

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

July 10, 2013

The Borough Council met in an Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. and in a regular session at 8:00 p.m. was moved from the William Reinl Recreation Building to the Aldan Municipal Building because of an issue at the Recreation Building 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; S. Coppola;
S. Oropollo; T. Owen; M. J. Corrigan

Council members absent: J. Cosgrove

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

Officers absent: J. Hopely, Mayor

MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilman Coppola seconded by Councilwoman Brookes minutes from the June 12, 2013, 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 was on vacation.

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 | \$ 867,156.25 | \$ 74,674.22 | \$ 324,154.39 |
| Interest | | \$ | \$ |
| Receipts for period | \$ 51,039.97 | \$ 9.23 | \$ 20,706.84 |
| Expenditures Prior Month | \$ 141,883.91 | \$ 6,720.03 | \$ 149,595.00 |
| Loan Returned to Sewer Reserve Fund | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Ending Balance | \$ 776,312.31 | \$ 67,963.42 | \$ 195,266.23 |

Terry is asking Council’s approval to release check this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$149,844.63; checks from the State Highway Fund totaling \$6,453.04; and checks from the Sewer Fund totaling \$6,120.75. 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 Councilman Coppola and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Seflin reported on delinquencies for multiple years; on the 2011 Tax Delinquency Program reported last month we had 12 hearings scheduled in front of Judge Perfetti but 5 were not served so we could not have those hearings. Yesterday we sent checks to Judge Perfetti for Constable Service for the 5 delinquents not served. There is a hearing scheduled on the fourth Thursday of this month but if not served by the Constable the hearing will have to be continued.

Mr. Seflin reported previously he filed a lien against JP Morgan/Chase Bank for a property in Collingdale formerly owned by Mr. & Mrs. Fleming. We did put Chase Bank on notice of these liens and they sent them back saying we don’t know who you are talking about. Mr. Seflin sent back to them telling them they own the property and you have owned the property during some of these delinquencies periods. Mr. Seflin sent to 2 different addresses; one in Columbus Ohio, and the other in Monroe, Louisiana, telling them they had 2 weeks to pay these liens or then we will file suit against them.

Mr. Seflin reported on the delinquencies from 2011 and 2012. Mr. Seflin received today a list of Aldan properties exposed to Sheriff’s Sale on September 12, 2013. We need to send by the end of next month a list of any delinquencies we have. Mr. Seflin will talk with Mr. Morse about this issue. Looking at the list at least half are delinquent for 2011 and at least 2 others for 2012. Mr. Seflin explained that by the end of this month he will have sent out all the liens for all the 2012 delinquents and also tell the Tax Claim Bureau what our liens are so they can protect them.

Mr. Seflin explained we have made contact with an attorney for a property where the Borough had to pay money to cut grass and to secure the property after we sent them Notice of Abatement. This property is now owned by Fanny Mae.

Mr. Seflin did talk with Fanny Mae's attorney and did tell him the Borough had to pay to have the grass cut and secure the property and now they should pay us for that work but has received not response to that call. We will probable have to file a lien but have been trying to work it out with them. Unless Council objects Mr. Seflin will file a lien against Fanny Mae and if they fail to respond to the lien then file a law suit. President Short asked if they are they going to take care of the property from now on. Mr. Seflin did ask the same question and received the answer; they don't have the right to go into the property. When again asked about the outside they replied the same answer they don't have the right to go into the property. Mr. Seflin does not think they will be taking care of the outside of the property.

Mr. Seflin explained there is another property where the owner claims she lives at the property but only picks up her mail there. There was an Abatement Order sent in mid March to the owner who ignored the Order of Abatement with really high grass, really out of control bushes, a door that was damaged and also a window that was damaged. Our Building Inspector after 2 month of being patient contracted A to U Services who spent nearly 82 man hours of time to clean up this property and to secure it. The bill for this work was almost \$5,000.00. Mr. Seflin has tried to contact the owner by phone but has not received a call back. Mr. Seflin will send a letter with a copy of the bill and if it is not dealt with within 2 weeks we will follow a lien. Under Pennsylvania law if we file a lien she has 30 days to do something about it and after 30 days we can take action unless other wise directed by Council.

Dan Procopio asked about the 5 checks for the Constable Service what is that cost and it that recovered at the time the liens are paid. Mr. Seflin responded yes that is recovered at the time the liens are paid and the cost is \$26.15 for a single property owner and \$28.65 for multiple property owners.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported on the Act 537 Update; the Borough received a letter on June 17th from the Planning Department issuing the final draft of the plan. This was issued to all 31 Member Municipalities and Mr. Close provided a brief memo to Council summarizing the plan, there are some milestones and conclusions in there. There are 2 action items in there: 1) the Borough's Planning Commission is requested to review the document and issue a letter to Council which should then get forwarded to DELCORA and the Planning Department with a goal of August or September; 2) for Council to review and pass a Resolution adopting the plan. Their goal is to submit it to DEP by September of this year, DEP has 120 days to review and approve the document which would put it out to January or February, 2014, and at that point all the Municipalities have up to one year to adopt a Lateral Ordinance or a Municipality specific written I & I Plan, which would take it out to January or February, 2015. Mr. Close explained this is our time to look at this document with some time to digest that but wanted to inform everybody the clock has started for us to take a look at the document.

Mr. Close reported June has been a wet soupy month with a record of 11 plus inches of rainfall which broke all kinds of records. When you get a lot of rain you get a lot of sink holes. With all the water it puts pressure on our roads and our systems and if there is a little tiny crack in a pipe and you get tons and tons of rain it can make it worse and that is when you start to see a sink hole in our storm sewers or sanitary sewers. It has been a busy month for Councilman Oropollo and Mr. Close's office is responding to the calls.

Mr. Close reported in Councilman Cosgrove absence a quick report on the Road Program; A F Damon was awarded the contract. They have issued their Bonds and Insurance for review and we are submitting all the documents to PennDot for approval and we expect that to happen in the next week or so. Mr. Close's Office has talked to the folks at Damon and they are looking to start the end of July or early August. We will arrange a pre-construction meeting. Damon was also the low bidder for Clifton Hts. Borough so they will come into both town around the same time and do both Road Programs.

Dan Procopio asked if there was a count on the number of sink holes that appeared. Mr. Close responded about 5 or so. Dan asked if they have all been remediated. Mr. Close reported they have all been looked at with 2 being fixed and 2 or 3 being private property issues with their lateral. One we believe is a problem with the service with Aqua, of water to the house so we contacted Aqua and they will repair that.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Owen reported pool inspections have started but with the rain stopped but will start again according to the weather.

Councilwoman Owen also reported on West Nile virus; the Intercommunity Health Department, which is the Delaware County arm for the Pennsylvania Department of Health has had a control program in place for about 13 years since West Nile came as a result of seeing more than the average number of birds on the ground. Their program is a three step process and starts with surveillance and that is done through the Cooperative Extension Program at Penn State University in collaboration with the State Department of Health, State Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Environmental Protection. They go around looking for mosquitoes that are breeding in sites. They do that by sampling stagnant water. In the stagnant water they can find the larva and they also place traps in high volume areas. The traps are either gravid traps, that look like coolers or light which are hanging from trees. The Intercommunity Health Department sent out a new flyer this year because they purchased new gravid and light traps. Councilwoman Owen wants our Police Department gets a copy of what these traps look like so there will be no question on what these devices are. The second phase is for control and what they want to enforce is residents are doing their part in controlling the possibility of having larva or infected mosquitoes and be a risk of biting our residents. The essence is to prevent any standing water, pools, buckets, and gutters, anything that can hold water from recent rain fall is the way to control the mosquito in the area. The third thing is to have the spraying done. The spraying is done with notification to the Boroughs in 48 hours notice. About 4 years ago there was a decision made to have an arial spraying and it did not go well because there was no notification. Now they notify the Boroughs with a phone call to the Municipal Building 48 hours in advance and also on their web site. If they plan to spray they are posting it with the web site being updated every single day at 2 PM. Residents can check the web site and place a link so they are notified by e-mail any time the Borough is going to be sprayed. At the present time there is 1 area that is scheduled to be sprayed on July 12 in Hanover Township. There have been 440 samplings taken from Delaware County with 200 being tested and none proven positive as having infected mosquitoes. To do the spraying there is a truck that goes around spraying a fine mist and to point out the Department of Environmental Protection, Health, and Agriculture have all approved this chemical to be safe for humans, aquatic life, plants, and animals.

The amount sprayed is only .75 of an ounce sprayed per acre. This is a very fine aerated mist. The basic concept here is to prevent water from standing and make sure you are aware that you can find out where the spraying is being done at any point in the year through October.

Dan Procopio asked for the web site. Councilwoman Owen responded www.westnile.pa.state.us this is a very informative web site.

HIGHWAY

Councilman Cosgrove is recuperating from surgery but if there are any questions Mr. Close, our Engineer could help answer for you.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo reported on a sinkhole issue on Hurley Avenue. Councilman Oropollo did not see anything wrong but it looks like a little backflow of water and the company will try to flatten it out a little more.

Councilman Oropollo reported we did purchase 3 trash cans for the new playground which we did chain to poles. We hope this will help with some of the trash problem at the playground. Councilman Oropollo would like to get Community Service there to help with a growth of weeds on the hill.

Councilman Oropollo also reported he has no idea when PECO will finish their work on Providence Road. They have been in the area doing something but they said it would be done June 24th but is still not done.

Mrs. Susan Borders commented on the handicap parking at the Pool that the sizes of the spaces are not up to code and they are not painted properly. Mr. Close explained the job was to return the same spots that were there before. Councilman Oropollo responded if you are asking the pool to repaint the spots there is no money available. Mr. Oropollo has not heard any complaints from anyone that is handicapped. People with wheelchair's park up front unloaded with the staff helping, and then park the van. Because of the slop of the parking lot it is really safer for them to unload at the front and go park. When they leave they can pull back up to the front to load back up. Councilwoman Owen and Councilwoman Brookes suggested maybe make a few spots wider to accommodate a van with wheelchair or walker accessibility. Councilman Oropollo, who also manages the pool, explained then we would not have enough spaces to accommodate the amount of people who need the spots. President Short we will look into this issue to see what the best solution would be.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Brookes reported our School Tax bill went out and if paid by end of August there is a 2% discount.

Councilwoman Brookes thanked the 4th of July Committee for a great day and for making Aldan a great place to live.

The Tax Collector announced he will have tax collection at the Municipal Building on Monday, August 5th, Monday, August 12th, Thursday, August 15th, and Monday, August 26th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. The insert that came with the tax bill indicated no cash, credit card, on line or electronic payment will not be accepted. During Mr. Morse hours he will accept cash as payment and then convert the cash into a Money Order for the School District. One issue some residents are having is if you want a receipt. The insert explains that if you want a receipt canceled checks and money orders receipts will serve as your receipt but if a formal receipt is required please send the bottom portion of your bill along with a stamped self addressed envelope to your local tax collector. Mr. Morse does have access to the School District System and will be able to see if the taxes were paid. Again the hours are from 7 to 9 PM

Dan Procopio asked for the current amount balances in the Reserve Funds; Councilwoman Brookes reported in the General Reserve we have \$277,957.91 in the Sewer Capital Reserve we have \$437,042.03; and in the Police Capital Reserve we have \$17,154.72.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Corrigan reported on the Fire Marshall Report for the month of June, 2013. Collingdale Fire companies #1 and #2 responded to 12 calls in the Borough of Aldan during the month of June. One call at 36 Stratford Avenue there was substantial damage but is still pending will report on next month all other calls with no damage. During the month of June, 2013 Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 56 calls in the Borough of Aldan.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Coppola reported the Building Inspector issued 16 building permits with a construction value of \$41,075.00; the Residential Inspector completed 32 transfers and mid-terms inspections; and the Plumbing Inspector issued 1 plumbing permits with a construction value of \$1,000.00

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at and Council will meet on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at the Reinl Recreation Building at 7:30 PM for Executive Session and General Meeting starting at 8:00 PM.

President Short did apologize for the inconvenient of relocating but the air conditioning was broken at the Recreation Building and would have all be very uncomfortable.

PRIVLIDGE OF THE FLOOR

Dan Procopio commented that at the Council meeting last month you indicated you had either requested or going to request a meeting with the District Attorney's Office concerning our prior Tax Collector has that been scheduled or any new information. President Short explained there was supposed to be movement on bringing this to a conclusion and we were notified we did not need the meeting. Later the detectives needed more information and postponed everything so we asked again for another meeting and they are trying to set one up to explain everything that happened. We are anxious to at least get the numbers so we can move with the Bonding Company

Dan Procopio wanted to thank Councilwoman Brookes-Rankin, the Borough of Aldan, residents, collectors, volunteers, people in the parade, people who watched the parade it was a good day and "It takes a Borough". There are a lot of people who participated and we are happy to have had it and hope for another one next year. Thank you for all the help.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary