

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

November 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 Vice-President Brookes Rankin presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Vice-President Brookes Rankin.

ROLL CALL

Council members present: P. Brookes Rankin; S. Coppola; J. Cosgrove
T. Owen; M. J. Corrigan; S. Oropollo;

Council members absent: H. Short

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

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilwoman Corrigan seconded by Councilman Coppola the minutes from the October 9, 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 read a letter received from Joseph Daly, Chief of Police, Springfield Township. Chief Daly wanted to take the time to personally thank all of you for your support of the 13th Annual Run for Heroes. We had 45 officers representing all of your departments and they did an excellent job in manning the traffic posts and ensuring another uneventful race. Many of the participants went out of their way to mention the number of officers present from throughout the County.

Chief Daly found it interesting the number of people who noted that their home town Police Department was present. It is also a tribute to the memory of our officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and a clear demonstration that they have not been forgotten by their fellow officers. This was a banner year, we had over 350 runners/walkers and from private donors we raised over \$40,000 for the scholarship fund. We view this accomplishment with mixed emotions, it is good thing to have the wherewithal to educate the children of our fallen comrades but the price to be paid for that education is unacceptable and yet unavoidable considering the inherent dangers associated with emergency services. Mayor Hopely also commented we had 2 Officers help and volunteer their time.

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	\$ 460,423.68	\$ 48,626.14	\$ 123,852.29
Interest		\$	\$
Receipts for period	\$ 43,909.64	\$ 2.49	\$ 9,556.17
Expenditures Prior Month	\$ 183,092.18	\$ 6,453.04	\$ 1,225.42
Ending Balance	\$ 321,241.14	\$ 42,175.59	\$ 132,183.04

Terry is asking Council’s approval to release check this evening; for checks from the General Fund totaling \$172,414.02; checks from the State Highway Fund totaling \$6,453.04; and checks from the Sewer Fund totaling \$4,476.04. Councilman Coppola 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 last month on the 2012 Delinquency Program and this has been quite an active month in that area. We received 6 payments in the last month for a little over \$10,000.00. We started with 45 delinquencies; 22 have paid; 2 are in mortgage foreclosure or Sheriff’s Sale; 3 we are currently in negotiation with; 2 in payment plans; and 16 totally outstanding and not had any communication with any of them so next month we will file suite against them. Mr. Seflin did go to court in October for 2 outstanding delinquencies for 2011. The debtor from 124 Springfield Road did pay the total amount due and the other 29 S. Sycamore Avenue the owner entered into a payment plan and has made 2 payments. Mr. Seflin was advised that a 2009 delinquent was subject to mortgage foreclosure and because our lien is showing up in the title search we received notification from the bank. Mr. Seflin sent a letter to the attorney for the Bank and to Sheriff of Delaware County, Joseph Blackburn advising both of our lien and making sure they know about the lien and the current amount so our lien should be protected. This is scheduled for Sheriff’s Sale on January 11, 2014.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported on DELCORA Act 537 Plan Update. At last months Council Meeting council passed Resolution 2013-04 adopting the Act 537 Sewage Plan Update. As per an email yesterday from DELCORA to date 16 out of 31 of the Eastern Member Municipalities have adopted the plan therefore DELCORA anticipates submission to PA DEP in the next month or so when they receive at least 24 approvals. At that point if they don't get all 31 DEP will then follow up with the other Municipalities, who decided not to adopt to coordinate other possible options. Mr. Close will keep us posted. Relative to our NPDES MS4 Storm Water Program on October 25, 2013 the Borough received a review letter from PA DEP on our year 9, March, 2011 to March, 2012 and our year 10, March, 2012 to March, 2013 annual reports. We received a favorable review summarized by a statement in the letter, your accomplishments and continued implementation and improvement of your MS 4 Program are acknowledged. We received a few minor comments as we usually do to improve our program such as adding a new storm water management links that DEP provides every year to strengthen our public education and outreach segments of our program. Something unique is part of this years review for the first time the DEP MS4 compliance specialist, Rich Brightenstein, is personally meeting with each Municipality to further discuss the MS4 program. He will come get to know us, give us some suggested improvements in February or March of 2014. Mr. Close will let us know when that meeting is. Relative to our 2014 Community Development Block Grant application last year the Borough submitted the 2013 CDBG application our Meter 3 Sewage Collection System I & I Rehab Project. This would be to continue our sewage work to get rain water out of our system. Meter 3 is along Lobbs Run. The application amount was for \$225,000.00 but was not approved last year. There are always more requests than there is funding. Council has directed Mr. Close to reapply again, we have the data, we will have to hold a public hearing prior to our December 11, 2013 Council Meeting, which is a requirement of the CDBG application. Mr. Close is requesting Council to authorize his office to advertise for this required Public Hearing.

Dan Procopio asked was the Playground and Paving the parking lot our 2012 CDBG project. Mr. Close responded yes it was. Mr. Close explained we have gotten a grant every other year. We were not eligible until the 2000 Censes and when the data kicked in the first time we could apply was 2004 and have done every other year. We tried last year but were not successful but we hope we will be this year.

REPORTS OF BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Anthony Tartaglia did not have anything new for the Planning Commission

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Councilwoman Brookes Rankin did not have anything at this time for the Historical Commission

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Owen reported on October 26th we held our second Drug Take Back Event for this year in coordination with distributing extra or replaceable recycling bins. As far as the Drug Take Back Event is always a success and we did collect 150 pounds of expired or unused over the counter or prescription drugs. In perspective we receive boxes that are about 3 feet tall and we filled 6 of them to their capacity. We collected that amount on 2 previous occasions so that is about our average. With the recycle bins we distributed 50 bins to residents.

Councilwoman Owen reported there will be no trash collection on Thursday, November 28th because it is Thanksgiving Day but trash will be collected on Friday, November 29th.

Councilwoman Owen reported this is the time of year we pursue our Curbside Recycling Contract. Councilwoman Owen receives bids from local haulers for the year 2014. With the estimation of the cost and what we paid for the past 2 years we calculated the informal bid process, which requires the Borough to gather 3 bids either electronically or telephonically from at least 3 haulers. We did receive 3 bids; 1) H & H Disposal Service, Inc. for a bid amount of \$43,200.00; 2) Creative Waste Solutions doing business as (dba) B & L Disposal Services for a bid amount of \$34,860.00; 3) Suburban Waste Services for a bid amount of \$9,900.00. This bidding threshold for the informal bid process is between \$10,200.00 and \$18,900.00. With that in mind the bids from H & H Disposal Services and Creative Waste Solutions must be disqualified from this process therefore leaving the bid from Suburban Waste Services for \$9,900.00. This company is an A rated and T-list Surety Bonded company. They are the current recycling haulers. Councilwoman Owen made a motion to accept the bid from Suburban Waste Services for \$9,900.00 for the curbside recycling contract for the year 2014, seconded by Councilman Coppola and unanimously approved. Vice President Brookes Rankin thanked Councilwoman Owen for all her hard work.

Mike Xavier commented he is employed in Marple Township and in a Newsletter that he read that Marple Township charges residents \$20.00 per recycling bins and they must be picked up at the Municipal Building. This is a value for Aldan residents that they don't have to pay for recycling bins. Councilwoman Owen explained Aldan Borough is not mandated to recycle because our population is less than the states mandate of 5,000 people. We are providing this as a service because our residents asked for it. Vice President Brookes Rankin also explained Councilwoman Owen got the recycling program going but also applied for a grant so there was no cost to the residents of Aldan. Councilwoman Owen said in comparison when we were pursuing recycling it was about the same time in 2010 and read the other Boroughs that were getting recycling contracts together and Media Borough has a population density very close to Aldan and 2 years ago they were paying \$73,000.00 so we hope that puts our rates in perspective.

HIGHWAY

Councilman Cosgrove has a few updates: 1) in front of the Borders house at 503 W. Providence Road and turning into their driveway. We met with the PennDot maintenance representatives and Borough Engineers but the only solution they could come up with is moving the existing hidden driveway sign closer to the Borders property. Councilman Cosgrove decided to put up an additional hidden drive sign but also a No Passing sign underneath. Councilman Cosgrove does hope it works but said come back if it doesn't. Mr. Borders thanked Councilman Cosgrove for all the effort.

Councilman Cosgrove had another update, a request to improve lighting in 2 different locations. One of the intersections is Providence Rd and Woodlawn Ave. and the other on Willows Lane. Both of the locations have residents living in the area so brighter lighting could not be changed too much. The solution to the problem was to keep the same wattage but change the lights with an improved light and new covers. On Providence Road there are 2 lights we will replace 1 then evaluate the area and on Willows there are 3 lights and we will replace 2. We hope this will improve the problem.

Councilman Cosgrove reported for the last few months we have been working on improved signage in town. So far we have a total of 42 signs that we have taken down or changed because they were no longer need, faded that you could not read the sign, or bent for whatever reason. This is about 95% of the signs identified that we were going to change.

Councilman Cosgrove reported on the white pedestrian crossing lines and the white vehicle bar stopping have been painted.

Bill McNally from Willows Lane thanked the Councilmen for taking care of the lighting problem.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo reported he called Ralph Brown, from PECO, today about the sidewalks that were torn up with the work they were doing with the gas leak on East Providence Road. Mr. Brown will get back to Councilman Oropollo with a date for the sidewalks and street repairs.

Councilman Oropollo was advised about a rattle noise on W. Providence Road near W. Wayne Avenue. This is an Aqua line and they have been notified. The road is giving way around the Aqua line and the pipe is dislodged a little bit. Mr. Close, our Engineer, has called Aqua to come out to take a look at the area to see how it will be repaired because it is vibrating.

Councilman Oropollo reported in the upcoming months he will be meeting with Mr. Close and Mr. Seflin have been going over the lateral issue with DELCORA on how we want to address the community. Every community in Delaware County is going to have to deal with the issue and we will try to find the best option possible to benefit the tax payers of Aldan.

Councilman Oropollo commented winter is coming and some of the seniors' citizens in our community who don't have access when it snows to get out of their homes. If you know someone in a bind and their sidewalks need to be cleaned please call the Councilmen and he will see if he can find some help.

Dan Procopio commented he thinks it was PECO working on some of the sidewalk area on E. Providence Road but it looks like they still have more to be finished.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Corrigan reported on the Fire Marshall Report for the month of October, 2013. Collingdale Fire companies #1 and #2 responded to 5 calls in the Borough of Aldan. During the month of October, 2013 Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 34 calls in the Borough of Aldan.

The Fire Marshal reported regarding the fire call at 3 Merion Terrace, the Fire Marshal is working with the Building Inspector, Health Officer and Code Enforcement Officer in attempts to clean up the property at American Carpet. Complaints have been received from various neighboring residents and businesses concerning the upkeep and maintenance of this property. On October 24th a fire started in a dumpster at American Carpet and the fire spread to the Fastening Company next door and there was \$4,800.00 in damages.

Fire Prevention week was in October. Collingdale Fire Companies #1 & #2 visited Aldan Elementary School and a presentation was made to the students on fire safety and an inspection was made of school property.

The Fire Marshal asked as we approach the winter months he is asking all residents to have their heaters serviced and cleaned. This season always bring an increase in alarms due to faulty/dirty heaters and fire places. The Fire Marshal is also asking all residents to change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Councilwoman Corrigan also reported on another report of damages on October 16th at 115 North Clifton Avenue there was a vehicle fire with \$700.00 in damages.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Coppola reported for the month of October, the Building Inspector issued 20 building permits with a construction value of \$49,181.00; the Residential Inspector completed 42 transfers and mid-terms inspections; and the Plumbing Inspector issued 4 plumbing permits with a construction value of \$9,515.00

Councilman Coppola explained a few weeks ago he attended a funeral for a Police Officer in Ashville, North Carolina who was killed in the line of duty. This was a family member but commented Aldan Police Department was represented by Officer Alexander who is also a friend of the family. There were 3 other departments also represented Collingdale, Folcroft and Radnor. Councilman Coppola wanted to thank the Chief for the effort to send an Officer from Aldan.

Roxanne Norman asked if there was any way to get a Police Officer to sit on Maryland Avenue and East Magnolia Avenue for people who are running the stop sign. The area from Oak Avenue to Springfield is like a speedway and Ms. Norman got hit by someone who ran the stop sign. Councilman Coppola responded our officers sit on many of those intersections at different times of the day. Ms. Norman said Maryland Avenue is right in front of her house and has never seen one there and that would be a very good place to sit and catch people who are running through that stop sign. Councilman Coppola will talk to the Police Chief.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Brookes Rankin presented the 2014 Preliminary Budget to Council and a copy of the Preliminary Budget will be available on the web site and at the Borough Building. As many communities in our area are faced with lower assessment and higher expenses that can't be negotiated but we still have not received the information on a few very important cost that we incur.

We hope to have this information so we can submit the Final Budget at the December Council Meeting. We don't have the number for DELCORA, we don't have the number for Health Insurance for the Police Officers and we have not received the Real Estate Assessment from the County. In the mean time we will continue to work up until the very last minute to go over each line item of the budget and see what we can do to have the best possible final budget to present at the December meeting.

Councilwoman Brookes Rankin is the liaison to the Historical Commission and we will be decorating the Trolley Stop at our next meeting so it will be ready for the Aldan Borough Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 7th at 6:30 in Memorial Park and sponsored by the Aldan Boosters. Councilwoman Brookes Rankin commented this is a wonderful community event and keeps growing each and every year and the Boosters do a beautiful job of bring everybody together. The Historical Commission has cider and cookies and it is a really nice evening and makes you glad you are part of the community.

Councilman Cosgrove made a motion to accept the Preliminary Budget as presented, seconded by Councilman Oropollo and unanimously approved.

Mr. Lawless asked about the assessment information, is that resident who have appealed the assessments of their home value? Councilwoman Brookes Rankin explained the assessment is what the houses in the Borough are assessed at and applied to a millage rate and that is what the tax bill comes out to. Mr. Seflin further explained it is the total assessment for the Borough so you take all the almost 1800 properties in the borough and they are all assessed and the County has not calculated them yet.

Dan Procopio asked for the current amount balances in the Reserve Funds; Councilwoman Brookes Rankin reported, in the General Reserve we have \$278,329.01 in the Sewer Capital Reserve we have \$437,625.49; and in the Police Capital Reserve we have \$17,162.23.

Paul Krueger asked when the Preliminary Budget will be available to be picked up at the Municipal Building or on line. Councilwoman Brookes Rankin responded the Preliminary Budget will be available at the Municipal Building tomorrow or in a few days on line because it has to be sent electronically first. Mr. Krueger asked when you come to next months meeting will the whole council have their mind made up to accept or not accept the budget. If there is public comment are we just wasting our time making comments? Councilman Coppola said you are never wasting your time. Mr. Krueger said sure it is if you already have your mind made up. Councilman Coppola responded if you pick up a copy tomorrow and have any input you have would be welcome. You can call any councilmember or email them with any questions or comments or write a letter.

Roxanne Norman commented it might have been helpful if the preliminary budget had been available prior to this meeting so we would have time to review it and comment. Mr. Seflin explained under the Pennsylvania Borough Code the Borough has to tender the Preliminary Budget tonight. Ms. Norman asked there is no formal way to give you comments so you can take them into consideration before you finalize the budget. Councilman Coppola responded yes there is you have an entire month to contact any councilmember. Councilwoman Brookes Rankin explained we have to submit and the Solicitor has to advertise that the Preliminary Budget is at the Municipal Building and will be on the web site. Then you have that period of time to review line by line and if you have and comments or input let someone know and we will respond.

Paul Krueger asked if the Preliminary Budget was available tonight. It as explained to Mr. Krueger that it will be available tomorrow. Mr. Seflin further explained there is a 10 day notice period required under the Pennsylvania Borough Code that will commence tomorrow. There is 10 days from tomorrow that the Borough must make the Preliminary Budget available. It is in the Borough Code and was advertised and there is a 10 day period that the Borough must produce the Preliminary Budget. Mr. Seflin said it is his understanding that Borough Council is going to make that available through December 11th, which is 3 times longer than is required by the Borough Code in terms of making it available to the public.

Paul Krueger asked this Borough Code you keep talking about can I read it on line? Mr. Seflin answered I suspect so, yes. Mr. Krueger asked is it up to date? Mr. Seflin said you would have to contact the Commonwealth about that. Mr. Krueger asked why the Commonwealth? Mr. Seflin answered because it is the Pennsylvania Borough Code not our Ordinances. This is a group of statutes that are enacted by General Assembly and signed by the Governor and are in Title 53 in two different books the Pennsylvania Borough Code.

Mike Ceci asked if we get any information from our recycling vendor on how much profit they might be getting, knowing the market fluctuates. Councilwoman Owen explained the vendor has shared the market changes all the time even with each of the materials he collects. The market fluctuates anywhere from \$10 to \$30 per ton. Mike asked if we ever considered profit sharing with him. When will the new contract be in effect? Councilwoman Owen answered January 1, 2014. Mike asked next year we are doing the same as we have done in the past, pay a set amount. Councilwoman Owen explained what we are seeing is we are diverting from the solid waste stream that would normally go into the land fills through the Delaware County Waste Authority and then charge us \$33 a ton. The Councilwoman explained the hauler told Terry when we were setting up the program if we wanted to collect some of the profits he would not have given us the \$9,900.00 rate.

Paul Krueger asked when the 2 day a week trash contract end. Councilwoman Owen responded December 31, 2015; it was a five year contract at the same price we paid in 2007. Mr. Krueger asked why does it keep going up each year. Councilwoman Brookes Rankin explained it is the tipping fees. When the hauler takes the trash to the weighing station there is a percentage called a tipping fee, they are charged per ton for disposal. This is the County that changes that fee but the contractor is paid for a service he does in the Borough. Mr. Krueger commented we used to have trash 2 days a week now with recycling we have trash 3 days a week is there any thought to cutting the trash portion to once a week. Councilwoman Owen explained we have a contract till 2015. Councilwoman Brookes Rankin said it is not out of realm of possibility and we will visit the issue when the time gets closer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Brookes Rankin reported Caucus will be Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at and Council will meet on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at the Reinl Recreation Building at 7:00 PM for Executive Session; with a Public Hearing for our CDBG Application at 7:30; and General Meeting starting at 8:00 PM. at the William Reinl Recreation Building.

Mr. Seflin reported Council will be considering the 2014 Budget on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at the William Reinl Recreation Building and that has been advertised.

Mr. Seflin also reported Council we be Reorganizing on Monday, January 6, 2014 at 7:30 PM at the William Reinl Recreation Building

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Nothing tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilman Coppola and seconded Councilwoman Owen unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary