

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

December 12, 2012

The Borough Council met in an Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. and in a regular session at 8:00 p.m. at the William Reindl Recreation Building 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; T. Owen; S. Coppola
J. Cosgrove; S. Oropollo

Council members absent: R. Lowery

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

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by P. Brookes seconded by S. Coppola minutes from the November 14, 2012, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

No verbal correspondence tonight.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Hopely reported Happy Birthday to our Daily Times Reporter Bette Alburger. Mayor Hopely wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS**TREASURER**

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer's Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>	<u>Sewer Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 206,075.54	\$ 33,245.45	\$ 194,317.64
Interest		\$	\$
Receipts for period	\$ 39,485.18	\$ 2.11	\$ 13,901.98
Expenditures Prior Month		\$ (6,870.90)	\$ (2,690.00)
Add Sewer Interfund Transfers	\$ (170,300.91)		
Expenditures Current Month		\$ (6,870.90)	
Add Sewer Interfund Transfers	\$ (210,875.76)		
Ending Balance	\$ (135,615.95)	\$ 19,505.76	\$ 194,396.87

Terry explained as a result a transfer is going to be made from the Reserve Account to cover these bills.

Terry is asking Council's approval to release check this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$224,763.43; and from the State Highway Fund checks totaling \$6,870.90 and checks from the Sewer Fund totaling \$2,690.00. Councilwoman Brookes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and authorize her to release the checks as indicated on the bills list, seconded by Councilwoman Owen and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Seflin reported on the Tax Delinquency Program. From a 2009 Tax Delinquent we received a check for \$33.76 for the property at 31 East Wayne Avenue. For 2011 we did enter into an agreement with the owners of 133 Oak Avenue for the payment of \$1,374.26, 3 payments of \$458.08 all to be paid by January 14, 2013. For 2011 we also received a payment for 133 W. Maryland Avenue in the amount of \$1,958.65. So we are progressing with the 2011 Tax Delinquency Program

Mr. Seflin did receive the Recycling Contract with Suburban Waste Management back and it is signed and sealed and also the Bond with an A rated bonded company per our contract specifications.

Dan Procopio asked if we knew how many delinquents were still outstanding for 2011 and 2010 and approximately a dollar amount. Mr. Seflin reported for 2010 there are about 6 outstanding with judgments against them; for 2011 it is approximately 14 with 2 estate properties. Mr. Seflin has left voice messages to both of the personal representatives of the 2 estates and sent letters and still in the process of the time frame given for them to respond. After the time frame has expired we will be able to file suit against them. With the estates we may have to file a claim with the Orphans Court along with law suit against the estate. The total for 2011 is approximately \$10,000.00 and for 2010 it is approximately in the \$6,000 to \$7,000 range.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported about DELCORA Sewage Facilities Act 537 Plan Update. Mr. Close attended a meeting on December 5th at DELCORA to discuss the progress of the plan update. The next meeting is scheduled for early February, 2013 and will keep Council posted as that plan update progresses.

Mr. Close also reported on our 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project, that is our Maryland Avenue Playground and Parking Improvements Project. The project was advertised in the Delaware County Times as authorized at last months Council Meeting with bids to be opened on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 Caucus. To date we have 7 contractors who picked up the bid documents for the paving project and 5 contractors that picked up the document for the playground project. So this should be a competitive bid for both projects.

Mr. Close reported on our 2013 CDBG project that is our Meter #3 Collection System I & I Rehab Project. That was the subject of our Public Hearing held just before this Council Meeting tonight. With that we have an application that is due before January 9, 2013. Mr. Close requests Council consider the Resolution that needs to accompany the application for submission. Councilman Cosgrove introduced Resolution 2012-02. Resolution for the Application of Community Development Block Grant funds for the Fiscal Year 2013. Councilman Cosgrove made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-02 to apply for a CDBG grant for Meter No. 3 Collection System I & I Rehabilitation Project seconded by Councilman Oropollo and unanimously approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Owen reported that trash service over the holidays will remain unchanged. Collection will be on Monday, December 24th with Recycling on Wednesday, December 26th and regular trash again on Thursday, December 27th and the same for the following week with regular trash on Monday, December 31st , Recycling on Wednesday, January 2nd , and regular trash on Thursday, January 3rd .

Dan Procopio asked if we had totals on tonnage for the month and the year. Councilwoman Owen reported the totals are holding steady with 30 tons per month but during the summer months it did reach 40 tons but is now leveling to 30 ton range. Dan also asked do we have a break out of tonnage dumped as to how much is aluminum, paper, or glass. Councilwoman Owen responded we do not get that it goes to the Recycling Facility but it is single stream, all put together. This will be the final month of a full year of recycling and can request those totals from the hauler.

HIGHWAY

Councilman Cosgrove reported, back in February, 2012 we applied to the PA Department of Transportation for County Aid for our 2012 Road Program. After completion of all the necessary paper work including a project completion report we have received an approval letter from PA Department of Transportation with the check to follow in the amount of \$5,468.00. The highway program for 2012 has been completed with no problems and we are hoping for a mild winter.

Councilman Cosgrove wanted to take this time to mention the Aldan Boosters have completed their video "An Aldan Christmas Video for our Troops". At the tree lighting in early December we asked you stop in the School and make a video greeting. We took those greetings and mixed it with pictures of Aldan activities throughout the year; the Easter Egg Hunt, Memorial Day, the 4th of July, Founders Day and the Christmas Tree Lighting and made a 12 minute video. We gave 3 hard copies of the video to Larry Albertoli of the American Legion and 1 to George Dunton who is the President of Aldan Boosters this year and his son-in-law is in Afghanistan but you can view this video by going to You Tube and searching Aldan Troops 2012.

Dan Procopio wanted to thank the Councilman for reminding Providence Village Shopping Center about their commitment to pave the street area coming off of Providence Road. Thank you again.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo reported on the Jet Vac cleaning, reporting that sections have been cleaned. They did have a problem on Rively Avenue where tree roots infiltrated the lines. We are waiting on an estimate on the cost to remove the roots.

Councilman Oropollo asked if you see any small tree limbs down in a Public Park area to call him and he will try to remove it and also the inlets if they are not cleared when it rains will go out to clear them to make sure the highways are accessible and avoid any problems.

Dan Procopio asked if it was East Rively or West Rively with the tree roots. Councilman Oropolla responded West Rively Avenue.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Brookes reported tonight is presenting the 2013 Final Budget for the Borough of Aldan. In the back of the room tonight there is a copy of the Budget and also a copy of some notes.

Aldan Borough's 2013 budget again presents an austere spending plan to our residents. Like many other local municipalities, as well as our federal and state governments, the continued economic downturn has negatively affected the Borough's revenues.

On the expense side of the Budget, spending is again kept in check. A spending increase of slightly less than 3% overall, approximately \$50,000 total, is budgeted for 2013.

Almost half of the spending increase for 2013, totaling approximately \$25,000, is related to the police department operations. Borough Council remains committed that the highest priority and most important service that our Borough government provides to its residents is the safety of our public as carried out by the actions of our police department. We will continue to ensure that our police department is properly staffed and equipped to deal with the ever increasing crime problem in our area.

We note the success of the police department just today in successfully apprehending and arresting an individual committing an armed robbery at the Citizens Bank branch in Aldan. These actions bring a stark realization and substance to Council's decision to fund our police department.

Other notable increases in expenses are related to trash disposal, where there is a budgeted increase of \$18,000. This increase is directly attributable to the increase in tipping fees levied by the Solid Waste Authority that receives municipal trash. There is no increase in expenses for the trash removal company hired by the Borough, as Borough Council obtained a contract with no increases.

Borough Council has added funding to the Highways Budget for the road improvement program. Over the last several years, Borough Council has taken advantage of the work being performed in the Borough by Aqua America to piggyback road resurfacing projects onto streets that were affected by the new water lines being installed. While savings were realized over these last few years, it is again necessary to add funding to our roads program to ensure that our infrastructure does not decay. Council views the conditions of our roads as another of the core functions of Borough government that must be maintained.

On the revenues side of the budget, the continued financial downturn has negatively affected the Borough's revenues. The continued stalled housing market affects the Borough's real estate transfer tax revenues, resulting in 2012 transfer tax revenue reaching only approximately 2/3 of 2012 Budget Projections. We will once again be forced to budget less in transfer tax revenues for 2013.

Interest income has again declined. Again, negative market conditions have resulted in interest income in the Borough for 2012 at only half the projected amount. Interest income will likely decline again in 2013.

Real estate tax revenues for 2012 have run behind historic levels.

Although not significant overall, the Borough experienced a reduction in real estate assessed valuation from 2012 to 2013 of slightly over \$265,000.

Even with the austere expense and spending plan, the combination of these factors has left the Borough in a position where additional revenue will be necessary to achieve a balanced budget.

A majority of the revenue necessary will be budgeted from the rainy day fund – the Borough's savings. Faced with the most difficult economic times in recent memory for local governments, it certainly is raining when it comes to municipal budgets. Through responsible spending and budget management in past years, the Borough has accumulated savings to help cover most of the projected shortfall for 2013.

A small increase in the trash fee of \$10.88 for a total of \$150.94 per unit is budgeted to cover the cost of the tipping fee increase. This still means that for less than 42 cents a day, borough residents receive twice weekly trash pickup and once weekly recycling pickup.

The Borough's sewer fee will remain steady at \$329.00 per unit. Again, this means that for about 90 cents a day, residents dispose of all of our wastewater from toilets, washing machines, dishwashers and sinks.

To close the remaining budget gap between expenses and revenue, the 2013 Budget calls for an increase of .299439 mills, less than one third of one mill. For a home in Aldan with an assessment of \$100,000 (slightly higher than the average) this would result in an increase of \$29.94

With a total millage rate of 6.410439 budgeted for 2013, Aldan continues to remain extremely favorable in comparison to other communities' real estate tax rates. While Aldan's rate is approximately 6.4 mills, Lansdowne is at 11.121 (75% higher than Aldan); East Lansdowne is at 11 (72%); Collingdale is at 11.237 (76%); Yeadon is at 8.89 (39%); Darby Township is at 10.91 (71%); Clifton Heights is at 12.001 (88%); Darby Borough is at 16.241 (254%); Upper Darby is at 16.79 (262%); and Colwyn is at 27.2 (a whopping 425% more).

We are certain that 2013 will continue to present even more difficult challenges for our Borough's budget but Council affirms its commitment to our residents to be good stewards of our residents' tax dollars.

Councilwoman Brookes made a motion to accept the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 as presented, any questions.

Dan Procopio asked in the preliminary Budget the Police Department had a Capital Reserve Expense for \$15,000 and is not on the final budget how is that going to be funded. Councilwoman Brookes explained the \$15,000 you are talking about is from 2012 where we received monies from the Insurance Settlements and a donation from Providence Village Management Group for the police. At this time we had to make some cuts and unfortunately right now it will stand at \$15,000. Dan asked in regard to the police budget also noted that the salaries were increased by 4%. Councilwoman Brookes said we are bound to that. Dan asked how we reduced the Fringe Benefits from the Preliminary Budget to the Final Budget of \$29,000. Councilwoman Brookes responded fortunately Blue Cross/Blue Shield our major medical we had an 11.52% reduction in our bills. The gap between what we were anticipating in the preliminary budget was decreased significantly. Dan commented the contract are obligated but there is also a salary increase for the secretaries and the millage rate you are requesting is 4.67 % increase and trash collection is 7.89% increase for individuals and other Municipalities in the District including the School District have asked their employees the past year or two to delay increases in their salaries in order to help budgetary constraints, was there any thought given to that for those individuals just mentioned and if there was, was it rejected or not asked. President Short commented we felt it had such minimal impact on the budget and our other full time employees were getting raises we felt our office personal more than deserve that minimal amount that we gave them. Dan asked did you ask and how much longer is the Police Contract. President Short responded we are in year 3 of a 5 year contract. President Short said we have a motion from Councilwoman Brookes to accept the 2013 Budget as presented, seconded by Councilman Cosgrove and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Brookes made a motion to pass Ordinance 510, Tax Levy Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2013, seconded by Councilman Coppola and unanimously approved.

Dan Procopio asked what the fund balances after the transfers. Councilwoman Brookes reported we have not transferred the money yet but the balance in the General Reserve is \$540,404.81 and the Sewer Capital Reserve is \$242,352.54 and in the Police Capital Reserve is \$17,144.06. Dan asked about the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer reported Highway Expenditures for 2 months. Terry Quinn responded the \$6,870.90 and again \$6,870.90 were for November and December so we would have a true ending balance of cash on hand for year end. The request was to cover December. Dan had the same question for the General Fund you reported \$210,875.76 but you requested checks for over \$14,000. Terry Quinn responded that is because there is an inter fund transfer between the General Fund and the Sewer Fund.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Coppola reported the Building Inspector issued 12 building permits with a construction value of \$69,067.00; the Residential Inspector completed 32 transfers and mid-terms; and the Plumbing Inspector issued no plumbing permits.

Councilman Coppola introduced Resolution 2012-01 Hazard Mitigation Plan in Accord with the Requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. This was request by Delaware County for us to pass this Resolution which would provide funding from the Federal Government FEMA AND PEMA in cases of disasters. This was a required by Delaware County that all the Municipalities of the County pass this Resolution so these grant funds would become available to us in case of disasters. Councilman Coppola made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-01 Hazard Mitigation Plan In Accord With The Requirements Of The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, seconded by Councilwoman Owen and unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-President Brookes reported Caucus will be Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at and Council will meet on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at the Reinl Recreation Building at 7:30 PM for Executive Session and General Meeting starting at 8:00 PM.

President Short reported on November 16, 2012 he received the resignation of Tax Collector, Robert Park. This opened up a position for us to fill according to State Law we have 30 days to fill this position. We searched the Borough for a legitimate candidate and found one that exceeds our expectations, Thomas J. Morse, a resident of the Borough, a degree in finance from Penn State University, a graduate of Collingdale High School. Tom has 30 plus years on the job involved with finances and a very good candidate for the job. We interviewed Tom on Monday, passed with flying colors and were impressed with him. Mr. Seflin read the Resolution 2012-03, a Resolution of Aldan Borough Council for the appointment of Thomas J. Morse to fill the vacancy in the Office of Tax Collector, where as Robert H. Park, the elected Tax Collector for the Borough of Aldan resigned on Friday, November 16, 2012 and where as in accord with section 901 of the Pennsylvania Borough Code. The Council of the Borough of Aldan is required to fill the vacancy in that office within 30 days therefore be it resolved that Thomas J. Morse an elector of the Borough of Aldan is appointed to the office of Tax Collector for the Borough to fill the unexpired term ending in January of 2014. Councilwoman Brookes made a motion to appoint Thomas J. Morse, as Tax Collector for the Borough of Aldan and accept Resolution 2012-03, seconded by Councilman Oropollo and unanimously approved.

Mayor Hopely swore in Thomas J. Morse as Tax Collector for the Borough of Aldan.

PRIVLIDGE OF THE FLOOR

ADJOURNMENT

President Short wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

On a motion made by Councilman Coppola seconded by Councilman Cosgrove and unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary