

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

Council president Mr. Besong called the Pre-Meeting of Council to order at 6:30 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: Mrs. Furr, Mr. Kotula, Mrs. Montell, Mr. Shelkons, Mr. Stuban, Mr. Trzcianka and Mr. Besong

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Code Enforcement Officer Bob Weber, Fire Chief Dennis Baker Jr.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Secretary

Correspondence

- Beaver County Chamber of Commerce regarding an Economic Development Taskforce to promote the businesses and municipalities that will be effected by the Crow's Run Improvement Project
- Ambridge Water Authority regarding their requirement to install and test backflow prevention devices.

Advertisements Needed

- Budgets for 10 day review
- Tax Rates
- Reorganization meeting January 2nd 2018 at 6:30 PM

Resolution Needed

- Standard annual resolution regarding non contribution by police into their pension.

Keyless Entry

Installation will be done tomorrow, November 14, 2017

Cork board for Community Room Walls

Painted and complete

.gov Domain

.gov has been approved. The secretary asked council if they wanted individual email accounts. They felt it wasn't necessary.

AG Taskforce

The police chief will be submitting the paperwork to the AG for reimbursement of payroll costs for any officers working the AG Taskforce. The percentages used for SS/Med will be 7.68%, Workers Comp 2.85%. Since one full time officer is going to also participate I have reached out to our pension company to help calculate the pension percentage.

2018 Calendar

Currently being printed.

Check Scanner

Computer has been ordered.

New Server

Ordered. Expected delivery date is November 27th

West View Water

Receiving complaints from a few residents on Tevebaugh Road about the deplorable condition and drains being clogged. Contacted WVV and they are asked the contractors to grade (crown) the road and clean out the drains tomorrow (November 14th)

Floor and Carpet

Ted's Floors has ordered the carpeting. Once he has received the carpeting he will contact the secretary for installation

2016 Bond Payment

The bond payment in the amount of \$246,434.38 will be paid before December 1, 2017.

Traffic Signal at Harmony and State Street

Traffic Systems has completed the repair. Insurance payment has been received.

Public Works

Nothing to report

CEO

Bob Weber stated that he is receiving complaints from residents of the second and fifth street apartments about cars in their parking lots. He stated that he is taking care of this matter and after seeing the inside of the apartments he wants to meet with the owner to address upkeep of the buildings. The removal of boats and trailers from borough streets per the ordinance is going well. With the change in weather there is no need to worry about weeds. Mr. Weber is still waiting on the date for the courthouse hearing. He is also in receipt of a copy of a citation that the building inspector gave for the demolishing of old Dr. McMillan's office.

Police Department

Not present

Fire Department

Chief Baker addressed Council in regards to Conway Fire Department asking to do a consolidation of serves with Baden. The membership of the fire department agreed to look into Conway's request but nothing more than that. Chief Baker stated that they are looking at how a merger would affect the public safety of our residents as well as any financial matters. Chief Baker was asking for council's approval for the fire department to meet with and further look into what Conway is requesting and list the pros and cons. Mr. Stuban asked Mr. Baker to keep Council informed of any updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Finance (John Shelkons)

Mr. Shelkon asked the borough secretary about complaints regarding the condition of Tevebaugh Road. Mrs. Rakovan stated that after the current complaints of the road condition she emailed the contacts for West View Water. She received a response that morning stating that they will be grading and crowning the road on Tuesday, as well as clean out the drains.

Mr. Stuban commented that he asked Mr. Josapak to find out when West View was going to be finished with their construction. He asked that the secretary email her contacts to try and get an answer.

General Fund Balance \$229,176
Water Fund Balance \$166,618

Expenses \$185,485
Expenses \$54,730

Mr. Stuban addressed the budgets that have been passed out to council. The General Fund shows no tax increase and everything is balanced and we will continue with our current projects. He noted that the fire department made a request after this budget was done. A motion will be made on Wednesday to advertise the budget and changes can be made prior to adopting the budget next month. The borough is in good shape with the General Fund. The Water Fund is not balanced. There use to be a contingency of \$46,000 that was for repairs and other things that need to be done. He noted that water revenue has been falling because of the increase in vacant properties in Baden. For example he stated that in 2013 we collected \$743,000, 2014 was \$741,000, 2015 was \$727,000 and 2016 was \$723,000. This trend is showing a decrease of \$20,000 over four years. When we last raised rates we did not make the increase to include the rate increase that Ambridge Water Authority placed on our bulk water purchase. The engineer reviewed the rates and is recommending a rate increase and the auditor noted the revenue decrease and the need to look at a rate increase. Mr. Stuban also referenced the secretary's notes and the requirement by Ambridge Water Authority to put back flow prevention on our water pumps. The cost for this would be \$30,000 on the low end. We budgeted \$770,000 for water revenue and we are on track for \$725,000. The current budget presented is balanced but does not have any funding for all the projects that need to be done or are required by the state. The engineer is doing the rate study and should have it for Wednesday's meeting.

Buildings, Property & Grounds (Ted Kotula)

Mr. Kotula stated that the lights in the park are working and look great. Mr. Shelkons commented that the wattage of the bulbs were increased from 100 to 250 watts. The balance of the electrical work is still being worked on. Mr. Kotula stated that he is waiting to get a quote for repair of the bridge in the park. Mr. Kotula stated that he spoke to Mr. Trzcianka regarding the library ramp. The railings are down and the cement work should finally get done.

The flags need changed at the Logan Cemetery. Mr. Kotula stated that he spoke with Mr. Weber who said he would talk with the American Legion about putting up new flags.

Mr. Kotula asked for an update on the Knox Box enforcement. Mr. Baker stated that the multi-unit residential buildings have been contacted. He is currently compiling a list of commercial properties.

Mr. Kotula addressed increasing the community rental fee from \$75 to \$100.

Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

Mr. Stuban addressed Mr. Kotula and council about the police Tasers being over 15 years old and the need to replace them. A new one is approximately \$964 and a trade in for the old one will be \$100. Discussion took place regarding how many need to be purchased. Council agreed to purchase 4 new Tasers.

Mr. Stuban also stated that Walmart gave the police department a \$700 camera but it needed a lens. The cost for the lens is approximately \$150.

Mr. Stuban noted that the police department would like to make access to the evidence room be through a key fob or keypad.

Community Relations (Michael Stuban)

Mr. Stuban stated that while the Mayor, Chief and he were going through the police department going over items that need to be cleaned up it was requested that an enclosure be placed at the bottom of the steps like in the other stairwell. Mr. Stuban asked that a request be placed in for public works to build it.

Mr. Stuban addressed the house on Jefferson Street (next to Mr. Ickley's) has been an eye sore. It has gone up for Sherriff Sale and Judicial Sale but no one bought it. The price on the house is \$1700. If there is no objection from council he would like to get an estimate on tearing the house down. There are more taxes owed on this property. He would like to try and get exoneration of taxes from the school and county. Discussion took place regarding asbestos testing, controlled burn for the fire department and costs for demolition.

Mr. Stuban addressed the hydrant on Bauman that is not working. He asked Mr. Josapak to get a price to replace the hydrant. He asked the company that did the waterlines what the cost would be and he said it would be \$1,100 for labor. The hydrant cost is around \$3,000. Mr. Stuban said to move this along we should try and see how this works and with 21 hydrants that need replaced this may be our answer for replacing them.

Mr. Stuban addressed council in regards to recognizing people who have been born in Baden and have made something of themselves. The Mayor stated that he already started a committee which he was asked to form since the request to honor our past police chief. Mr. Stuban stated that is different. He was thinking the first person could be Rob Massi who is on Fox News as an attorney and consultant.

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

Mr. Trzcianka noted that cinders have been delivered, salt has been delivered and there was a waterline break on Moore Avenue (the new section that was paved).

Library / Recreation & Communications (Suzie Furr)

Mrs. Furr stated that the Wassailing Walk is on December 1st from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Discussion took place regarding what would be served at the various locations. The cost to do the walk is \$25 per ticket.

Mrs. Furr stated that the financial statement from the Applefest is forthcoming.

Sanitation, Recycling & Municipal Authority (Judi Montell)

Mrs. Montell reported that the State Street School planted Daffodils instead of tulips on the hillside in the park. Representative Matzie and the school principle were present. It was a very nice day.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Gagliardi stated that the police will be having traffic (duty) throughout the borough.

President's Report

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kotula stated that he went to Fired Up at the Prevention Network and it was a great event (fundraiser).

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
December 18, 2017