

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MAY 11TH , 2021**

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: Mr. Jones

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Montell, Fire Chief and CEO Baker

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

- Ryan Eichhorn the contractor for the property on Ehman Avenue and Jefferson Street addressed his frustration with the borough's building inspection company. He met with the borough inspector, Ron Mulcahy and the manager the prior day in the borough office. He explained how this is the third BIU inspector since his onset of starting his projects last summer. He stated that he asked Mr. Mulcahy to explain why after seven months into his project and the other inspectors approving everything so far that he (Mr. Mulcahy) has a problem with everything and wants him to resubmit everything from the beginning. Mr. Eichhorn admitted that there was an error on the original application regarding the square footage that he took from the plans that had a typo. He knows that he needs to correct that and pay the additional cost associated with the permit fee. Mr. Eichhorn noted that the plans were submitted to the office (Mrs. Rakovan confirmed his comment) and all subsequent changes were approved by the building inspector at that time and the inspector had all the documentation, however BIU let that inspector go and the documentation for my projects went with him and they are nowhere to be found within BIU. Mr. Eichhorn stated that Mr. Mulcahy is stating that he has no proof as to what was done and is putting the burden of proof on him. Mr. Eichhorn stated that he has all the emails of approval from the previous inspector. The email regarding the top floor being an attic was approved by the prior inspector and this information was presented to council and considered resolved. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she did ask Mr. Mulcahy to send Mr. Eichhorn exactly what he needs and to copy her on the email. Conversation continued regarding Mr. Eichhorn being displeased with Mr. Mulcahy not putting anything in writing to him. He stated that only the previous inspector, Dan Wilkerson communicated in writing. Mr. Eichhorn stated that he asked Mr. Mulcahy to show in writing and in the code book where it confirms and says what he is saying is wrong or needs done. Mr. Eichhorn stated that to go to the appeals court he needs documentation from Mr. Mulcahy denying the occupancy permit. Mrs. Rakovan explained that the issue does not involve the borough code, but the state uniform construction code that is enforced by BIU as our third-party contractor. After further conversation council determined that the main manager for BIU needs to be contacted regarding this matter. The manager/attorney would look into this matter. Discussion also took place regarding contracting with another inspection company.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. **Baden Properties to Sell**
No response from Habitat for Humanity or Pete from the American Legion.
2. **Speed Humps/Traffic Calming**
Waiting on council direction as to whether they want to install the speed hump.
3. **Theater**
Code Enforcement Officer has filed with the magistrate. Waiting for hearing date.
4. **Water Ordinance Update**
Working with the Solicitor.
5. **Time Clocks**
Office and Public Works time clocks are set up. Police time clock is in the station. Only one officer set up at this time.
6. **Phone System & Go Net Speed**
Phone system is installed and Go Net Speed is up and running.
7. **Cameras for Water Tanks**
No update.
8. **Subdivision and Planning Ordinances**
Last month council received a copy of a planning/subdivision ordinance.
9. **Library project**
Repairs won't be done until consistent temperature above 65 degrees.
10. **SPC Regional Traffic Signal Grant**
No update at this time.
11. **Beaver County ARPA Municipal Infrastructure Grants**
Engineer is working on the spec for the inlets (storm sewers)
12. **PSAB Conference**
This year's conference is May 22 -25 at Hershey Lodge. Attending are Stuban, Singleton, Bosh and Trzcianka. Hotel Reservations and Conference fees are done.
13. **Civil Service Testing**
Letters have been sent to all applicants informing them of the testing date. June 7th at the Allegheny Police Academy.
14. **Prospect Street grading (stormwater runoff) permit**
The engineer met with the property owner and spoke with the engineer regarding the grading (stormwater runoff) permit. Our engineer requested changes be made to the plans regarding collection and disbursement of the water that would best solve the water runoff going into neighboring properties and right of way. The changes were made and the engineer approved the plans noting that the borough needs to follow up and inspect the project as it is being done.
15. **Radio Grant**
When we submitted the information for the radios to the county we did not take into consideration the purchase of the new vehicle. The county is letting me adjust the information we submitted so that we could get the additional radio at 80% discount.
16. **2021 Audit**
The audit has started. They will be picking up files next week.

Public Works

Not Present

Fire Chief

- Incidents/Training
 - 14 Incidents for March
 - 76 Total Incidents year to date
 - Training and staffing hours for March: 23 Firefighters 165 hours
 - Firefighter 1 Prep class begins this week in Baden. Testing will take place in May.
- Apparatus
 - Tower 47 will have yearly aerial testing completed by next week
 - Department has approved and will order a new 2023 Chevy 3500 pickup truck to replace the current 2000 Ford pickup. Cost is \$56,000 to be funded by the BVFD.
- Grants
 - Final funding received from FEMA for regional radio grant, all eligible equipment has been purchased and received.
 - State Fire Commission Grant, Firefighter and Rescue Helmets have been purchased, holding off on ordering air cylinders for SCBA until they see if this years AFG Grant is awarded.
 - The fire department purchased radios last year and the county will reimburse the department for 80% of what they paid but they still need additional equipment so the balance owed will be around \$1,000. Chief Baker asked if the borough would pick up that cost and they agreed.
- Consolidation Study Baden/Harmony
 - Finally got a contact person to conduct the study. It will take about six months to do. He gave the contact the borough managers and head of public safety contact information.

Code Enforcement Officer

Chief Baker stated that he is still working with 355 Ehman Avenue and started working on 755 Schiller Street which also needs condemned.

He is working on citing for high grass, but he also noted that he will not cite properties when the borough properties have high grass. Council agreed.

Discussion took place regarding dead trees that effect the borough right of ways. Our insurance company directed us to discuss this with our solicitor.

Police Chief

Mayor Montell stated that she spoke with Officer Jameson regarding the Fourth Street property. She will not speak with the resident without having a police officer present. She stated that both she and a resident did reach out to the Code Enforcement Officer but did not hear back from him.

Mayor Montell also got a phone call from a resident on Schiller Street who got a tow tag on his vehicle.

Mayor Montell stated that Chief Christner went on an ambulance call this afternoon. He was in the house with paramedics and family. He was informed after the fact that they all have COVID. He called the dispatch and asked why he wasn't informed and the response was they didn't think about it. Council asked if he was wearing a mask. She said no.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

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|----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| General Fund Balance | \$317,222 | Expenses | \$117,487 |
| Water Fund Balance | \$237,001 | Expenses | \$167,650 |

Public Works, Sanitation & Municipal Authority (John Jones)

Chain Saw

Mr. Trzcianka stated that the road department left him a picture of a chainsaw that they would like to purchase. It cuts asphalt and pipe. The cost is around \$2,000.

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

Website - Mr. Bosh stated that he will go through PSAB's website setup. Mr. Bosh asked that the budget be placed on the borough web page.

Library – They are selling homemade soup on election day as a fundraiser for the library. Discussion took place regarding complaints about not have the plastic bag recycling bins up anymore. Mrs. Trzcianka stated that the Library will be sponsoring the next collection of plastic bags for the recycled bench.

Newsletter - Mr. Bosh noted that the newsletter looks great and he thanked Erica Loftus for doing such a wonderful job on it.

Administration & Legislation (Doug Miller)

Mr. Miller asked about the Financial Health Assessment handout. Mr. Stuban explained that council approved this a few months ago. We had a kickoff meeting that was nothing more than what they will need to do the study. The intent of this study is to see what we may be missing regarding financial assistant/grant/funding as well as ways to improve how we are currently doing things.

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

Banner Program - Mrs. Singleton stated that they are continuing with the banner program. They have 90 banners as of now.

Public Safety (Michael Stuban)

Tevebaugh Road – West View Water was looking for funding through a grant and they were told that it was approved however the funding is being held up by the governor.

Schiller Street Extension – Mr. Stuban asked about looking into grants to pave Schiller Street Extension because it is in horrible condition and has no guard rails.

Summer Help – Mr. Stuban stated that next week we will make a motion to hire summer help. So far we have two interested individuals.

Line Painting - Mr. Stuban asked that we purchase good paint when painting the lines.

Meeting with Ambridge Water Authority – Mr. Stuban asked that we follow through with having a meeting with Ambridge Water Authority.

Saw – Mr. Stuban asked about the saw that public works needs. Mr. Trzcianka felt that there would be two or three other vendors who carry that saw and we should look into pricing for next week.

Street Foreman Job Description – Mr. Stuban went over the list of job requirements that the current foreman gave him. We will need to start looking into this soon. He felt

that whoever was going to become foreman, they need to spend one month with our current foreman to learn the job.

Police Traffic Details - Mr. Stuban stated that although he does not see the changes on the time schedule the police have been more visible throughout town and more citations are being given out.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Montell asked who planned to attend the Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 30th. Lineup will be at 9:15AM at the Byersdale Field.

Mayor Montell stated that an appointment has been made to take the tinting off three of the vehicles. She was not comfortable with taking it off the unmarked cars.

Mayor Montell addressed council on behalf of the garden club regarding the library. She felt that best thing to do alongside of the library is to put down grass.

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

Police Regionalization – Mr. Stuban stated that one way or another regionalization could take place by August. He met with Conway to go over budgetary items. They agreed on a lot of things. He feels that during their next meeting will be discussion of many controversial items, but they need to be addressed. This includes part time officers, Prevention Network, and the size of the department. The goal is to get a realistic plan that will be financially feasible to all involved.

Library Memorial – Mr. Shelkons stated that names for the memorial should be up by Rome Monument by Memorial Day.

PUC Meeting – The meeting with the PUC and Norfolk Southern Railroad was cancelled. The attorney spoke to the PUC representative who gave him better guidance on how to handle and resolve this issue.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Do Not Solicit List – Mr. Trzcianka spoke about the town of McMurray having a “Do Not Solicit List” that residents request to be put on and when someone comes to the office requesting to solicit in town they are handed the list of those properties that are not accepting solicitations.

Bucket Truck - Mr. Trzcianka stated that the bucket truck is back and fixed. The mechanic told Mr. Trzcianka that the truck is in excellent condition. He said we can take looking for a new truck off our list.

5G Annual Fees - Mr. Trzcianka stated that we should look into charging an annual fee for the 5G towers.

Civil Service Test – Mrs. Trzcianka stated that the test is June 7th and the agility test is the Modified Cooper.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Bosh, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
June 15, 2022