Not Present**

Michael Stuban reported that there are 4 or 5 hearings scheduled for the Monday before elections. Michael Stuban plans to attend the hearings.

### **Fire Chief - Not Present**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$308,182	Expenses	\$256,539
Water Fund Balance	\$161,552	Expenses	\$56,574

John Shelkons stated that he got a phone call from Patsy Borriello complaining about leaves being blown onto his property and sidewalk by the Mr. Eichhorn who owns the property across the street. Elaine Rakovan stated that Patsy called her and she documented his complaint. Patsy did not see the leaves being blown. She told him that he needs proof and/or a witness to confirm his claim. Michael Stuban stated that he needs to call the Code Enforcement Officer regarding this matter.

### Public Works (Doug Miller)

Doug Miller stated that being short one employee is changing vacation plans for the public works employees and they are asking if they can carry over some of the time off to next year.

There is a sinkhole at Virginia Avenue and Second Street. Public works has to wait until the PA One Call is complete because they need to dig up the area to figure out what is causing the sinkhole. They plan to dig up the area on Tuesday.

Discussion took place regarding advertising for the open public works position.

### Technology / Public Relations / Liaison (Library, Parks & Rec., M/A) (Joe Bosh)

Not present.

### Public Safety (Dawn Singleton)

#### **BVPRD**

Dawn Singleton stated that BVRPD Commission approved the 2026 budget which shows a 2% savings from the 2025 budget. She asked for council to review the budget for approval at next week's meeting.

Dawn Singleton mentioned that the municipalities with the regional police department are interested in joining together to hire regional code enforcement officer.

### Administration / Personnel (Becky Gallagher)

Nothing to report.

### Building / Grounds / Equipment (Michael Stuban)

#### **BVRPD Pension**

Michael Stuban stated that the questions he presented to the regional police commission president, Scott Levenson have not been addressed. He would like to ask our solicitor to review this matter.

## **MAYORS REPORT**

Not Present

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

Elaine Rakovan commented that she has still not received water rates and contract from Ambridge Water Authority. Discussion followed.

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Dawn Singleton, second by Becky Gallagher, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting 6:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan  
Borough Manager