

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

March 12, 2014

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 Reintl 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 Rankin; M. Xavier;
M. J. Corrigan; S. Oropollo; J. White; S. Coppola

Council members absent: None

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

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilwoman Brookes Rankin seconded by Councilman Oropollo the minutes from the February 12, 2014, 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 on a thank you to the Borough Leaders and public for their kindness during the recent passing of John Huyette and my gratitude is heartfelt. Thank you Dr. Huyette.

Mayor Hopely also had a letter from Radnor Township Police Department: On behalf of the Chandler family, superintendent William Colarulo, Lieutenant Christopher Flanagan and Officer Alex Janoski, would like to cordially thank all agencies that participated in the escort that brought Brayden Chandler home. This multijurisdictional collaboration has shed a positive light on the human side of our Law Enforcement Community and has given the Chandler family an unforgettable experience with their ailing son. Our Delaware County Law Enforcement Community has given the Chandler family a gift that cannot be duplicated and, more importantly, an everlasting memory with their son. Springfield Police Chief Daly and his department further assisted by setting up a "Heroes Welcome" as we arrived on the Chandler's street to make the end of the ride memorable.

Mayor Hopely reported as everyone is aware we have had a harsh winter. Many people in and around our community should be commended for braving the weather to provide services to all of us. Within Aldan we should compliment our crossing guards for being out in extremely cold and wet weather. This is not an easy job and when the weather is bad it becomes that much more difficult. Also, our police officers, firefighters, mail carriers, plow operators, etc. have had to work in difficult circumstances. Two of our employees deserve special mention. Our two secretaries have fielded the complaints that have arisen from the bad weather. We have had a total of 15 storms and it has taken its toll on many of us. Although the vast majority of callers are polite there are a few that have gotten very angry with our secretaries. We thank the two women for remaining professional and polite while dealing with the few unhappy callers.

Mayor Hopely also reminded everyone with spring arriving hopefully sooner rather than later and more people being out doors at various times during both the day and night we ask residents to please call 911 for suspicious activity, disorderly groups, etc.

Mayor Hopely made a Proclamation the Month of March is dedicated to Aldan Townwatch. Aldan Townwatch is celebrating their 40th Anniversary and has become one of Aldan's most contributing civic organizations. Founded in 1974, Aldan Townwatch in its short history had become a institution in our community. Its members have unselfishly given of their time, effort and money in helping maintain the tranquility of Aldan. They have logged over 225,000 miles patrolling the street of Aldan, donated an emergency telephone for the Municipal Building, sponsored CPR courses, Vials for Life, Operation I.D., Emergency Aid Cards for all its citizens, funded and supported the "Just Say No" Program in the Aldan Elementary School, donated 2 specially made Police bicycles to the Borough and played a supporting role in many other activities within the Borough. More importantly, Aldan Townwatch not only views itself as a crime deterrent, but also as another avenue where citizenry of our fine community can get to know each other better. Therefore, in recognition and appreciation, the Borough Council of the Borough of Aldan proclaims the month of March, 2014 as Aldan Townwatch month.

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	\$ 177,919.92	\$ 22,820.52	\$ 37,455.92
Interest	\$	\$	\$
Receipts for period	\$ 119,790.38	\$.84	\$ 49,561.83
Expenditures	\$ 142,699.84	\$ 6,568.37	\$ 1,325.57
Loan from Reserve	\$	\$	\$ 100,000.00
Ending Balance	\$ 155,010.46	\$ 16,252.99	\$ 185,692.18

Terry is asking Council’s approval to release check this evening; for checks from the General Fund totaling \$176,946.50; checks from the State Highway Fund totaling \$6,568.37; and checks from the Sewer Fund totaling \$166,604.87. Councilwoman Brookes Rankin 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 White and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Seflin reported on the 2012 Tax Delinquent Program. Mr. Seflin received a check today for \$1,382.14 for the property at 49 S. Woodlawn Avenue and we will be removing the lien from that property. We also received payment in the amount of \$4,084.86 for the property at 226 Rivley Avenue, Collingdale; this property hooks into our Municipal Sewer System. These folks were delinquent for 2010-2011- 2012 and the amount mentioned was the amount due plus fines and penalties.

Mr. Seflin also reported on a nescience matter we had at 34 S. Clifton Avenue last summer. There was grossly overgrown weeds, bushes, grass and undergrowth at the property. It was declared a nescience by the Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Official and were given several days to clean the property up; they refused so the Borough abated the nescience and had to pay a contractor to do that work. We were going to file a lien against this property, Mr. Seflin was in contact with the owners and they retained an attorney and Mr. Seflin received a few day ago a check for \$1,855.00. Mr. Seflin did tell the owners and the attorney that this could happen again if they don’t continue to maintain the property.

Mr. Seflin reported on March 11th Mr. Tartaglia and Mr. Seflin attended a hearing on a criminal matter with J R Paving Inc. Mr. Tartaglia issued citations to J R Paving regarding a paving project without a permit, ordered to stop, they failed to stop, then another citation was issued. On December 9, 2013 they were convicted at the District Court level there was an appeal and yesterday was the hearing on the appeal in front of the Court of Common Pleas. After 1 ½ hours of waiting for our case to be called and almost 25 minutes of argument Mr. Seflin moved that the appeal of these folks should be quashed because it was late but the Judge continued the matter until May 13, 2014 in order for the defendants, who are a corporations, to “Get a lawyer”, that’s the Judges order. Corporations can not appear at a criminal proceeding without an attorney and the judge did not appreciate that.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported during the month and moving forward we will continue to work on the 2014 Road Program, ongoing NPDS MS 4 Storm Water Permit activities, coordinate DELCORA Act 537 Plan updates, responding and investigating sink holes resulting from the harsh winter, and our continuing sewer I & I work. Mr. Close will be available during committee reports for questions or feedback.

Dan Procopio asked what the status of the Act 537 was it submitted to the DEP. Mr. Close responded last month he reported based on information from DELCORA that 28 out of the 31 municipalities had adopted the necessary resolution or made a commitment to do that. In an email from DELCORA they said now 30 out of 31 are committed. At this point it has not be submitted to DEP. We do expect to hear by next month that it may be submitted to DEP and that would start their review process.

Dan Procopio also asked what the status of our CDBG grant application is. Mr. Close commented County Council will evaluate the applications and generally in April or May we hear which projects were selected. We will pass that information along when we get it.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Councilwoman Corrigan reported Aldan will host on April 26, 2014 the National Take Back Drug Program at the Municipal Building from 10 to 2.

HIGHWAY

Councilman White reported the Aqua project on Providence Road by Penn Pines Park is complete but still waiting for a response from Aqua to see when the black top will be completed and the orange signs will be removed.

Councilman White reported he has a call in to the PECO representative about the lighting project at Woodlawn Avenue and Providence Road and on Willows Lane and looking for a start date.

Councilman White reported we also had 2 storm grates that were damaged this winter. One at the corner of Providence Road and Woodlawn by the Historical Museum but this grate was not able to be repaired so it is scheduled to be replaced next week. The second grate is located at 101 South Glenwood Avenue. This had a screen over the grate that was tacked down and the welds broke but can be repaired and also scheduled for next week.

Councilman White reported with 15 winter storms this season as of March 6th most of the bills have been submitted. These bills cover snow removal, salt, salt haulers, and the total is \$47,100.45.

Councilman White made a motion for the Borough Engineer, Mr. Close, to submit the County Aid Application for the 2014 Road Program.

Roxanne Norman commented on speaking to Councilman White a few times and in light of hearing the very large bills for snow removal did not think a very good job was done in the plowing and the salting throughout the winter season. There are several areas, particularly on East Magnolia Avenue and Springfield Road I don't think was ever well salted during the entire season. Particularly on the days when snow melted and then refroze at night becoming a hazard when approaching that intersection because it was a sheet of ice you would slide into the intersection. Councilman White responded the Traboscia did respond every time the Police Department called about refreezing.

John McBlain commented out at the County today we made an announcement that should benefit all the Municipalities just a little bit. Mr. McBlain indicated that Councilman White asked for a motion to vote on Liquid Fuel Fund allocation from the County and generally speaking there is about \$700,000.00 in total that the County allocates to between all 49 Municipalities based upon the length of the roads and population. As far as we know we are the only county that actually takes their own County Liquid Fuel money and allocates it out to the Municipalities for highways. Because of bad problems we had this winter and with the pot holes that have developed we are going to add an additional 35% to that specifically for the purpose of fixing pot holes and dealing with left over things from the winter such as the grates and things that have to be repaired. It won't solve all our problems, making up for the money we had to spend, but it should be a benefit that should cover things in Aldan like pot hole repairs. President Short commented it is something that is most appreciated.

Dan Procopio asked if the drains were damaged by the snow plow. Councilman White responded probably but there is no way to prove that.

Councilman White again made a motion to have the Borough Engineer to submit the County Aid application for the 2014 Road Program, seconded by Councilman Xavier and unanimously approved.

Mr. Borders commented he thought Traboscia did a bang up job on Providence Road. Mr. Borders asked if Providence Road is Penn Dot's responsibility. President Short explained it is a state highway but this year it is our responsibility. Mr. Borders continued they did a good job on Providence Road but they could have done a better job on the side streets. Mr. Borders thought our previous plow contractor did a better job.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo reported we finally got the issue settled on Sycamore Avenue, the grease was removed and General Sewer will come back again in 6 months to look at the issue to make sure it is not happening again. We did not find any issue of illegal dumping of grease or things of that nature. Mr. Goldsborough remarked he was satisfied something was being done.

Mr. Goldsborough asked if we received the televised report. Councilman Oropollo explained everything has been televised and everything is clean as of right now. There were no areas that had any kind of grease build up, which is why he wants to go back in 6 months to take a look at it and see if there are any issues that we can find over that period of time. Mr. Close commented the televising showed that structurally the line is adequate. There are no structural issues and we wanted to confirm with the televising.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Brookes Rankin reminded everyone Tax Bill with the discount period are due March 31, 2014 and the Tax Collector, Tom Morse, will be in the Municipal Building the next 3 Monday evenings till March 31st from 7 PM till 9 PM. Taxes can also be paid at all 3 branches of Sharon Savings and Loan, Springfield, Morton and Darby.

Dan Procopio asked for the Reserve Funds balances and also if I heard the Treasurer's Report correctly there must have been a transfer into the General Fund to cover the difference between the \$155 and \$176 outgoing. Terry Quinn responded no there was not because since the Bank reconciliation there have been some more receipts from taxes that we are able to move over to get us through.

Councilwoman Rankin reported and the balance reconciled on February 28, 2014 in the General Fund Reserve is \$13,682.87; in the Sewer Capital Reserve we have \$291,235.11; and in the Police Capital Reserve we have \$17,165.18. Dan asked if the \$291 was prior to or after the loan to the sewer fund. Councilwoman Brookes Rankin said after the loan to the sewer fund.

Roxanne Norman asked does the Tax Collector send the tax bills for those who have mortgages to the mortgage companies because it came in the mail. Tom Morse, our tax collector, apologized for that. If you got a tax bill that was my mistake but odds are the mortgage company has it anyway and will pay the bill. Mr. Morse asked for Ms. Norman's address and he will check and get back to you.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Xavier does not have the Fire Marshal's Report for the month of February but will report on both months in April.

Councilman Xavier reported all is quiet with the Police Department, which is a good thing and they are doing a great job keeping our town safe.

Councilman Xavier told Councilwoman Corrigan he will put the Drug Take Back Program information on the web site.

Roxanne Norman commented back in December requested the Police Department start posting an officer periodically on Maryland Avenue and East Magnolia Avenue. People there continuously, continuously run both of the STOP signs. Councilman Xavier will speak with the Chief about this issue. President Short commented the Chief was aware and did instruct officers of the situation there.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Coppola reported for the month of February, 2014; the Building Inspector issued 5 Building Permits with a construction value of \$20,314.00; there were 2 Plumbing Permits issued with a construction value of \$8,900.00; and the Residential Inspector completed 18 Transfer and Mid-term inspections.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Short reported on our prior Tax Collector, Mr. Park will be sentenced on April 17, 2014 at 2:00 in front of Judge Capuzzi at the Court House in Media. Hopefully this will put an end to the criminal part of this and we can start putting this all behind us. Our Solicitor has been in touch with the Company that is administrating the Bond on Mr. Park about us receiving our payment. As soon as we hear something back from them we will pass that right along.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building and Council will meet on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 7:30 PM for Executive Session; and General Meeting starting at 8:00 PM. at the William Reinl Recreation Building.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary