

PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 13TH , 2023

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

NOT PRESENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Montell, Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Chief, Denise Baker

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS – None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. Public Works

The new pump on State Street was making a grinding (bearing) noise. Switched over to the backup pump and called PumpMan to look at the newer pump. Not sure if it is still under warrantee.

2. Prospect Tank Water Pump Estimate

Estimate from PumpMan is \$31,238

3. Property Encroachment Letters

Before we send out any letters, all of the property lines need to be marked. Asked Widmer to place more markers on the individual properties. Need to follow-up with the engineer.

4. Wall – Corner of Lincoln Avenue and Phillips Street

Building Inspector will send citation letter next week since the property owner has made no attempt to supply requested document or fill out paperwork. PennDOT did their own visual check existing from Lincoln Avenue onto Phillips Street and it does not meet the visual distance guidelines. The PennDOT official noted that their attorney will be sending the property owner a letter too.

5. Westview Tevebaugh Road Paving Project

The contractors have started preliminary work. They are keeping the foreman informed. The contractor will build up a curb around the storm water catch basins that public works installed.

6. Utility Billing

Water Shut-off was pushed back to this week due to the 4 water breaks within a few days. There were approximately 50 customers on the shut-off list. Meter Reading for the next billing cycle has already started.

7. S&P Rating

Will be having zoom meeting on Friday with the representatives from Standard & Poor's to go over our financial records and credit rating.

8. Bank Accounts

Spoke with our representative at WesBanco and asked if our accounts could be switched to interest bearing accounts because I saw that First National Bank was offering it. We now have interest being earned on the majority of our bank accounts.

9. Harvest Festival

Letter from Dawn Singleton, Harvest Festival Chairperson requesting the use of the borough building for their event on October 14, 2023.

10. 2024 Liquid Fuels Allocation

Letter from the DEP announcing next year's allocation estimate in the amount of \$122,095.05.

11. Plan review for Sheetz Rebuild and Wrigth Real Estate by BC Planning Commission

The plans have reviewed by the county planning commission with minor comments to be addressed by the property owner. The building inspector has been notified.

12. Theater

No update.

13. Utility Billing Ordinance Update

No update.

14. SPC Regional Traffic Signal Grant

No update.

15. Beaver County ARPA Municipal Infrastructure Grants

We received a letter on February 21, 2023 from the county stating that the \$204,000 ARPA funding must be spent by December 31, 2024. This money carries with it, a 20% contribution by the borough. NO UPDATE

16. Harmony Road Property

The county updated the borough cost to a lower amount. Need to get the school district to sign off on the form. NO UPDATE

17. H2O Grant

NO UPDATE

18. T-Mobile

Emails and documentation from previous T-Mobile representatives have been sent to the solicitor.
NO UPDATE.

19. Emergency Alert System

Mr. Bosh asked if there was an update on an emergency alert system. Mr. Rakovan stated that she did go online to research what options we may have. Some of them are too extensive for what we need. She stated that she would email Mr. Bosh what she found.

Public Works – written report

8/1/23 - 8/6/23

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Replace pipe on Tevebaugh

- Boil water advisory water samples
- Cut grass
- Mortar around drain pipes replaced on Tevebaugh
- Bauman water break
- Sewer jet Mr. Jim's manhole (111-110)

8/7/23 - 8/13/23

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Clean up from Bauman water break
- Install water tap on Jefferson for new buildings
- Fix broken valve on Jefferson St
- Cut grass
- Flush meters and hydrants for Jefferson water valve repair
- Replace Bauman River gravel trench with tighter packing material
- Cold patch streets
- Meet with Jason Dailey from the State

8/14/23 - 8/20/23

- Pumps and one calls
- Cut grass
- Organize Pole barn
- Water meter work orders
- Prep paint machine
- Begin painting crosswalks

8/21/23 - 8/31/23

- Pumps and one calls
- Water samples
- Paint crosswalks
- Paint "slow school"
- Begin flushing hydrants
- Paint parking lots
- Weed wacked Tevebaugh Road
- Storm clean up in State St park area
- Repair sink hole/catch basin on 4th and North
- Clean curbs in preparation for yellow paint
- Cut grass

Backhoe delivery has been delayed due to a backorder on parts

Tevebaugh Hollow road paving has been pushed back to mid-September

Electric has been run for Harmony Tank chlorine system. All that is left is to plumb in the chlorine tank and run water lines to top of the tank.

The sink hole/catch basin has been repaired at the intersection of 4th Street and North Ave. There was collapsed terracotta pipe. Approximately 14ft of pipe and the catch basin were replaced.

One more catch basin needs to be repaired at the corner of 4th and North before the 4th Street before water line project begins.

The North and West State street and 4th Street water line project is scheduled to begin September 18 by Stefanik contracting.

Crosswalks, arrows, parking lots and slow school zone has been painted white.

Double yellow lines and curbs are planned to be painted this month.

Hydrant flushing was started in the middle of August. This will take a couple weeks to complete.

Jules Tree Service is taking down 6 trees in the park which were wind damaged by the last storm.

The bucket truck was leaking a significant amount of diesel and requires repairs.

Water shut offs and water meter reading to be done in September.

September plans are to:

- Continue flushing hydrants
- Paint yellow lines and curbs
- Assist Stefanik during water line installation
- Assist Iron City Contracting with catch basin repairs on State St and Bauman
- Assist company paving Tevebaugh
- Continue cutting grass
- Repair 4th Street catch basin
- Quarterly water shut offs
- Quarterly water meter reads

FIRE CHIEF

Incidents / Training:

23 Incidents (August)

201 Incidents (Year to Date)

80 Training Hours / 15 firefighters (August)

Grants:

2021 FEMA AFG Grant: no updates

2021 FEMA SAFER Grant: no updates

The 2022 FEMA AGF application: grant awards are still being issued.

The 2023 State Fire Commission Grant is now open and will begin the application process soon. They have also increased the max amount from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The Local Share Account Statewide Program (gaming funds) Grant application has started; I am waiting for a few quotes and other items needed for the application.

General:

Started Hydrant Flow Testing; we put further flow testing on hold due to multiple water breaks.

Council instructed the chief to continue with the flow testing of the hydrants.

Our Annual Motorcycle was another big success.

Technical Rescue update: Last mentioned about a year ago, we have been spending time restructuring and reorganizing the Technical Rescue Team. Efforts are being made to downsize the amount of equipment carried among the three departments, eliminate duplication of equipment, and upgrade some existing equipment. In addition, as part of this process, the fire department is working on an agreement with the Aliquippa Bureau of Fire and the City of Aliquippa to transfer ownership of the Technical Rescue Truck owned by the BVFD to the City of Aliquippa. In return, the BVFD will receive all proceeds from selling all equipment and the enclosed technical rescue trailer currently owned by the Aliquippa Bureau of Fire / City of Aliquippa. Through this process, the vehicle we currently own will remain an available resource to the BVFD without the associated maintenance, insurance, fuel, and repair costs burdened to the BVFD and Borough of Baden. Additionally, should the Aliquippa Bureau of the Fire / City of Aliquippa choose to sell the vehicle over the next five years, half the proceeds will be paid to the BVFD.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

125 Code Issues have been addressed (Year to Date)

100 of those have been abated

25 are still in progress

AWT, we have a few issues with some living conditions that I am working on with the Association. In the process of working with CYS and another agency assisting this family to address the conditions of Unit 43. (Still in Progress)

Due to the horrific living conditions found at Unit 161 during a recent medical call, this unit was condemned and the report is on the CEO clipboard. I am working with AWT Board to address the issues. The Mayor also stopped by to see the conditions found in person. (Still in Progress)

1010 4th Street. Next of Kin addresses were provided to the magistrate (Need to speak with the solicitor)

533 Ehman. Reinspection was completed on 2/28/23 (they are still addressing a few items on the interior.) (Will most likely be lifting the condemnation of this property upon final inspection within the next few weeks.) (At the property management company's request, an inspection was performed a few weeks ago. None of the interior violations were addressed. The property is now under new management)

851 Schiller - Starting to receive complaints again. Will speak with the property owner and follow up with a letter and citation if needed..(Letter Sent, awaiting response before issuing a citation)

755 Schiller. Mortgage Company PA Housing Finance Agency has Safeguard Properties taking care of securing and preservation of the property. (no current updates)

423 Moore Ave - Complaint filled with DEP regarding the property's condition. An Exterior inspection was completed on 2/16/23 also spoke with the complainant. A letter was sent to the property owner on 2/16/23 and also sent to DEP, so they are aware it is being addressed. (No response to a letter from the property owner, will be issuing a citation. Multiple Attempts have been made to contact the property owner. (Final attempt made in contacting property owner, with no response I will be issuing a citation)

1016 Phillips - House Fire - Renovations have started.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance	\$400,708	Expenses \$316,486
Water Fund Balance	\$393,287	Expenses \$252,779

Mr. Shelkons addressed a request he got from Mr. Hawk who lives on Jones Avenue. Mr. Hawk wants to cut a few trees (saplings) down that are on the paper alley beside his house and wants the borough's approval to cut them down. There was no issue with Mr. Hawk cutting down the trees as the borough does not maintain the said alley.

Public Works, Sanitation & Municipal Authority (John Jones)

Water Breaks

Mr. Trzcianka addressed his concern with all of the public works employees staying out for water break repairs when a contractor is doing the repair. Discussion followed.

Conversation took place regarding the best means to notify residents of water breaks. Mrs. Rakovan commented that she did ask our emergency response manager, Matt Loftus to look into an emergency alert system. Chief Baker stated that the fire department was looking into an alert system.

Mr. Jones asked if the end of 3rd Street was cleaned up per last months residential complaint.

Technology, Social Media, Library & Community Relations (Joe Bosh)

Newsletter – Will start to work on it soon.

Shared File Location – Mr. Bosh addressed getting a shared file location for councilmembers to see documents and comment on them if needed. He explained how this could be done through a cloud service. Mr. Bosh is researching the cost for a host platform.

Library –

The library is having a literary cocktail tasting event on Friday September 22nd. The library is also applying for a \$10,000 accessibility grant. Mr. Shelkons informed Council about the sealant that they will be purchasing for the library walkway.

Administration & Legislation (Doug Miller)

Nothing to report

General Government, Building Property/Grounds, Parks & Rec (Dawn Singleton)

Mrs. Singleton stated that the Baden American Legion thanks council for closing State Street for the 9/11 Ceremony.

Harvest Festival is coming along. There will be two meetings this month to get the details of the festival completed.

Public Safety (Michael Stuban)

BVRPD 2024 Budget

Mr. Stuban stated that the proposed 2024 BVRPD Budget has been given to council members for and a motion will be needed at the regular meeting for approval. The Baden 2024 cost to be budgeted will be \$758,598.40.

BVRPD Rochester Township

Mr. Stuban stated that the borough will need to ratify at the regular meeting the joining of Rochester Township to the BVRPD effective September 1, 2023.

Pennvest Water Line List

Mr. Stuban stated that a list of additional roads that need waterlines was given to the engineer for cost estimates so that council may consider getting a Pennvest loan.

Tree Removal

Mr. Stuban stated that trees need to be removed along the driveway (overcrowded, branches hitting vehicles / fire trucks and light blocking). The estimate is \$6000 to remove and stump grind 8 trees and trim the remaining trees along the driveway.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Montell said that the 9/11 Ceremony was very nice. The fire & police department, as well as the legion did a very nice job.

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Trzcianka stated that the people on Lincoln Avenue are requesting a children at play sign.

Mr. Trzcianka stated that he understands that it doesn't meet PennDot specifications but he felt that the crosswalk needs to be painted on Virginia Avenue by Punks for daycare and signs that say yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk be put up.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Jones, second by Mr. Bosh, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary