

# PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

**NOTE: The Regular Meeting Scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> was cancelled  
Lack of Quorum**

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:** Foreman Rodney Keenan, CEO and Fire Chief Dennis Baker

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

## AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

## VISITORS

Beverly Kotys asked about ordinances regarding burning because her neighbor burns in a barrel on the weekends. She also asked about campers being parked on the streets. There is a large camper parked on Berry Street by Wilson that is obstructing traffic and large vehicles like the garage truck will not be able to turn onto Berry Street from Wilson. CEO, Dennis Baker read the code to her regarding when campers may be parked on street. As fire chief, Dennis Baker stated that he will look into the neighbor who is using a burn barrel.

She also stated that she attend the Ambridge School Board meeting and asked about the Baden Library Funding. She was told it was a safety concern regarding the library that caused the decision to not fund the Baden Library. Council explained and stated that it is a legal matter.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### Manager

#### 1. Water Bills

Water bills will be mailed out by Monday at the latest.

#### 2. Phillips Street Sink Hole

Repaired is complete. The storm sewers crossing under Phillips Street need repaired/slip lined. Cost estimate for slip line is \$80,000.

#### 3. PennVest / Paving Project Loans

Loan is done. Engineer is moving forward with the project paperwork. Letter of Responsibility needs to be submitted by the borough. Resolution authorizing to submit a Financial Assistance Application to PennVest will be on next week's agenda for adoption as well as a Land Use Review letter by our Planning Board. A motion will need to be done next week to advertise that regarding environmental impact on the borough.

**4. Ordinances**

Street Opening Ordinance – council “Joe Bosh” to review  
Solicitation Ordinance – Advertised, can adopt next week  
Parking Ordinance – Section 180-3 needs to include the word trailers – Next week will need a motion to advertise for adoption.

**5. Keyless Entry and Cameras**

M&P gave pricing for updated door locks and cameras. Camera system quote is \$7,332 and Keyless entry is \$9,385.

**6. Beaver County GIS Data Sharing**

The county is offering a GIS Data Distribution Software for the purpose of sharing data for the Beaver County GIS Infrastructure Project. Contacted Widmer to work with the sharing of the data.

**7. 2025 MMO**

The Pension MMO obligation for the police is \$52,915. We will receive state aid that will be deposited into the regional pension plan and the difference will be paid by the BVRPD. The non-uniform MMO obligation is \$83,011.

**8. Water Tanks**

Southern Corrosion Engineered Tank Care will be supplying an estimate for the care and repair of our water tanks.

**9. PA Fire Relief**

We received \$18,712.67 for the PA Fire Relief. The funds have already been given to the fire department.

**10. 2023 Liquid Fuels Audit**

The 2023 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Audit was completed in September. There were no findings.

**11. Storm Damage**

Insurance company is cutting a check for approximately \$60,000 to cover the damage costs.

**12. Schiller Street Slide**

No Update

**13. Duquesne Light Project**

Stilling taking place. No Update

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

No Update

**15. USDA Water Project**

Possible requisition for payment next week.

**16. Theater**

No update

**17. Utility Billing Ordinance Update**

No Update

Mr. Trzcianka asked about the cameras on Route 65. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she did file a claim with the insurance company for the BVRPD and the claim is approved. It is the responsibility of the BVRPD to take care of the cameras.

Mrs. Rakovan went over the lead line mandate and a letter that the borough needs to send out to the residents by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed.

## Public Works – Written Report

### 9/1/24-9/14/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Quarterly water shut offs
- Cut grass
- Water tank inspections

### 9/15/24-9/21/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Quarterly water meter reads
- Help in repair of Phillips St sink hole/storm pipe
- Set up for festival

### 9/22/24-9/30/24

- Pumps and one calls
- Continue water meter reads
- Clean up from festival
- Fix prospect pump valve
- Truck maintenance
- Clean garages
- Grease backhoe
- Cold patch roads
- Lead line inventory

#### Notes:

Lead line inventory has been uploaded (10/7/24) before the deadline of Oct 16. Residents will need notified of “unknown” service lines before November 15, 2024.

Phillips St sink hole/storm pipe has been repaired and paved.

Still waiting to hear back from DEP about Harmony tank licensing.

Foreman, Rodney Keenan stated that Traffic Systems would buy all of the storm damaged traffic lights and traffic control boxes for \$1,500. Mr. Trzcianka stated that we do not know the value and should get another company to take a look at it and give a price.

Mr. Stuban asked about the overtime for the RAFA System. Rodney Keenan explained that the alarm is going off for high tank readings which requires going to the water tanks. He said that the company is coming to install an update to the software.

Mr. Stuban asked Rodney Keenan if he purchased the yellow paint. Rodney Keenan stated that he did not. After discussion, Mr. Trzcianka asked Rodney to get a price for a company to come in and paint the lines on all of Harmony Road and Bauman Avenue. He also told him to order the paint.

## FIRE CHIEF – Written Report

### Incidents / Training:

33 Incidents (September)

252 Incidents (Year to Date)

92 Training / Staffing Hours / 20 firefighters (August)

1,076 Training / Staffing Hours ( Year to Date)

4 Smoke detector installations are scheduled for this month

### 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. **AWARDS ARE COMPLETE. WE WERE UNSUCCESSFUL THIS YEAR**

The 2024/2025 Office of State Fire Commission Grant Application Period is Open. I am in the process of completing the application. (awards amount can be up to \$20,000)

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 - The application has been Submitted **(Awarded \$10,000 towards rescue equipment upgrade project)**

We are in the process of obtaining quotes for the addition to the fire station, which will be funded by a grant obtained through Representative Matzie's office. Met with the State on Sept 5th to verify the award process. **(Awarded \$135,000)**

Annual Pump Testing on Engine 47 and Tower 47 was completed. The Engine passed, and the Tower needs to valves rebuilt to pass the vacuum test.

The structural Burn Class will be held in November on Harmony Road. Additionally, I received an offer to utilize the Old Knights of Columbus building at the end of Lincoln for a burn class, and we will also explore this option.

The Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition (VRSR) recertification Application has been submitted. We are still waiting for the State to come perform a site inspection.

Mr. Trzcianka asked how many fire inspections still need to be completed. Dennis Baker stated that he has 15 that have not contacted him.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Commercial Fire & Property Maintenance Inspections / Reinspection's: 54 (Year to date)  
9 currently scheduled to be completed before the end of the year  
General Code Issues Addressed: 76 (Year to date)  
General Code Issues Abated: 56 (Year to date)

Four citations have been issued on unresolved property issues. (Two hearings are scheduled for this month.)

We are starting to have a cat issue again on Kellinger. I spoke with the owner of the rental property, and they are working to address the issue.

The trash issue on Jefferson should be taken care of after today.  
Working to address stormwater runoff from WEN Massage onto Monte Cello Property, which is causing damage to their rear parking area.

*423 Moore Ave* - The property was Condemned due to Hoarding / Sanitation and Fire Safety Concerns. The property owners are in the process of cleaning out the building.

Drafting violation notice to address exterior property issues on the Old Theater Building. (This is still in process as I ensure that it covers all bases regarding local codes and ordinances.

Mr. Miller addressed a complaint he received about cats being fed on Kellinger Drive. Dennis Baker stated that he spoke to the landlord and it is being taken care of. Dennis stated that all he can do is fine the person feeding the cats under the nuisance code.

Mrs. Singleton stated that there is a black chicken roaming the streets by Prospect Street.

Mr. Shelkons asked about the property along Tevebaugh Road that has a yard filled with junk and asked that Dennis Baker address this matter and put a time limit on cleaning it up.

Mrs. Gallagher asked Dennis Baker to get in contact with the realtor who is selling the house next to her to make sure that the hillside in the back of the property is cleaned up where the homeowner dumped junk.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance (John Shelkons)**

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

### **Public Works (Doug Miller)**

Nothing to Report

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

**Widget for Website** - Mr. Bosh stated that presented a written report for the regular meeting that did not take place. In that report he addressed the need to put a widget on the website to keep the website in compliance with accessibility. The annual cost will go up from \$700 to \$1,300. A motion will need to be made at the regular meeting.

**Newsletter** - Mr. Bosh stated that the next newsletter will be going out April 1<sup>st</sup> and all articles needs to be in by the end of January. He handed out a list of contacts to get articles for the newsletter and asked that if there are any additional contacts to let him know so he may add them to the list.

**Calendar** - Mr. Bosh confirmed that the 2025 calendar is ready to print.

**No Soliciting Stickers** - Mr. Bosh presented the cost to purchase no solicitating stickers (window cling) for the residents. The cost is \$2,300 for 5,000. He will make a motion next week to purchase the stickers.

**No Soliciting Ordinance** – Mr. Bosh presented a sample from Concord Township's soliciting ordinance which requires the applicant to supply a background check from SENTRYLINK. It will cost the applicant \$20. The background check will need to be submitted with the application to the borough. The background check must be done within two weeks from date of submission to the borough. Mr. Bosh will update the ordinance. Mr. Bosh stated that the attorney was concerned with making sure that there is a policy in place that would constitute a denial of a permit. We cannot be inconsistent with the applicant. Discussion followed.

**No Knock List** – Discussion took place regarding having a do not knock. This will be addressed at a later time. It was decided to first get the No Solicitation Ordinance done first.

### **Administration / Personnel (Becky Gallagher)**

**Letter Regarding BVRPD** - Becky Gallagher read a sample letter that she felt the residents of Baden needed to received so that they may be informed about the regional police commission awarding by a majority vote to give the police chief a \$91,300 retirement bonus and that the Baden Borough Council representative voted NO to the motion. The letter also addresses that this does not reflect on the excellent work that the Beaver Valley Regional police officers accomplish each and every day and night to ensure our safety.

Council members made comments regarding what they felt should be included in the letter and who should sign the letter. The letter will be addressed at the regular meeting after council had time to think about it.

*(Mr. Miller left the meeting at 7:15 PM.)*

**Commissioners Meeting** – Mrs. Gallagher stated that she attended the commissioner meeting. The commissioners are looking at purchasing the Beaver County Times building at a cost of \$1.8M. It is being purchased for storage so they will not need to utilize the storage facility at the salt mines. Mrs. Gallagher stated that we as taxpayers and citizens need to be aware of where the money is being spent.

**Public Safety (Dawn Singleton)**

**BVRPD Meeting** - Dawn Singleton stated that the next BVRPD meeting will be tomorrow, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Conway Borough building.

**Borough Park** – Mrs. Singleton addressed her feelings about giving the borough park back to the school district since the school does not want to sell (give) the property to the borough. Discussion followed regarding the original agreement with the school district that needs to be found.

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

**Regional Police Budget** – Michael Stuban went over the BVRPD Police Budget which is \$554,000 more than last years budget. Baden’s cost is up \$150,000 at this time. He stated that there are some costs that are questionable so there may be changes. Mr. Stuban gave examples of overtime and holiday cost.

**Library Wine & Cheese Fundraiser** - Mr. Stuban reminded everyone that the library event will be taking place this Saturday at the Lion’s Club.

**2025 Budgets** - Mr. Stuban briefly went over the water and general fund budget. The water fund is balanced. The general fund is not balance. Council was asked to look over the draft budget to discuss at a later date.

**Meeting With Representative Deluzio** - Mr. Stuban stated that he, Mr. Shelkons and Mrs. Rakovan met with representatives for Deluzio’s office to address grant funding for assistance with borough projects. Also discussed joint grants with other communities for equipment and services.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Not Present

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

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Nothing to report

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Michael Stuban, second by Dawn Singleton, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session regarding personnel at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan  
Borough Manager  
11/13/2024