

PRE-MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL NOVEMBER 9TH, 2022

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. Miller, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Stuban and Mr. Trzcianka

NOT PRESENT: Mr. Jones

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Montell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS - None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

1. **Invoice Cloud** – Soft launch started. So far so good.
2. **Theater**
No update.
3. **Water Ordinance Update**
No update. Once we determine if we are going to get an online service for collections we can go over the utility billing ordinance (water ordinance) which actually is for water, garbage and sewage.
4. **SPC Regional Traffic Signal Grant**
No update at this time.
5. **Beaver County ARPA Municipal Infrastructure Grants**
Engineer is working on the spec for the inlets (storm sewers)
6. **Harmony Road Storm Sewer Repair**
Completed – paving started today.
7. **Resolutions**
Elimination/Reduction of Member's Contribution's for Police Pension Plan – needs to be done prior to the end of year.
8. **DEP Meeting**
A virtual meeting is set for Monday November 14th with the DEP, our engineer and public works.
9. **Act 57 of 2022 Resolution**
A resolution directing the tax collector to waive additional charges for real estate taxes in certain situations per Act 57 that went into effect on October 10, 2022.

10. Prevention Network

We have not received any additional payments for the past due bills. A letter has been sent to Prevention Network with as a 60 day notice stating that their police services will end in January.

Public Works

Written report given to council.

10/23/22-10/29/22

- Pumps and PA one calls
- Final water readings
- Show Joel borough, pumphouses and tanks
- Water sample harmony and kellinger tanks
- Replace tailpiece toilet in boro building
- Gather pieces for air-gaps for tanks-DEP
- Move banner and x-mas decorations to new telephone pole
- Get quote from Jules tree service for water tanks
- Sweep streets
- Meeting with Elaine about permits and DEP report
- Push cinders and salt piles
- Computer Bob computer installation
- Install air gaps at tanks

10/30/22-11/5/22

- Pumps and PA one calls
- Union meeting
- Water samples Harmony and Kellinger
- Sweep streets
- F-250 Inspection
- Fix 2nd St sink hole
- Meeting with council and engineers
- Final water readings
- Mellon yard chipping
- Fix salt shed roof
- Harmony tank mesh/airgap
- Drop off wood chips
- Remove chipping box from 4500
- Winterize yellow tractor
- 1001 Bauman sewer lateral
- Update DEP/water forms

Fire Chief

Incidents / Training:

15 Incidents for October

233 Total Incidents year to date

275 Incidents for Uniform / Incentive Program period 11/1/21 - 10/31/22

11 firefighters completed a flashover, live fire class over this past weekend.

Class, Training, and Staffing Hours for August: 23 Firefighters 257 hours

Apparatus:

The new Pickup truck build date has been changed to January by GM.

Grants:

FEMA AFG Grant, We have met with 3 different Air Pack Manufacturers and are in the process of making final determinations, and specs and requesting quotes. Quote request and specs have been sent out .

FEMA SAFER Grant, no update

The 2022 State Fire Commission Grant Application has been approved, award amounts have not been provided yet, but is normally around \$15,000.

Consolidation Study Baden / Harmony:

No Update:

Deputy Chief Floyd Wise and DCED are actively working on our study through the DCED, They are working to have an in-person meeting to ensure that municipal officials truly understand the nationwide crisis that the volunteer fire service is in.

I think this is a great idea, and maybe an eye-opener for many. I, as well as many others, are well aware that our issues in Baden are the same across the fire service nationwide, but often portrayed to only pertain to the Baden FD and its leadership.

General:

Just a reminder regarding the Comprehensive Plan I submitted last month. If any council member has any questions please feel free to contact me.

Uniform Allowance and Incentive Program has been submitted to the Borough Manager.

2022 Certifications

5 members will be taking their Special Vehicle Rescue Certification Test this evening

3 Probationary firefighters are currently taking the Entry Level Firefighter Program this will include Firefighter 1 testing.

4 firefighters successfully obtained their Firefighter 1 certification

1 firefighter successfully obtained his Emergency Medical Technician

1 firefighter successfully obtained his Emergency Medical Responder

CEO

145 Code Issues have been addressed since March

111 of those have been abated

24 are still in progress

10 Citations year to date (\$300 in fines)

1010 4th Street. Tenant ended up being arrested again. I was notified by County Dispatch at the request of Officer Shipley, to come out and inspect the property due to deplorable conditions inside, based on my inspection the property was posted as Condemned, and contact was made with the Humane Officer Wenzig, who came out and collected the cats that were inside. It was determined that the person arrested had no legal right to reside at this property. The deceased property owner still has two siblings they were contacted by both myself and Officer Shipley. They stated as far as they are concerned they want nothing to do with the property and the borough can take it. Details were provided to the Borough Manager and Solicitor to look into. Still in the hands of the Solicitor as of 11/8/2022

533 Ehman. They are making progress on the property, but still have a way to go. A list of violations and pictures were provided. Inspection completed on 11/2/2022. Other than a few minor issues on the exterior, they are in compliance for the exterior. An interior inspection was also completed and a report is being prepared to address code violations on the interior according to the 2018 IPMC.

755 Schiller. Mortgage Company PA Housing Finance Agency, has Safeguard Properties taking care of securing and preservation of the property. Going to take some time, due to the amount of work and costs involved. They will be in contact with me for any issues, or concerns and to provide updates. A list of violations and pictures were provided. Once complete another inspection will be completed to ensure the dwelling can be occupied, following the IPMC 2018 Regarding the cats on the same property, volunteers have started trapping the cats and taking them to get treated, and finding places for them. As of last week, they trapped about 24 to date. No other real updates at this time, they are going through the legal process.

48 State Street, Property Owner has agreed to demolish the building at this location. I am working with him on a plan for completion.

Complaints were received from PD and EMS regarding the living conditions of 255 State Street, complaints were also received from neighbors regarding the exterior. General notice and certified letter were mailed requesting an interior inspection, in accordance with our ordinances. Spoke with property owner, we are in the process of setting up an inspection.

The water department has provided me with a list of vacant buildings in town. I will be starting to look into these and address any violations.

The water department is also trying to get me a list of all known rental properties, in hope we can move forward with an Inspection Program?
She is also getting me her list of Businesses to compare to the list I have.

Police Chief

Not Present

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance:	\$266,656	Expenses:	\$303,059
Water Fund Balance:	\$363,866	Expenses:	\$162,328

Public Works, Sanitation & Municipal Authority (John Jones)

Mr. Trzcianka stated that the Municipal Authority approved the rate increase for municipal authority work in the next union contract.

Mr. Bosh addressed the current foreman, Rodney Keenan receiving one dollar less per hour because he does not have his water certification. Since Tom Cordell is doing all the work as the Operator In Charge (OIC) he asked council to consider paying him the extra dollar per hour. Council agreed.

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

Email Security – Mr. Bosh reviewed and commented on Computer Bob supplying email security. With SPAM filters becoming more complex, Mr. Bosh felt that this is a legitimate concern. Mrs. Rakovan is to get pricing for next meeting.

Social Media – Light Up Night has been posted to Facebook. The online bill payments was also placed on Facebook. There were posts regarding the fees associated with the service. Payments can continue to be made in the borough office or by mail.

Library – Nothing to report. Their meeting is next week.

Administration & Legislation (Doug Miller)

Not Present

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

Memorial Park – Mrs. Singleton noted that there is a lot of work that needs to be done in the park and she wasn't sure who is responsible for it since we lease the property from the school district. She was told that it is the recreation boards responsibility. Mr. Trzcianka noted that they need to fundraise. Discussion took place regarding the bridge and the gazebo needing repaired/replaced. Mr. Trzcianka commented to get pricing so that it may be added to the comprehensive plan.

Light Up Night – Saturday, December 3rd

Santa on Fire Truck –December 17th

Public Safety (Michael Stuban)

Union Contract – The union accepted the contract. It is being typed up for signature.

Fire Department Consolidation Meeting – The virtual meeting will take place tomorrow at 5PM in the borough secretaries office.

Fire Property Maintenance Inspection Program – A copy was given to council so that it may be reviewed and discuss for next month's meeting.

Budget – Mr. Stuban addressed the need to raise taxes at least 1 mill. Discussion took place regarding assessments and change in revenue. Mr. Shelkons commented on council giving back half their pay like was done in the past, cutting the mayors legal fees and cutting back on the newsletter. Mr. Bosh spoke about doing an electronic newsletter and paperless utility billing. Mr. Shelkons also mentioned cutting back on the budgeted amount to the fire department by \$2,000 and the Library and Recreation Board by \$1,000 each. Discussion took place regarding refunds on tax assessment appeals that will result in refunds on taxes. Mr. Bosh noted that the reassessment and police regionalization is truly going to change the borough budget. Mrs. Rakovan explained that in 2023 property owners will be notified of their new assessed property value. When the borough goes to do their 2024 budget we can not adjust our assessment to be anymore than what we currently bring in. Other expense items are discussed including the police costs. Mrs. Rakovan noted that cutting the police budget can't be done because we already calculated what the regionalization will cost which is based upon the current police expenses. Mayor Montell felt that we need to raise the taxes 1.5 to 2 mills but we still need to cut expenses where we can. Mr. Trzcianka commented that we need to raise taxes. Mr. Bosh agreed but felt that the residents need to know that we as council did review and cut the budget where we could. Mr. Trzcianka stated that there are expenses that increased that is out of our control (fuel, utilities...). Mrs. Rakovan stated that we need to advertise the budget for 10 day review. Council may still make adjustments to that budget before adopting it in December. Further discussion took place regarding the Fire Department billing for false alarms and reimbursement of costs associated from fire calls from insurance companies.

Regionalization of Police – Mr. Bosh stated he reviewed the Police Regionalization Agreement. He asked for confirmation that no municipality could withdraw from the agreement for five years. Committees will consist of members of councils, supervisors and mayors. Currently the cost per municipality is based upon population and assessed value. In the future it may be fairer to base it upon call volume. Mr. Bosh expressed that he would like that the Mayor be on the regionalization board. Mr. Stuban stated that the governing body determines who will be on the board.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Montell informed council that State Street School invited her to a Veterans Day ceremony tomorrow.

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Nothing to report at this time

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM and go into executive session.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
December 7, 2022