

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

March 13, 2013

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 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; S. Coppola;
J. Cosgrove; S. Oropollo

Council members absent: T. Owen; R. Lowery

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

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by P. Brookes seconded by J. Cosgrove minutes from the February 13, 2013, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

No verbal correspondence tonight.

President Short turned the meeting over to Dave Heacock a representative from Aldan Town Watch. Dave thanked the Mayor, Mr. President, and Members of Council thank you for this opportunity this evening to recognize 2 very special Town Watch members. Town Watch is an organization that is unique in that it serves the Borough totally; it has no other function other than to improve the safety and security of the Borough. Our members give selflessly of their time, they spend their own money for gas and some have been with us for a very long time. Dave introduced Charlie Duffy and Pete Witiak.

Charlie Duffy has been a member of the Town Watch Board of Directors for 17 years and has been a member of Town Watch for close to 30 years, that is amazing dedication. Charlie has decided recently he wants to retire but he will continue to be a member of Town Watch. On behalf of the Aldan Town Watch Association we recognize Charlie Duffy with appreciation for 17 years of service on the Board of Directors. Congratulations Charlie.

Pete Witiak is an amazing fellow he has been with Town Watch for 34 years and he has decided he wants to retire. Dave said we certainly appreciate your service. On behalf of Aldan Town Watch Association we recognize Pete Witiak with appreciation for 34 years of service to the Borough of Aldan as a patrolman, a base operator and a traffic director. Dave Heacock said, thank you Pete.

Dave explained it would normally be Herb Hays, Town Watch President who would be here this evening but Herb has pneumonia and is very sick.

Charlie Duffy wanted to take a moment to mention Herb Hays who has been a member of Town Watch going on 33 years, serving 17 year as President. Charlie also want to mention the most humble couple he has ever known, Dave Heacock and Sandy Stake, who moved down to Maryland about 5 years ago but that did not stop them from serving the Community of Aldan. Dave has been President of the Aldan Swim Club for the last 12 years and Sandy is the recording secretary. They probably spend about 3 hours on the road going back and forth. Some people do things that we don't always know about and give back to the community and we thank them very much for all they do. Charlie also acknowledged Dan Procopio who is also a long time member of Town Watch.

Dave Heacock wanted to talk now on behalf of the Aldan Swim Club. There are several opportunities were new members can come and see the facility, enjoy some refreshments, during the 4 separate Open Houses; Saturday, May 4th, Saturday, May 11th, both from 12 to 3 PM. We also invite current members to come and talk with perspective members, pay their dues drop off chairs, an early opportunity to get in and get those things done. On opening weekend on Saturday, May 25th and Sunday, May 26th from 1 to 5 we open our doors to all perspective members. We offer free swims, and offer an opportunity to sample the full operation of the Snack Bar. The Swim Club has not raised the dues for about 5 years and now we have become more and more competitive. We are at a perfect opportunity to pick up a lot of new members this year. Thank you very much.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Hopely reported on a letter from Aldan Girls Club requesting permission to have their Annual Door to Door Drive from April 1st through April 30, 2013 and also requesting Aldan Borough to designate the month of April as Aldan Girls Club Month.

Mayor Hopely read a Proclamation claiming the Month of April is hereby set aside as Aldan Girls' Club Month in the Borough of Aldan.

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	\$ 231,452.61	\$ 12,637.61	\$ 16,516.32
Interest		\$	\$
Receipts for period	\$ 46,738.33	\$.43	\$ 12,584.78
Expenditures Prior Month	\$ 130,805.69	\$ 6,861.92	\$ 2,753.00
Loan from Reserve	\$		\$ 140,000.00
Ending Balance	\$ 147,385.25	\$ 5,776.12	\$ 166,348.10

Terry is asking Council's approval to release check this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$145,635.05; from the State Highway Fund checks totaling \$5,775.69 and checks from the Sewer Fund totaling \$151,822.25. 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 the 2011 and 2010 Tax Delinquency Program. We received from the property at 229 Hazelwood Road, we had entered into a payment plan with the owner of that property, there was a breach of that but has now paid off the balance in full, so we have removed the lien from that property. Regarding the property at 213 Priscilla Lane, this has been a habitual delinquent over the years. It is our understanding the owner has abandoned the property and the property was sold at an upset tax sale on September 13, 2012. An upset price sale is where the property is sold by the County for failure to pay Real Estate Taxes. It did sell in excess of all the taxes due and the Tax Claim Bureau did withhold \$539.83 from the sale for 2012 taxes. After this was discovered Mr. Seflin had a meeting with the folks at the Tax Claim Bureau and asked why the liens for 2011 and 2010 were not honored, they rectified the situation and still have to pass good title to the new owner and we were just notified and hope to have a check for us by the end of this month for \$2,780.49. We hope next month we can report we received the money.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported on Traffic Signals, Sewers, Storm Water and Playground. About Traffic Signals; there is an upgrade on Springfield Road, Clifton Avenue and Maryland Avenue that is proposed by PennDot. They finalized the design and construction plans for this. We reviewed the plans and the Aldan intersection is what they are calling and Overall Baltimore Avenue Corridor Improvement Project. This included signals interconnection, equipment upgrades, an emergency preemption and handicap ramps. They have not given a time line but expect it to be sometime in 2013. Mr. Close will keep up posted.

Mr. Close reported on sewers; we have been reporting on the DELCORA Act 537 Plan Update. Thursday, March 14th they are hosting another meeting and this will be a progress report on Act 537 Plan Update, which is nearing completion. They will also have a presentation on the final contract with the City of Philadelphia. This is a 15 year contract they have negotiated so we will hear details on that and also some discussion on their Sewer Lateral Inspection and Repair Ordinance, which is a requirement from PADEP as a component for Act 537 Plan.

Mr. Close reported on our NPDS Storm Water Permit that was issued by PADEP on February 12, 2013. This is a 5 year permit which goes till 2018 and basically we are going to continue the program and the requirement outlined in the general permit, which we have been doing. This consists of a continuation of public education and outreach, illicit discharge detection. (If there is a spill detected in a sewer or creek it is something that has to be dealt with) training, enforcement of our storm water erosion sediment control ordinances and recording. Essentially the goal is to continue to improve storm water run off that reaches our streams and ultimately improves the quality of our streams.

Mr. Close reported on our 2012 CDBG Project, the Maryland Avenue Playground and Parking Lot improvements. We attended a pre-construction meeting on February 21st at the Office of Housing and Community Development both the paving contractor and the playground contractor were issued a Notice to Proceed starting on March 1, 2013. This is 90 day contract duration so they will have to wrap it up on or before June 1, 2013 but we expect they will be done before that in time for the opening of the Swim Club. Weather dependent the contractors should be up and running before the next 2 weeks. The playground equipment has been ordered and could arrive as early as Friday. We did talk to the contractor today and they may start as early as Monday. With regard to the paving it is still wet we have had a lot of damp weather so the paving contractor expects to get in there early to mid April.

John McBlain commented on the meeting Mr. Close is going to attend with DELCORA about Act 537 and the proposal the Municipalities adopt, the Sewer Lateral Inspection Ordinance that it has become folklore that it is part of the requirement for the Act 537 plan. Mr. McBlain said when you are at the meeting ask specifically if that is actually a requirement. This type of an ordinance is an over extension of Government regulations. Council should very seriously consider it just because some person from DELCORA said you should do it don't let them tell you, you have to do it when that is not the case. Mr. McBlain has gotten contrary information from DEP. Some people would like to see that adopted but that would be a very intrusive ordinance. P J commented that he has debated personally about this issue and you are right the folks at DELCORA on a positive note consider themselves being pro-active by adopting this ordinance would go after another sector of the sewer system which is the private laterals another source of I & I. The ideas the Municipalities have control of the sewers and the streets and we are doing our best with that but there is segment that is left untouched which is the private laterals. This is a topic of strong debate all over the country what is the best way to handle private property rights issues, funding issues and pushing these heavy costs onto property owners at a time when it is very difficult to deal with that. There are conflicting reports DEP representatives have actually sat in the room at the DELCORA meeting and at least this representative is insisting they will not approve the plan unless this component is part of it. Whether or not this person is speaking on behalf of the regulator in charge of this, that's what we are trying to get to the bottom of. We are getting conflicting reports, is this a requirement or is this a wish item but will certainly share those thoughts at the meeting tomorrow night.

Mr. McBlain commented adopting that ordinance is like the government saying everyone has to buy a new car every 2 years because you'll get better fuel mileage and decrease emissions, that's right except not everybody can afford to buy a new car every 2 years. Mr. Close explained that's the biggest struggle unfortunately a lot of thing I report on either NPDS regulations, Storm Water regulations, etc. they sort of dream up things that is would be good for us and they push it down to the lowest level and expect us to enforce these things and enact them but they don't have any money for it and they don't really care about it. That is the challenge that we deal with. Your point is well taken and will certainly bring that up.

Dave Heacock commented he wanted to take this opportunity on behalf on the Aldan Swim Club to thank Council and Mr. Close for their efforts in securing this Grant and in scheduling the work so that it has a minimal impact on the season. This will result in a tremendous improvement to the property not only the parking lot but the park as well. The location you choose for the park could not have been better. It is a beautiful piece of property in a nice wooded setting. It should be very nice and we greatly appreciate it. President Short added thanks to Delaware County Council for their generous approvals of these grants that we have received over the past couple of years. That is where the money is coming through. John McBlain also commented all the merit goes to Council who really did a good job putting this together, it was an easy choice.

Dan Procopio asked about the Traffic upgrades Mr. Close spoke of, who is paying for that, the Feds, the State or does the Borough have to chip in money to do that improvement. Mr. Close explained, I think it is a PennDot sponsored project, it is their work and have not heard there is any local cost request for that. It was more informational; take a look at the plans, here what they are going to do with their upgrades along the entire corridor. Mr. Sefflin commented, it's a TOPICS Program (Traffic Operations Program for Increased Capacity and Safety) they take a stretch of a road that is a State designated highway and they will improve the traffic signal. That is the only time PennDot puts in traffic signals is when the do the TOPICS program.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Owen is at work this evening but wanted to let residents know there is going to be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event of Saturday, April 6th at the Emergency Services Training Center 1600 Calcon Hook Rd, Sharon Hill. Items collected will be computers, TVs, and small electronics. Also collected that day will be flammables, paint thinner, gasoline, kerosene, etc. non-alkaline batteries, toxics, pool chemicals, rust remover, antifreeze mercury switches and thermometers, cell phones, herbicides, pesticides, and caustics. The event will take place rain or shine from 9 AM to 3 PM.

HIGHWAY

Councilman Cosgrove reported our Electrical Contract for 2011-2012 is about to run out. Councilman Cosgrove reviewed various companies offering product and looked at, did they get back to us with a bid, a cost, if they service Municipalities, traffic lights and street lights and customer service. We went with Exelon as we did before because their cost was among the best along with meeting all the criteria.

Exelon on was chosen for the next two years with the final cost to us 7.1 cents per kilowatt hour and that is an improvement of the past years which was 7.8 cents. Councilman Cosgrove acknowledged we have a great company who has always been good, they are responsive, they meet all the criteria and they are cheaper than they were the past years.

Councilman Cosgrove reported we reviewed the scope of work Aqua is doing in town which is laying mains in the area of Rosewood, Hazelwood, Birchwood Glenwood Circle and Maryland Avenue. It seems there are some streets where we can piggyback when they have to pave half the street. We passed an Ordinance last year or the year before saying if someone dug up a spot in the street and it was greater than the allotted square footage or repeated within a certain amount of distance that they would have to pave half the street rather than just a patch. There are some streets where they have a long run down the side where they just did the patch and filled it in the 18" wide patch. Now we have an ordinance that says you have to do half the street we look at if we could piggyback on that and pave the other half of the street, the cost are better because we done this before and we don't have patchwork streets. Councilman Cosgrove asked the account manager to give him a breakdown of every street, what they are doing and what their payment is and if we were to piggyback to do the entire street what the cost would be. When we get those costs back we will sit down and see. Some of the streets don't need it, some streets certainly do need it, and others are on the fence. We will look to see what the costs are and the benefit is to us doing that.

Councilman Cosgrove reported last month we authorized a letter approving fuel allocations money for 2013 and we received a letter this month approving that for \$5,468.00. This money will not be paid until all the work is done, all the bucket items are completed, and all the forms are completed. To give you an idea how long it takes we got last years money in February, 2013.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo reported the field behind the Aldan Elementary School has been repaired from some truck ruts. Also we have not gotten any calls on inlets being clogged but if anyone sees a problem area please give me a call. Councilman Oropollo did try to call Mr. DiAntonio who is running the project for Aqua but he has not called back yet.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Brookes reported we are in the process of collecting our taxes and our tax collector, Tom Morse, is at the Borough Building on Monday nights from 7 to 9 PM till the end of the month.

Councilwoman Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's Report Collingdale Fire Companies #1 and #2 responded to 7 calls during the month of February, 2013 with no damage. During the month of February, 2013 Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 51 calls in the Borough of Aldan. The Fire Marshal did note that the 51 calls to the Ambulance/Paramedic was a very high number. We do thank Collingdale Fire Companies #1 & #2 and the Ambulance and Paramedics for coming to Aldan to help.

Dan Procopio asked for the current amount balances in the Reserve Funds; Councilwoman Brookes reported in the General Reserve we have \$127,720.52; in the Sewer Capital Reserve we have \$146,817.50; and in the Police Capital Reserve we have \$17,148.41. Dan Procopio asked if numbers reflect the loan mentioned earlier already being removed. Councilwoman Brookes responded yes this was reconciled effective 2-28-13.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Coppola reported the Building Inspector issued 10 building permits with a construction value of \$39,380.00; the Residential Inspector completed 6 transfers and mid-terms; and the Plumbing Inspector issued 2 plumbing permits with a construction value of \$8,250.00

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at and Council will meet on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at the Reinl Recreation Building at 7:30 PM for Executive Session and General Meeting starting at 8:00 PM.

President Short announced today I received and accepted the resignation of Councilwoman Lowery for personal reasons.

PRIVLIDGE OF THE FLOOR

Charlie Duffy reminded everyone the Booster's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2013. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for pictures, and we have lots of Easter Eggs. We are hoping for a warm day. The rain date is Saturday, March 30, 2013

Dan Procopio asked if Councilwoman Lowery resignation is effective as of today. President Short responded yes, today. Dan also asked you mentioned there was to be a meeting between the Borough, the School District, the Bonding Company, and the District Attorney's Office concerning the previous Tax Collector is there any news or time line when the dollar amount might be revealed and paid. President Short responded it is still ongoing, still looking into things and they gave us no time frames do to the complexity of it all. Dan asked is there another update scheduled you are aware of. President Short said no not at this time.

President Short also explained as far as the resignation of Councilwoman Lowery, Borough Council has 30 days from today to appoint a replacement for the Councilwoman.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilman Coppola seconded by Councilwoman Brookes and unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary