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PRE MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL JANUARY 19, 2015

Council President Judy Montell called the Pre-Meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Baden Municipal Building, 149 State Street, to conduct business of general purposes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT: Mr. Besong, Mr. Kotula, Mrs. Michaels, Mr. Stuban, Mr. Trzcianka, Mrs. Villella and Mrs. Montell (Not Present: Mr. Besong)

ALSO PRESENT: Assistant Fire Chief Pat McFarland

Acknowledgement of Recordings

VISITORS - None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

BOROUGH SECRETARY

Mrs. Rakovan informed Council of the following:

- Water bills were mailed out. Due date is February 2nd.
- Friday January 23rd at 10:00 AM she will be meeting with the Utility Software Company to set discuss and set up a transition plan.
- February 5th at 10:00 AM CGAS would like to meet with the secretary, Foreman and interested Council members regarding their services and plans.
- 2015 Borough Calendar is available.
- Kim Turnley showed Mrs. Rakovan the basics for setting up Quick Books. She commented that she is still entering the code numbers. Once this is complete she will be able start cutting checks from Quick Books. Mrs. Turnley said that she will be doing the borough audit in March and at that time she will assist in setting up the budget formatting and beginning balances.
- Transition to the ESB will take place one we have Quick Books running.
- Asbestos Testing at 330 State Street has been done. We are waiting on the results.
- The floors upstairs and downstairs were done by Emerick. Mrs. Rakovan stated that they did a good job last time so she asked them to do it again. Painting of the Community Room is currently being done. Mrs. Rakovan contacted Dave Kolar to do it because he painted the Borough Building for us in the past and he kept his price the same.
- Mrs. Rakovan is looking for a window cleaning service for the building.
- The old historical pictures that were in the back room have been taken to be framed.
- The Statement of Financial Interest has been place in the Council's packets. They are due back to the secretary by May 1st.
- Correspondence was received from the PUC regarding the Pinney Street Bridge. It is a summary of what the railroad needs to do and have submitted to the PUC. This includes a bridge inspection.
- Crossing Guard Sarah put her two week notice in for morning crossing guard at the intersection of Harmony Road and State Street.
- The Ambridge Chamber of Commerce is having their annual wine and chocolate walk on Valentine's Day from 2:00 to 5:00. Tickets are \$20 each or two for \$35.
- Board Openings – Zoning Board, John Dodaro stated that he would like to be reappointed. An alternate is still needed. Library Board – Don Kinunnen does not wish to be reappointed. Educational Services – Sue Ramsey did not respond.

Discussion took place regarding if the Borough has to have the Educational Services Committee as well as who can fill the position. Mr. Stuban stated that we need to look in the borough code and find out if this committee is mandatory. Mrs. Villella stated that she believed that it wasn't mandatory. She felt that Public Safety should absorb that duty. Further discussion took place but nothing could be done until the code and ordinance is reviewed.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Josapak was not present.

Mr. Trzcianka stated to Council that the reason for the Skada System not working points to the part that Ambridge Water Authority installed. He instructed Mr. Josapak to purchase a new part. If the new one works then the old one will be sent back and we will ask for our money back.

CEO

Not Present.

POLICE CHIEF

Not Present.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Pat McFarland reviewed the list of newly elected positions within the Fire Department. A list will be forthcoming.

Mr. McFarland commented that there have been a lot of electrical repairs going on at the Fire Station. Some of the repairs are correcting matters that go back to the building's construction in 1994.

The Fire Department had 158 calls last year. 89 were structural. Mr. Stuban asked how many were in Baden. He didn't know off the top of his head but it was probably 2.

Out of town mutual aid took place 59 times. 2014 training hours were just under 3,000 hours.

Mr. McFarland thanked Council for their support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Finance (Michael Stuban)

West View Water - Mr. Stuban commented that Council was given a copy of the agreement with West View Water during the January 7th meeting for review. He will be making a motion on Wednesday to sign the agreement. Mr. Stuban also noted that West View Water is getting easements for the residents on Tevebaugh Road. Two of the residents are hooked up to borough water. West View is willing to replace the Baden water line from Schiller Street through the ball field and hooking up the waterlines for the two residents who currently have well water. West View would reimburse the borough the cost to complete this project.

Community Room Chair Rail - Mr. Stuban commented to look into getting some type of chair rail to help protect the wall. Conversation took place regarding what type of rail. Mr. Trzcianka stated that it should be more of a shelf. Mrs. Villella recommended painting the one wall where the bulletin board is located with chalkboard paint so that messages could be written there. Discussion took place regarding who should be checking the Community Room after being rented. Mrs. Rakovan explained that our previous cleaning lady, Dorothy took it upon herself and the goodness of her heart to check the Community Room after each rental. Since she has been gone there have been no major complaints about the room not being cleaned. But if there was something damaged or wrong we wouldn't know whether the Saturday or Sunday renter

did it. Mr. Trzcianka commented that Council should take turns to check the room. Mrs. Rakovan stated that the room needs to be checked either late Saturday night or very early Sunday morning. Mrs. Rakovan commented that absolutely no pins or tape on the walls. Mrs. Montell agreed that Council should be able to take turns checking the room. Mrs. Villella commented that she doesn't understand why the police can't just check the room. Mr. Trzcianka commented that the police need to check street lights. From Schiller Street to Punks there are about 7 street lights out that have been out for months.

Discussion went back to the chair rail. Mrs. Villella recommended using a commercial rubber rail that is not wood. Mr. Trzcianka said that they would go look at it. Mrs. Montell said that council should take the time and think about it.

Building, Property & Grounds (Bob Besong)

Nothing to Report

Community Relations (Ted Kotula)

Mr. Kotula stated that he met Representative Matzie last week regarding grant funding and having PennDot post signs directing drivers to Baden and other local municipalities. Matzie stated that he will let Mr. Kotula know when he has more information.

As for getting funding for the Baden Walk signs Matzie will give a donation and he said to put his name on the support letters. Any extra money would be given to the Recreation Board. Mr. Kotula said that the approximate cost for the signs on the high end is \$300. Mr. Kotula commented that the only concern would be the location of the signs being located in front of a citizen's home. Conversation regarding placing the signs on the utility poles took place. Mr. Trzcianka stated that he doesn't feel it would be permitted by Duquesne Light. Mr. Kotula will look into our options.

Mr. Kotula also commented on State Street being a "state" road which may have funding available for improvements. Mrs. Villella stated that what hurts Baden is not having a true downtown area.

Library (Kim Villella)

Mrs. Villella stated that the Library is changing their meeting date to the second Tuesday of the month. The library would have to advertise the meeting date change.

Mrs. Villella asked about snow removal in front of the library. She had concerns regarding liability and asked what their wishes were regarding cleaning the sidewalk. Mr. Stuban commented that there are streets other sidewalks that Public Works is tending to and they will get to the Library when the can. Council had no problem with an employee of the Library clearing the sidewalk if necessary.

Mrs. Villella supplied a copy of the Library audit to be put on file in the office.

Police Department (Kim Villella)

Mrs. Villella commented that the police chief handed out a few applications for part time officers. It was clarified that only Mr. Stuban and Mrs. Villella got a copy of the applications.

Mrs. Villella addressed the police schedule and noted that you can see there are a lot of part timers that are not even on the schedule. She asked that Council pull out the schedule. Council stated that they do not have a copy of the schedule. She passed her copy around to council to look at and told them to look at the shifts. Mr. Trzcianka stated that the rotation is in the contract. Mrs. Villella stated we have asked and begged that the Sergeant and Chief not work the same shift. Mr. Trzcianka stated that during the December meeting the chief said that he would like to put Alvarez on the 7:00 to 3:00 shift. Council told the Chief to figure out the work schedule with the 7:00 to 3:00 shift and bring it back to Council for review. This information has not been given to any

council member as of today. Mrs. Villella stated that Council is not allowed to make the schedule but we have the right to buy the police service that our residents need. She said that if there is no reason for a Sergeant then maybe the Sergeant position should be eliminated.

Discussion took place regarding part time officers already working at the Prevention Network. Mrs. Rakovan commented that they are already working. She stated that Chief Christner was told by the solicitor that it was ok to start working. Mrs. Villella and Mrs. Montell both stated that this was not allowed. Mrs. Villella did know about this and stated that she was waiting to see the contract agreement which was not done yet.

Mrs. Montell addressed the Baden Legion Auxiliary calling her and asking if Police Department got their \$500 for the AED's. Mrs. Montell told them yes. The Auxiliary representative stated they have not received an acknowledgement of thanks. Mrs. Montell stated that she believes in November minutes the Chief stated that he did sent a thank you note. The Mayor finally sent a thank you and it was received by the auxiliary in January. Mrs. Montell expressed her concerns regarding untruthful comments.

Mr. Stuban asked Mrs. Rakovan what she knew about the thank you. Mrs. Rakovan stated that when Mrs. Montell called her about the check she confirmed that the check was received but did not know if a thank you was sent. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she asked Chief Christner if the thank you was mailed out and he stated that the Mayor was supposed to send the thank you. Mrs. Montell stated that the Chief said in the minutes that he already sent the thank you.

Mrs. Villella commented that all of Council is pro public safety however we can't be lied to and taken advantage of which she feels has been done to everyone on Council.

Mr. Stuban explained that the Mayor vetoed the budget which Council ignored because he can't veto a motion on the budget. The Mayor was doing so because he was disputing the part time budget. Mr. Stuban stated that the Mayor has to comply and work with the budget given. There is money budgeted and the scheduling can be worked out to utilize the budget properly. For example another officer does not need to work with and beside the Chief. The schedule needs to be looked at by the Mayor. Mr. Stuban stated he believes that the Mayor is not going to look at his schedule and he is going to fight Council tooth and nail.

Mr. Stuban stated that the solicitor needs to be asked what options Council has regarding this matter. Mrs. Villella stated that she printed out and presented the Chief information regarding power shifts. Mr. Stuban stated that under the Borough Code, organizing and establishing a police department it says that Council shall determine the totally weekly hours for employment that shall apply to police officers. Mrs. Montell stated that the intent of the Sergeant position was to have someone in charge during the evening hours not to work together during the day. Mrs. Villella stated that the intent of the Sergeant position was to have someone of authority available during both day and evening hours.

Mrs. Villella asked why we are hiring more part timers when there are ones on the schedule with no hours scheduled. Mr. Stuban commented that some of the part time officers are not liked and are only scheduled when they are desperate.

Mrs. Villella asked Council what they want to do. Mrs. Montell addressed her concerns regarding the Mayor seeking legal counsel. Mr. Stuban stated that the Mayor does not have the right to seek his own individual legal counsel without going through the borough solicitor. Mrs. Villella stated that any bills regarding the Mayors legal counsel should not be paid by the borough.

Mr. Stuban stated that he has a documented list of things that the police was told or said they would do but hasn't. We have a problem but how do we fix it. Mrs. Villella stated that we should give a final warning and then eliminate the Sergeant position. Discussion took place regarding the police contract. Mrs. Villella stated that if any part of the contract is in violation then we have the right address the matter. The first line in the contract covers us. Mr. Trzcianka noted that the Chief should not be a part of the

bargaining unit. Mrs. Villella felt that the contract will not protect them if they are not following it.

Mr. Stuban commented that the Police Department falls under the Mayor. Council controls the finance and the Mayor control the scheduling. Mrs. Villella felt that the Mayor is confused by the responsibilities of a City Mayor versus a Borough Mayor. Council further discussed the responsibility of the Mayor versus Council. Mrs. Montell commented that one officer Monday through Thursday can handle our borough. Mrs. Villella added the need for coverage during the power shifts on Friday and Saturday night.

Mrs. Villella commented that we have good officers but there is a poor management and leadership skill.

Mrs. Montell asked about the monthly reports needing to include the number of arrests. Mr. Stuban commented that he had the year end police summary which showed an average of five and a half incidents per day.

Mr. Stuban addressed a need for a public safety committee meeting prior to next month's meeting.

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

Mr. Trzcianka addressed the need to look into a hump that is on old State Street in front of the convent. He believed that the hump may be a sewer line. Someone has painted lines on the hump. He wasn't sure if it needs milled down but something needs to be done with the hump.

Mr. Stuban addressed Mrs. Villella mentioning PennDOT grant funding. He stated that he is looking into start and submission dates for the grants. When the grant becomes open he asked council for permission to put Tevebaugh and West State Street in for grant funding to pave the road. Council supported Mr. Stuban's request. Discussion followed which included replacing a small piece of waterline by Punk's to complete the waterline connections in that area.

Sanitation, Recycling & Municipal (Donna Michaels)

Mrs. Michaels has nothing to report.

Recreation & Communications (Donna Michaels)

Mrs. Michaels had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report

Not present.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Montell addressed Council in regards to no comments should be made to Mr. Eichhcorn if he is in attendance at the Wednesday meeting since this matter has been taken before the Magistrate.

Mr. Stuban addressed Council for the record stating that he met with Mr. Eichhcorn regarding this matter. Mr. Eichhcorn is looking into litigation because he feels that he is not being treated fairly. Mr. Stuban also noted that Mr. Eichhcorn purchased another piece of property where he would like to build 4 carriage homes. This would require the need to have a Zoning Hearing. Further discussion followed regarding third party contractors enforcing the building code under the Uniform Construction Code. Mrs. Villella expressed her concerns in resolving and preventing issues with the Building Inspector. Mrs. Montell stated that the issue is not the personality of the building inspector. Further discussion followed regarding what a permit is required for.

Mrs. Villella commented that it is the owner's responsibility to build correctly.

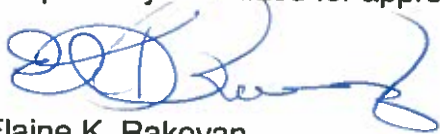
President's Report

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Kotula carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
February 16, 2015