

**ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

May 14, 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.

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**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 Coppola the minutes from the March 12, 2014, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

**WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No written correspondence tonight.

**VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE**

George Gericke 225 Merion Ave. I live 2 doors down from Robert Park and I am really mad of the way that was handled. The man had 17 counts and pleaded it down to 2, they gave him a year and a day and 2 years and a day and the reason being he couldn't go up state to a tougher prison you kept him down in the county. This is a disgrace what is going on, with all the money he steals and gets a year and a day and 2 years and a day and tells me he will be out in a year and will be on probation for 2 years. A man steals a million and a third; 400 thousand from us. Every day we write our taxes out to Robert H. Park and I say to myself this is idiotic we are writing these taxes out to Robert Park. Doesn't anybody audit the books, doesn't anybody check on him, this went on for years and years. President Short responded the books were audited each year from the information supplied by the tax collector. Mr. Gericke asked, why did you let him put it in his own name in an account. President Short explained that is State Law we had no control over that.

Mr. Seflin explained Mr. Park was independently elected under the State Tax Collectors Code. He can do anything he wants he is an independently elected official, we couldn't order him to accept funds made payable to Aldan Borough or William Penn School District. Mr. Gericke said, Mr. Park told him he was not qualified to serve as the tax collector now but because he had done it in the past it was ok he got a pass on it. President Short asked Mr. Gericke to explain he did not understand what he said. Mr. Gericke explained he was not qualified now but the way it was written but because he was a tax collector in the past he was OK stay with it. Mr. Seflin said the man was a Wharton School Graduate, if he wasn't qualified who was. Mr. Gericke said what does that make it he's a Wharton School Graduate he's a thief. Many members of Council said we all agree with you. Mr. Gericke continued suddenly he found religion; he's over the Church with his bible. Mr. Gericke said I don't work that way it's not right. President Short commented he gave a lengthily statement to the Judge to inflict the maximum sentence on Mr. Park at the hearing. Mr. Seflin suggested that you may need to have a chat with Judge Capuzzi because it was not up to the Borough or the District Attorney. Councilwoman Rankin commented, she was at the hearing and President Short made it very, very clear that Council takes their responsibilities very, very seriously. President Short asked for the maximum sentence that could be imposed. Mr. Gericke wanted it known that he is very disturbed that Mr. Park will probably be out by Christmas because if he serves a year and he gets good time and he gets off, and he gets probation for the next 2 years. President Short responded it is 5 years probation and the Judge was specific about no good time available to him. He will serve 1 year less 1 day unless he gets into some trouble at the prison. Mr. Seflin suggested he address his comments to the Honorable John Capuzzi, he is the one that imposed the sentence. Councilman Coppola commented fortunately the Borough is bonded and that is in the process now. Mr. Gericke responded just because you are bonded and will get your money back the price you pay the insurance company for the bond will increase and we would all have to pay that.

Rich and Linda Cullen 126 S. Clifton Avenue: back on April 17, 2014 we had a problem; my next door neighbor, who is a plumbing contractor by trade, was working on his own sewer but my driveway was flooded with about 2" of water but after opening the door there was a stench. 6 to 8 months prior he had dug a trench along the side of his house it was about 12' long, 4' wide and 4' deep. My neighbor picked that morning to fix the sewer and the ditch was full to the top with sewage. They had set a pump up in the trench and ran a hose over to my fence line and pumped it all over my yard. President Short asked if he called the Borough and he did and talked with the Borough Secretary. The Secretary did call back 20 minutes later and said Tony Tartaglia had been down there and they were pumping the lateral. President Short asked if the lateral line was in the ditch. Mr. Cullen said yes and that a Honey Dipper truck, which pumps sewer lines out, should have been called not pump it out on the ground. President Short was somewhat familiar with your issue and when he spoke with Mr. Tartaglia he said it was cleaned up to the satisfaction of the DEP. President Short asked if the DEP came to his property and Mr. Cullen said yes and they gave the neighbors a list of things to do and to this day there is still dry toilet paper and feces running down the driveway. They cleaned about 6 square feet of driveway and put lime on about 4 square foot of ground where the hose came through. President Short said he would meet Mr. Cullen on his property tomorrow. Mr. Cullen said my point of this conversation is, I got nowhere fast, where is our plumbing inspector, why wasn't there a Plumbing Inspector and why was nobody at my house. Mr. and Mrs. Cullen they tried to call everybody at the table. Besides the Mayor only Councilman Oropollo called me back and said he would look into it. Mr. Cullen said it took him calling the DEP and then they lied to them and said they cleaned it up. President Short said, you said the DEP visited the site. The DEP visited the site and told him what they wanted done. Mr. Cullen told the DEP they didn't really clean it up but they said they talked to their Micro Biologist and by now 9 day later it is broken down enough it shouldn't be to harmful. What kind of answer it that? President Short asked who told you that. Mr. Cullen said the DEP guy. The DEP told the Cullen's our Borough Health Inspector should come out.

Mr. Cullen said who is our Health Inspector he called me 9 days later. President Short asked do you still have issues now. Mr. Cullen response was not so much now but this should not happen to anyone.

Mr. & Mrs. Cullen had much more discussion on things going on around the neighborhood. President Short will stop at Mr. & Mrs. Cullen's home tomorrow.

President Short turned the meeting over to Mayor Hopely to introduce and swear in a new part time officer Mark Perno. Mark is experienced and just retired from 24 years with Upper Darby Police Department. Mayor Hopely swore in Mark Perno as a new part time police officer for the Aldan Police Department.

Mayor Hopely asked Joe Cosgrove to come forward: Councilwoman Rankin read a Proclamation: Whereas, the Borough of Aldan is able to boast that Joseph Cosgrove is a resident of Aldan and has exceptionally served our residents over the past half century as a leader in many of our civic organizations; and Joseph Cosgrove was appointed to the Aldan Borough Council on February 11, 2009 and thereafter resoundingly elected to a full term on the Borough Council by the citizenry of Aldan, completing his term of office on the first Monday of January, 2014; and Joseph Cosgrove distinguished himself as a member of the Borough Council, serving as Chairman of the Highways Committee throughout his tenure on the Borough Council and spearheading many improvements and new projects that have benefited our citizens; and Joseph Cosgrove led the Borough Council's efforts to implement an improved website for the government of Aldan, resulting in an outstanding mode of communication between our citizens and their elected representatives which has advanced our local government as open, transparent and accountable to our citizens, and Joseph Cosgrove will always be recalled by his colleagues for the meticulous attention to detail that he brought to his work and his continuous efforts to bring innovation and new ideas to all facets of our local government; now therefore, be it Proclaimed this 9th day of April, 2014 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Aldan that we recognize and commend Joseph Cosgrove for his many years of service to the residents of Aldan and his service as a member of the Borough Council. His dedication to the health, safety and welfare of our citizens deserves the bestowal of grateful appreciation from our residents. Signed, James R. Hopely, Mayor and Harry Short, President of Council.

Joe Cosgrove wanted to say he enjoyed his time and appreciated the opportunity to serve on Council thank you very much.

Councilman Coppola continued on behalf of Borough Council, the Mayor, and the residents of Aldan presented Joe with a small token of our appreciation for your years of service to the Borough. Councilman Coppola presented Joe with a print from local artist Bill Ressler. Joe thanked everyone.

## **MAYOR REPORT**

Mayor Hopely read a letter of appreciation: Dear Mr. Mayor, we are writing to express our appreciation to you and your officers for the excellent service they provided looking after our home during our extended vacation. It's extremely reassuring to know we can leave home and enjoy our vacation not having to worry about the security of our home. Thank you

**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	\$ 543,694.71	\$ 9,685.03	\$ 227,594.42
Interest	\$	\$	\$
Receipts for period	\$ 810,984.45	\$ .18	\$ 359,097.74
Expenditures	\$ 286,516.36	\$ 6,568.37	\$ 6,173.40
Returned Reserve Loan	\$ 235,000.00	\$	\$
Ending Balance	\$ 833,162.80	\$ 3,116.84	\$ 580,518.76

Terry is asking Council's approval to release check this evening; for checks from the General Fund totaling \$526,945.58 checks from the State Highway Fund totaling \$2,103.84; and checks from the Sewer Fund totaling \$9,683.50. Councilwoman 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 Oropollo and unanimously approved.

**SOLICITOR**

Mr. Seflin reported we are continuing our efforts to reach a Franchise Agreement with Comcast. There is some question about language in the agreement they tenured to us regarding whether it is applicable in light of some amendments to the Federal Cable Communications Act, we are discussing that.

Mr. Seflin reported this past Tuesday Mr. Tartaglia and Mr. Selfin appeared before the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, the Honorable Kathrynann Durham, regarding J R Paving Company Inc. this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time we have been in court with this particular defendant in the last few months. Last September at 313 Aldan Avenue, this Company was performing construction work without a permit and was told to stop and obtain a permit, which they failed or refused to do. They were convicted again last Tuesday, and the sentence from the District Justice was re-imposed and their appeal was quashed.

Mr. Seflin reported on the Tax Delinquent Program and we had a very productive month. Regarding the 2011 delinquencies: we did receive money from an estate in the amount of \$1,730.05: Regarding the 2012 delinquencies: we received \$1,976.57 for the property at 128 W. Maryland Avenue; we also received \$1,411.52 for the property at 21 E. Wayne Avenue. Our total collection for the past month was \$5,118.14. We started our 2012 delinquencies with 45 and our now down to 8 delinquencies but 12 properties because 1 of the delinquents owns 3 properties. Mr. Seflin said we now have started to prepare law suites against these delinquents. Mr. Seflin will have a report on that next month.

Mr. Seflin just received from Mr. Morse, our Tax Collector, the 2013 delinquency list so we will be working on that throughout the summer.

Beatrice Bradford, 20 Bonsall Avenue commented that internet access is sometimes very iffy, you get cut off whether it's Comcast or Verizon does that have any impact on the negotiations you are having with Comcast? Mr. Seflin responded no impact on his negotiations but there is provisions in the current Franchise Agreement with Comcast that they must have a complaint reporting procedure but not sure if Verizon has the same. Mrs. Bradford asked about FiOs running wires last year will that be an option for Aldan residents. President Short responded it is supposed to be we signed an agreement with Verizon in 2008 and they, Verizon, said it would be the Borough of October of that year. They gave us a contact person who went away, we have called several times through the years and the just started coming back into town running their cable and service is available in a portion of the town. Mrs. Bradford said there is no rhyme or reason why her service shuts off. Mr. Seflin suggested that she write a letter or email so there is something in writing and it seems they respond rather quickly to a written complaint than a call.

### **ENGINEER**

Mr. Close reported relative to NPDES MS4 Storm Water Permit Program last week we completed and submitted our 2013-2014 progress report to DEP required under the permit. This report identifies the Borough's MS4 Storm Water Management Program activities for the year, such as our web site updates, public education, outreach publications, system and equipment O & M, illicit discharge detection and things like that.

Mr. Close we have ongoing various projects: 2014 Road Program, and the Oak Lane Penn Dot Resurfacing Project relative to Sewer Casting adjustments, and will also be available for questions during committee reports.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Councilwoman Corrigan reported, meeting with Jim Maloney the Health Officer, for the Board of Health. On May 15<sup>th</sup> inspection letters will go out to residents who have pools. Pool Inspections will take place between June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup>

Councilwoman Corrigan reported for the month of April 2014 we recycled 41.83 tons; an increase in comparison to April of 2013 was 23.74; and for trash for April 2014 was 171.81 tons.

Councilwoman Corrigan commented that Terry Owen would like to say a few words about the Drug Take Back Event that was held Nationwide on April 26<sup>th</sup> once again we had a good response in the Borough. This year 156.6 pounds of medications in the forms of pills, capsules, liquids, inhaled products, creams, lotions, and ointments were collected. When we first started this program in September, 2010 the Borough collected 10 pounds, the second collection was 26 pounds and since then we collect 125 pounds or better. The only other collection point with a higher amount than us was Upper Darby who exceeded us by 6 pounds and the 6 other sites collected 20 pounds or less. In 2010 there were 20 collection sites now there are 8 and part of that is because there are collection boxes in many boroughs throughout the County.

The DEA foresees that this could possibly be the beginning of the end of the collection take back however they also see that this brings out a lot of people with quantities they want to dispose of in the right way. Mrs. Owen commented this year Wawa from Oak Avenue provided us with vouchers for donuts, and coupons for Hoagies, and we also had some pamphlets from the Delaware County Heroin Task Force to hand out to make residents aware of how to properly dispose of medications so it doesn't get into the wrong hands and end up being misused.

## **HIGHWAY**

Councilman White reported PennDot has completed their evaluation for the cost of winter services for the 2013-2014 seasons. The evaluation has indicated that Aldan Borough has qualified for a reimbursement in the amount of \$2,484.82, which will be put back into the Road Resurfacing Program.

Councilman White reported the streets selected for the Road Resurfacing Program for 2014 are: Glenwood Avenue from Providence Road up to and including the Walnut Avenue intersection, Merion Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue intersection, Priscilla Lane up to and including the Merion Avenue intersection, and Rively Avenue, the portion of east bound lane at the intersection of Springfield Road. The engineers estimate of probable cost is \$44,309.50 and we have \$45,000.00 budgeted so we should be able to get everything done.

Councilman White made a motion to ask the Borough Engineer to advertise the Road Resurfacing Project for 2014, seconded by Councilman Xavier and unanimously approved.

Councilman White made a motion for the Borough Engineer to execute the Project Letter Agreement to incorporate the Manhole Casting Adjustment for the PennDot Resurfacing scheduled to be done this summer, seconded by Councilman Coppola and unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilman Oropollo reported we had an incident on Glenwood Avenue the resident's basement was flooded out. General Sewer was called out to check the sanitary manhole and the water was about 2 feet from the top of manhole. General Sewer couldn't do anything with it but called Councilman Oropollo down to Linden and Rively where the water was coming out of the manhole. With the amount of rainfall we got we couldn't do anything until the water subsided and Collingdale was backing up and forcing the water back into our area. P J and Councilman Oropollo are going to look at that area to see what is going on.

Councilman Oropollo wanted to remind residents it is illegal to drain your sump pump into the Sanitary Line.

## **FINANCE**

Councilwoman Rankin reported tax collections are coming along quit well this year for Borough Taxes. At this point our Real Estate Tax to date is at 90%; our Trash Tax Collection is at 90%; and the Sewer Rent is at 91%. We are very encouraged by the collections.

President Short commented if by chance you do get behind in your taxes it goes to the County, you can out there and can set up a plan with them to pay your taxes off however it does not include the trash and sewer rents. They don't always inform you of that, you might leave there thinking you are making good on your taxes but this isn't included. Sewer and trash taxes have to be done through the Borough not at the County.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Councilman Xavier read the Fire Marshal's Report for the month of April, 2014 Collingdale Fire Companies #1 and #2 responded to 5 calls during the month all resulting in no damage. During the month of April, 2014, Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 28 calls in the Borough of Aldan.

Councilman Xavier reported our new police car is up and ready to go. In talking with the Chief and looking at some numbers and do to the do diligence of Council and help from Senator Erickson we have only spent less than \$20,000.00 in the last ten years on the purchase of police cars. We have done very well with securing grants and such. The less than \$20,000.00 is for the up fits on the vehicles. This is our first new car in 3 years.

### **LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councilman Coppola reported for the month of April, 2014; the Building Inspector issued 33 Building Permits with a construction value of \$114,846.00; the Residential Inspector completed 85 Transfer and Mid-term inspections; and during the month of April, 2014 there were no Plumbing Permits issued.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Councilman Oropollo announced that May 29, 2014 is the Hero Bowl. The money from the Hero Bowl provides scholarships for children of Police Officer, Fireman, and EMT who lost their lives in the line of duty for their children to go to college. The game is at 7:30 at Weidner University.

President Short wanted to remind the Bulk Trash for the West Side of town is May 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building and Council will meet on Wednesday, June 11, 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**

Tom Morse, our Tax Collector, reported William Penn School District Taxes will be mailed out in late June.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Councilman Coppola and seconded by Councilman Xavier unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

**ATTEST**

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MARIE V. KAUT  
Borough Secretary