

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

February 11, 2009

The Borough Council met in an executive session at 7:30 p.m. and in a regular session at 8:00 p.m. at the William Reinl Recreation Center on the above date with President Short presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by President Short.

ROLL CALL

Council members present: H. Short; P. Brookes; M. Xavier;
S. Coppola; T. Owen; R. Baker

Council members absent: Vacancy

Officers present: J. Hopely, Mayor; G. Kaut, Secretary
G. Seflin, Solicitor; T. Quinn, Treasurer

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by P. Brookes seconded by S. Coppola the minutes from the January 14, 2009, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

Deviate from the agenda of the regular meeting

Last month Councilman McBlain handed in his resignation and created a vacancy on Borough Council. President Short asked for nominations to fill this vacancy; Ron Baker nominated Joseph Cosgrove to fill the vacancy on Borough Council for the remainder of the current term. Mike Xavier made a motion to appoint Joseph Cosgrove to fill the vacancy on Borough Council, seconded by Peggy Brookes and unanimously approved.

Mike Xavier commented Joe Cosgrove will be a great addition of to Borough Council. Mike has known Joe for over 17 years. Joe is a person who makes sound decisions with a lot of forethought and due diligence on every thing he does. The residents of Aldan have been fortunate to have Joe as a volunteer over the years. Some of the things Joe has done are served on the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board and worked for the Borough for a few years. He was involved in the Boys Club for 19 years, also involved in the Girls Club, was a Scout Leader, and numerous other activities. Aldan Borough Council welcomes you Joe to Council.

Mayor Hopely commented it is a privilege and honor to swear in Joe. Mayor Hopely has known and worked with Joe for 40 years. Mayor Hopely then did swear in Joe Cosegrove to Borough Council.

President Short asked for nominations to fill the position of Vice President of Council also left vacant with John's resignation. Terry Owen nominated Michael Xavier for Vice President of Council. Steve Coppola made a motion to appoint Mike Xavier to position of Vice President of Borough Council, seconded by Peggy Brookes and unanimously approved.

President Short reported the next order of business; a lot of us are here tonight to recognize John McBlain, the past Vice President of Aldan Borough Council, and show our gratitude for his 18 years of service to the Borough. In the audience we have some distinguished guests who would like to honor John. First we have our State Representative Nick Micozzie. Representative Micozzie has known John for a lot of years and John has always been there for any questions about County Government. John has helped a lot in our areas as far as getting County money. It has been a pleasure and an honor to have worked with John all these years which we will continue to do because we all need a friend in the County. Representative Micozzie then read a Citation from the House of Representatives.

President Short commented that State Senator Erickson could not be here tonight but sent a Citation for John. Councilwoman Owen read the Citation from Senator Erickson which was then presented to John.

President Short also wanted to recognize some of the other distinguished guest here tonight; our District Attorney, Mike Green; Judge John Perfetti; Frank Catania, the Solicitor for the William Penn School District. Some of the most important people in John's life are his wife Barb, his three daughters, Tara, Claire and Grace along with his parents Helen and Paul McBlain.

President Short then presented John with a small token of Borough Council's appreciation and presented John with a Clock Plaque which read Presented to John McBlain in recognition of your outstanding leadership and loyal dedication to the Borough of Aldan 1991 to 2009.

John wanted to thank everybody. He thanked his Mom and Dad, Barb, Tara, Claire, and Grace for letting him do this for a long time. John thanked Representative Micozzie and said we fought some battles and we will fight some battles for even more. John commented he will have some more time now and we are going to run harder and longer to get Nick elected and re-elected over again and the same for Judge Perfetti and Mike Green, who is a great District Attorney and has really served our people well. John thanked Chief Coppola and all the Officers. They all came out tonight and have always been fantastic and the best thing we have about the Aldan. Some remarks John has heard is that Aldan seems to be unaffected by a lot of problem other communities have around us. It is like Aldan has a bubble over us and the bubble is our Police Officers, who do a fantastic job. John wanted to thank members of Council, past and present and the fantastic job Council does for the residents. John also wanted to congratulate Council on the choice of Joe Cosgrove. Joe is very qualified to be on Council, he has been a leader in town for 30 plus years, there is not anything in this town Joe has done or touched that he has become a leader and left it better and continues to make it better. When Joe puts his mind to something he comes up with ideas and you can expect probably an idea a month from Joe. John will be working hard to get Joe elected this year with the rest of our candidates in order to continue good things.

President Short reconvened the regular meeting.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

There was no verbal correspondence tonight.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

MAYOR

Mayor Hopely proclaimed through a Proclamation that February 15 – 21, 2009 National Engineers Week in the Borough on Aldan, Delaware County, Pennsylvania and celebrate “Engineers Make It Work”.

TREASURER

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer’s Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 178,811.24	\$ 428.81
Receipts for period	33,040.99	15,001.89
Expenditures Prior Month	136,050.76	7,155.80
Expenditures This Month		
Balance	\$ 75,801.47	\$ 8,274.90

Terry Quinn asked Council’s approval this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$132,047.44 and from the State Highway Fund checks totaling \$7,155.80. Part of the receipts for the State Highway Fund is \$15,000.00 re payment of the loan from the General Fund. M. Xavier made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s report as presented and authorize her to release the checks as indicated on the bills list, seconded by P. Brookes and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Sefflin reported on the 2007 Tax Delinquency Program. There are 4 outstanding delinquencies and one where the owner is deceased. Two of these were settled last month and the homeowners paid the full amount of the liens that were outstanding. On January 15, 2009 we had two hearing in front of Judge Perfetti and judgments were entered in favor of the Borough and against the property owner of 120 West Providence Road and 329 Laurel Avenue. There have been no appeals as of yet. The folks from Laurel Avenue wanted some more time.

Mr. Park, the Tax Collector and Mr. Seflin did exceed to the Judge's wishes. Instead of this month, with Council's acquaintance, we will give them until next month for the folks at 329 Laurel Avenue. The owner of 120 West Providence Road is a non resident property owner, so when February 15, 2009 comes around, and the judgment has not been paid, we will ask for execution on the property or possibly seize the rent being paid. As far as 38 Beech Avenue, the owner passed away and the property is vacant but Mr. Seflin has been in contact with the Real Estate Agent, who has the property listed and now belongs to HSBC Bank which holds the mortgage on this property. Mr. Seflin has been in touch with this agent and has several conversations with this agent and also sent letters to her and to date the agent refuses to pay both of the outstanding liens on the property. One lien being a landscaping bill which is approximately \$1,200.00. There is a problem with the roof and the agent refuses to do anything about this and Mr. Seflin has had some conversations with our Code Enforcement Officials and Health Officials and will be monitoring this property closely to make sure this property complies with all our Laws and Ordinances while it is still being sold. The Bank being the owner has a duty to maintain the property.

Mr. Seflin wanted to get with President Short, hopefully by summer, to update and supplement our procedures for the Right to Know Law. We have procedures in place by Resolution from 2005 but with the passage of the Commonwealth's new Open Records Law there are some amendments we need to do. Unless Council directs Mr. Seflin otherwise, he has already commenced the process of amending our current regulations. After Mr. Seflin and President Short and his committee meet, they hope to have some sort of draft by May, with the idea by June or July Council can consider this for final approval.

Dan Procopio asked why the liens were not paid when the property transferred. Mr. Seflin responded that because the Bank took the property back there were no liens paid. Mr. Seflin wrote to the attorney's for the bank and to the Sheriff, placed them on notice of our liens, and also gave them copies of our liens. This should show up in the title search but there wasn't any money there for the liens.

Dan also asked about the property on Beech Avenue with the tarp on the roof if that meets Borough Code. President Short commented that it would satisfy a temporary situation. Mr. Seflin commented they are on written notice to get the property in order.

Lawrence Goldsborough, 17 South Sycamore Avenue asked what is the Right To Know Law. Mr. Seflin answered this is Pennsylvania's version of the Freedom of Information Act. It allows citizens' access to Public Records.

Bill Davis, 99 Springfield Road asked what the boundaries of Aldan are because there are a few houses that look like they are abandoned. President Short asked Mr. Davis to let us know these addresses and we would look into this matter. We are aware of at least one of these properties and the owner did pass away and we are working with the family to get this property cleaned up. Mr. McBlain responded this property has transferred and the new owner is taking care of these matters.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close had two items to report on tonight one being our sewers and the second our I & I work. We continue to work on multiple fronts on dealing with our aging sewer system.

We are making considerable progress behind the scenes and Mr. Close will provide more specifics in the up coming months. Mr. Close will be available during Mr. Coppola's report if there are any questions relative to sewers.

Mr. Close also commented that some may have read in the Daily Times about other Municipalities applying for a H2O PA Grant. This is a state grant program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Commonwealth Finance Authority. The grant program is specifically geared toward water, sewer, and storm water projects among other things. As authorized by Council after talking with President Short and Mr. Coppola about making application for this grant. There is a lot of documentation that goes along with it but we have prepared an application for the complete replacement of the Lobbs Run Interceptor, which really has exceeded its useful life. Councilmen Coppola will present a Resolution that is required with this application, during his report, which formalizes Aldan's request to make this H2O PA grant. Mr. Close will be available during Mr. Coppola's report if there are any questions or discuss any details relevant to the application.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Dan Procopio reported the Planning Commission met last month and discussed the H2O PA Grant application and determined this was in compliance with the Four Borough Comprehensive Plan. Dan transmitted a letter to Mr. Close for the application.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Peggy Brookes will report during her committee report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Mrs. Owen reported the Food License inspections are underway. Also our Health Inspector is attending meeting on Pandemic Planning, Mosquito control for West Nile Virus, and the Smoking Ban. Mrs. Owen will report back to Council on these matters. The next BOH meeting is March 9, 2009 and this meeting is open to the public and would welcome anyone interested in attending and be pleased if there is anybody who would like to join the committee.

Mrs. Owen had her annual meeting with our trash haulers, Owner and President. This was a very good meeting. We discussed the changes with the Solid Waste billing along with recycling, trash holidays, and our Bulk Pick-up that has been a tradition in the Borough for 27 years. Mrs. Owen took a look at the owners manifest and compared it with the first bill we got from the Solid Waste Authority and found to be spot on. So every thing is right in line, which I will continue to monitor that activity.

Lee Ann Moore, 120 Shisler Avenue asked about recycling in the Borough.

Mrs. Owen did explain the Borough has a volunteer program. We have a bin behind the Aldan Elementary School. We pay a hauler to come out on a weekly basis but we do get a rebate based on the amount of paper that is collected. We also have igloos for glass behind the Giant Food Store and the Aldan Boy Scouts collect aluminum can. At this time we are looking a leaf collection and our trash hauler has a program. It is not affordable right now but he will keep his eye on that and let us know when it appears to be the right time to get involved with doing recycling through our hauler. The goal is to keep the cost down and minimize the solid waste being collected. Ms. Moore commented that residents might participate more if they did not have to take recycling somewhere else and could put it out at the curb in front of their house. Mrs. Owen said we are looking at single stream, where there are groups of items that can be collected at the same time. Our hauler presented a neat idea but we are just waiting for the right time, with the right price, so this will be affordable to the Borough. Mrs. Owen asked if Ms. Moore had any ideas, Terry would love to talk with her. Mrs. Owen will be announcing different issues as we go along.

Dan Procopio asked the March 9 meeting is where and at what time. Mrs. Owen reported the meeting is at Borough Hall at 7:30 PM. Dan also asked if the hauler has been segregating our trash. Mrs. Owen explained he demonstrated on his manifest when he is collecting trash in more than one borough involved with us at the same time and how they do the calculations to pro-rate the percentage that is collected from Aldan compared to the other borough. This is not an art but it seems to be subjective but it is even. Mrs. Owen will be taking a look at what can make it much more appropriate but it is pretty much estimation but this is done across the board.

HIGHWAY

Mr. Baker wanted to remind the residents when there is a threat of snow to please park their cars off the street so the snow plow can plow curb to curb. Also residents have 24 hours after the snow stops to remove snow from their sidewalks and do not throw your snow back into the street.

Paul Kruger responded that he moved his car off the street and after he shoveled his sidewalk, the snow plow came by and put the snow all back onto the sidewalk. President Short responded that moving the cars off the street benefits everybody because it gives you a clearer path for you to park your car once the snow plow has passed.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Coppola reported Aqua is still in town working on a water main replacement. There have been a few minor problems but they seem to have been resolved.

Mr. Coppola reported that American Sewer is finished their contract on the Lobbs Run Interceptor and that investigation is complete. The contract was extended a few weeks because of the weather but since then they have completed the work.

Mr. Coppola reported we received a letter from Delaware County Council in regard to our CDBG grant money that was approved for the amount of \$275,000.00 for the Lobbs Run Sewer Improvement.

Mr. Coppola introduced Resolution 2009-03 which has to do with H2O Pa Grant. Be it Resolved, that The Borough of Aldan of Delaware County, hereby requests an H2O PA Grant of \$750,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be use for the Lobb's Run Sanitary Interceptor Replacement Project. Be it further resolved, that the applicant does hereby designate Harry Short, Council President and Steven Coppola, Council Member as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Aldan and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant. I, Marie V. Kaut, duly qualified Secretary of the Borough of Aldan, Delaware County, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Aldan Borough Council at a regular meeting held February 11, 2009 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Borough of Aldan and remains in effect as of this date. In witness thereof, I affix my hand and attach the seal of the Borough of Aldan, this 11th day of February, 2009. Name of Applicant—Borough of Aldan; County—Delaware; Secretary Name—Marie V. Kaut. S. Coppola made a motion to adopt Resolution 2009-03, seconded by M. Xavier and unanimously approved.

President Short asked Mr. Coppola if the money from County Council helps us to receive more money from this H2O PA Grant because it is a matching grant. Mr. Coppola responded, if the H2O PA Grant was approved that would be half the cost of a project. If we were to receive that and would have to put up the remaining half we could apply the \$275,000.00 CDBG grant to our half. If we do get approved for this we could replace the Lobb's Run Interceptor at an incredible cost. Mr. Baker asked because Lobb's Run is also used by two other borough is there any way we could possibly get some help from them. Mr. Coppola's answer was NO. Unfortunately the interceptor is in our Borough and it is our responsibility. We have made this a point in our request and we also have made a request from the Federal Government with the new stimulus money. That point was brought out in the applications and made known that if you replace the Lobb's Run Interceptor in Aldan it will also serve Clifton Heights and Upper Darby. This does make our project more beneficial not only to us but to other neighboring areas.

Dan Procopio asked if we received the video from American Sewer and has the analysis been done on that in regard to the water leaking into Lobb's Run. Mr. Close reported we just received the DVD's for that and are in the process of analyzing it and we definitely saw what we expected to find. Some crushed pipe in some locations, we do see some leaking but we are in the process of analyzing it now. The interesting part is the CDBG grant for the \$275,000.00, which we stated up front, that would not be enough money to all that we needed to do, not only for the interceptor but the tributary lines. If that were the only money we were going to get, then we would be faced with going in there and fix the most critical areas of that interceptor. Now that we have this opportunity, if we can get this \$750,000.00 and then apply the CDBG grant, we may be in a position to replace the entire interceptor. Even though some parts are hanging in there, the fact is it is over 80 years old and well beyond its useful life. We can't think of today, next year, ten years from now we need to think of 25, 30, 40 years from now and this is an opportunity to replace a really critical piece of infrastructure in our Borough. The Lobbs Run interceptor is very unique; it is the only piece of pipe we have that is 20" diameter, down in the woods, that is an artery to the rest of the sewers, not only in Aldan but Clifton Heights and Upper Darby. All of our other sewers are in the streets and a lot easier to access. We are analyzing the tape and the actual action we take will be dictated by the decision if we are getting this grant money. If we get this money we will have to decide if it will be a full replacement, or partial replacement, a slip lining, or grouting. Dan asked if there was a deadline for awarding the grants. They schedule their board meeting 60 days after the deadline, it is our expectation that within 60 days we hope to hear what the decision is. This is a very lengthy application. We had to submit 13 copies; there were 13 exhibits, all sorts of documentation.

The Planning Commission did a great job in the short amount of time to give us the letter we needed. They are going to rate these applications, there are always a lot more requests than there is money. We wanted to put our best light on a difficult situation. We think it is a perfect project for something like this. It is an old interceptor, it is a vital artery, it is serving viable communities, what better way of spending this money than to fix a pipe and hopefully it will extend its useful life through the 21st century. We spent a lot of time spelling out the details of the situation we are dealing with in hopes of getting at the top of the list and being considered favorably for this application. Dan asked is this an all or nothing grant and also have the 43 homes identified have been allotted to which ever community they are supposed to be allotted. Mr. Close explained the first question about an all or nothing is we do not know at this time, it says you can apply for up to 50% of the project cost and another requirement was it had to be at least ½ million dollar total project cost. Our total project estimate is 1.5 million. That is something we have to wait and see. The second question about the 43 homes; the request is in to Darby Creek and DELCORA and we are in the process of other studies along our perimeter where we believe we found some more. We have not gotten an answer yet but still pursuing that with all haste to get that adjustment made in our metering.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's Report for the month of January. Collingdale Fire Company #1 and #2 responded to 6 calls during the month of January, 2009. One of the calls being a fire with damages of \$6,000.00 to contents of the home. On Monday, January 26 the Fire Marshal made a presentation on fire safety to the Aldan Woman Club; and on Tuesday, January 27 the fire companies responded to the Aldan Elementary School for a Building fire. The problem was a heater that was releasing a large amount of smoke out of the chimney. The school has a dual heating system and the Fire Marshal had the maintenance department switch the heater to the gas system and he will be monitoring the situation for the next couple of weeks to make sure this gets resolved. Also during the month of January, 2009, Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 40 calls in the Borough of Aldan.

Mrs. Brookes also reported the Historical Commission is scheduled to meet next Wednesday and they will be discussing the next collectable landmark. All previous collectables are available at the Municipal Building.

LAW, ORDINANCE & BUILDING

President Short reported this is his new committee and during the month of January there were a total of 13 transfer and mid-term inspections performed by our Residential Inspector and there was also 4 plumbing permits issued with a construction value of \$8,635.00 and 8 building permits issued with a construction value of \$51,900.00

Dan Procopio asked about the new hire person for the Code Department. President Short announced his name is John Nee. Mr. Tartaglia and the secretaries went through about 50 applications for the position of a part time Code Officer. When the list was down to 3, President Short and a few other Council Members reviewed the list and decided on Mr. Nee. Mr. Nee has police experience and also construction experience. He seemed like a good fit, he has been on the job for about 1 week and seems to be fitting is quite nice. Frank Morris, our other Code Officer is away for a couple of months.

FINANCE

Mr. Xavier reported even though we are in a very young budget right now being only February but things are going well. Dan had started to raise his hand when he heard the ending balance of cash on hand of \$75,801.47 but if we have to transfer money we transfer from our reserve, and then when taxes are paid then the money goes back in reserve.

Mr. Xavier also commented he is truly honored and humbled by Council's selection of him for Vice President and he will do his very best to support President Short and Council Members as well as the residents of Aldan.

Dan Procopio asked what the current value of the Reserve Fund. Mrs. Quinn answered it is close to \$750,000.00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business this month.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short announced that Caucus will be Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building; and Council will meet on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in an executive session and regular session at 8:00 p.m. at the William Reinl Recreation Center.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by T. Owen, seconded by R. Baker and approved unanimously, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary