

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

October 9, 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 Rankin; S. Coppola;
T. Owen; M. J. Corrigan; S. Oropollo; J. Cosgrove

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 Cosgrove the minutes from the September 11, 2013, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

Carol Murray 45 S. Woodlawn Avenue reported Tuesday on the unit block of Woodlawn Avenue an All City Transportation Bus pulled a lawn mower and gas can off the bus then proceeded to cut the lawn at a property on Woodlawn Avenue. Ms. Murray had a concern if children ride on this bus that someone might have an allergic reaction to the grass from the lawn mower and it also does not seem safe to have a gas can on the bus. Ms. Murray did call the Municipal Building but was misunderstood about wanting someone to come down to check it out but Ms. Murray did also call the Transportation Company about the issue. President Short and Chief Coppola responded to Ms. Murray that she needs to call 911 to report anything that does not seem right or suspicious, please call 911.

Dan Procopio commented last month you brought up about the Act 537 agreement, Mr. Procopio presented Council members with document pages that is 1 page of 246 pages of the DELCORA agreement and even thought it says draft and after checking on line it is exactly the same numbers. Aside from increase costs of what we are normally paying for our sewer the document presented to you is a payment schedule agreed to by DELCORA, who are an authority with appointed members, not elected. Through the authorities Darby Creek Joint Authority, which we are a member and just authorized them a few months ago for another 50 years and the governing bodies, being all the municipalities within that, are bound by this agreement to pay over the course of the 15 years of the agreement. Dan believes that Aldan is about 4.5% of the DCJA. As Dan understands it what we have committed to with not a lot of alternatives or options because of where the water comes from and where it has to go, you are looking at what Dan believes to be accurate on the numbers given by DELCORA as to what the payments Aldan Borough would be obligated to make over the 15 year contract above and beyond any currently existing numbers that we currently use for water treatment. We did look at the summery given by the engineer at the Planning Commission meeting but we did not have these numbers available at the time. Before Council voted Dan wanted Council to be aware that in year 1 an insignificant \$5,700.00 but by year 5 it is up to almost \$60,000.00 and by the end of the agreement barring any unforeseen circumstances will commit to \$214,000.00 in addition to other money for Aldan Borough for this agreement. Dan said attached also is a letter from Mario Cimino, President of Council Morton Borough. Dan commented all this money is going to the City of Philadelphia. President Short responded that is where our sewage goes. Dan said none of this is going to improve any of our sewers. This money is committed to the City as part of the agreement by DELCORA to off set their requirement that they have to do to upgrade their facilities and their other lines was explained to Dan but Dan said he did not read all 246 pages. President Short explained to him it was not for their lines but to upgrade their facility where our sewage is sent. President Short reported Mr. Duffy did give this to President Short a few months ago and according to our engineer we are using 4% but it is the place where we send our sewage. Dan said Mr. Cimino was advocating utilizing what little leverage there is to delay passage in order to put pressure on individuals to help fund and wanted Council to be aware. President Short explained we were aware of this. Mr. McBlain commented in response to Dan's comments. First of all you did have all 246 pages available when you had the opportunity to review the report, you have had the Act 537 Plan for a number of months it is on line and also in the Municipal Building and all that was there prior to when you had the ability to take a look at it. Dan responded he did not know it was on line or at the Municipal Building. Mr. McBlain asked Dan if he asked anybody. Dan talked to Mr. Tartaglia, when they had a meeting and that is when he became aware. Mr. McBlain asked Dan are you advocating that the Act 537 Plan not be adopted and what is the alternative. Do you advocate building a new sewage facility in Delaware County? Dan commented I am not saying there are any pre options but wanted to make sure Council was aware and possible there might be an option taken by multiple municipalities to try and advocate for additional funding coming from state and federal sources. Mr. McBain asked what would that be, you just want to ask somebody for more money. Dan responded to help out with the requirements of what is needed to be done. Mr. McBlain responded it is not true that this is an obligation to the Borough of Aldan they are projections about what would be required on Philadelphia's upgrades. Dan said it is his understanding the money is pledged and John asked him where is says it is pledged but Dan did not have that page with him. Dan said the money is set up at 9.4% for DELCORA's portion of the 1.7 billion dollars the city is required through their set agreement they have with the EPA which was entered into in 2008 or 2009. John continued so it is the present EPA that is imposing all these regulations. John said I am hearing a lot of stones being thrown but have not heard any solutions. Dan asked Mr. McBlain if he had any solutions. Mr. McBlain responded to work to lower the I & I in order so the numbers are not met.

Mr. McBlain said he actually participated in the Act 537 Plan process and asked Dan have you gone to any of the meetings they were all publicly advertised. So you are saying you did not have the opportunity to participate in the Act 537 Plan meetings. Dan did not have an opportunity to go to the meetings he was aware of because they were at time he was not available to go.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Hopely read a Proclamation saying October is Aldan Boosters’ Civic Association Month. The Aldan Boosters’ Civic Association is the oldest and has been one of the most contributing organizations to our community. Boosters’ was founded in 1924 and have continuously and unselfishly been instrumental in sponsoring many activities. Boosters could possibly be the only community in the United States that has Santa Claus visit every child personally on Christmas morning, an annual Easter Egg Hunt, and pictures with Santa are among some of the activities. Therefore in appreciation and recognition James R. Hopely, Mayor of Aldan, proclaim the month of October, 2013 as Aldan Booster’s Civic Association Month in the Borough of Aldan.

Mayor Hopely also commented the Aldan Boosters’ sponsored a recognition dinner for veteran with a turn out of 62 people. Thank you again to Aldan Boosters for the great job you do.

Mayor Hopely reported police officer training mandated by the state continues. The state requires 16 hours of classroom training along with CPR/First Aid and firearms training. However, additional training also continues. The Chief of Police and I feel that police officers need to attend all applicable training. It’s with that in mind that officers attend: Domestic Violence Training, Investigator training through the FBI, Field Training Officer training through Penn State University, Drug Awareness Training through the DEA, Computer training along with many other seminars that keep our police officers up to date on all aspects of their job. We feel that our officers are more professional and better prepared to be of assistance to our residents when they have continued training. Mayor Hopely believes we have the best Police Force in Delaware County.

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	\$ 568,747.73	\$ 55,072.74	\$ 193,745.00
Interest		\$	\$
Receipts for period	\$ 87,292.17	\$ 6.44	\$ 1,491.32
Expenditures Prior Month	\$ 195,616.22	\$ 6,453.04	\$ 71,384.03
Loan Returned to Sewer	\$	\$	\$
Reserve Fund			
Ending Balance	\$ 460,423.68	\$ 48,626.14	\$ 123,852.29

Terry is asking Council's approval to release check this evening; for checks from the General Fund totaling \$184,560.46; checks from the State Highway Fund totaling \$6,453.04; and checks from the Sewer Fund totaling \$1,225.42. 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 Councilwoman Owen and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Seflin reported we have had a very busy and eventful month. Mr. Seflin reported last month on the 2012 Sewer and Refuse Tax collections we filed 45 liens. This was the highest number filed in the last 27 years. Since then we have made significant progress in that list of 45 delinquents. Of the 45 liens filed 16 were paid; 3 are on a payment plan; and we are in negotiations with 5 other tax payers, the majority of these 5 are institutions who have taken over the properties. We discovered 1 of the delinquents had misapplied their funds; they paid their 2012 delinquencies in with their 2013 taxes. Taking all those paid, in payment plans and in negotiations we are down to about 20 delinquents which is still on the high end of normal. Mr. Seflin will have a fuller report next month.

Mr. Seflin reported on the 2011 Tax Delinquency program. On September 26th we had a hearing in front of Judge Perfetti. One property is 29 S. Sycamore Avenue, Mr. Seflin talked with the owner who had been ill but recovered and we entered into a payment plan and he has made the first payment and we hope to be concluded by early December. The property at 124 Springfield Road a hearing was held, the defendants claimed they didn't owe this money, they didn't enter into a payment plan they eventually breached but they were found liable and the Borough prevailed in that litigation with an award of \$957.94. We are still in the appeal period so they can appeal to the Court of Common Pleas by October 26th. Mr. Seflin will keep Council advised.

Mr. Seflin reported we did have a Right To Know request, the request was reviewed and was OK to send the documents.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close had a conflict of meetings tonight so we have Mr. J P Kelly, of Kelly/Close with us tonight. Mr. Kelly reported on the 2013 Road Program; the punch list was satisfactorily completed the maintenance bond was submitted and we did make final recommendation for payment. Councilman Cosgrove will report on this and Mr. Kelly will be available for any questions. MPDES MS4 program the office is in the process of coordinating activities to be scheduled over the next 4 to 6 months for the 2013-2014 permit. The permit requires a whole new level of reporting such as training, public presentation, handouts, educational materials, updates and things of that nature.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Owen reported the Department of Environmental Protection has approved our Act 101 Recycling Performance Grant reflecting the tonnage of recyclable materials from the calendar year 2011. The amount received by the Borough was 417 tons and that equated to \$2,492.00. Councilwoman Owen also reported there 81 tons of residential recyclables collected. After just completing the 2012 Performance Grant Application and we have had a drastic increase in the amount of recyclable that have been collected and this application reflects the first year of our curbside collection program as well as the container behind Aldan Elementary School. We collected 774 tons in 2012 and 390 of those tons were residential recyclables that is almost a 500% increase. We typically receive notification around June as to what are award will be.

Councilwoman Owen also reported there are extra recyclable bins available to residents that may want a second bin. They will be available at the Municipal Building parking lot on Saturday, October 26th. Just notify the office or Councilwoman Owen before that date so we have a count of how many we need. The bins can be picked up with proof of residency on Saturday, October 26th between 10-2.

Councilwoman Owen reported on Saturday, October 26th between 10 – 2 we will host another Nationwide Drug Take Back Program. All over the counter and prescription drugs are accepted in any form with the exception of syringes, needles, and illegal substances.

Councilwoman Owen reported on Saturday, October 19th the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be held at the Upper Chichester Municipal Building rain or shine from 9am to 3pm. They will collect toxics, flammables, household batteries, cell phones and small appliances like vacuums, hair dryers, toasters, stereos and things of that nature.

Roxanne Norman 417 E. Magnolia asked are there top available for the recycle bins. Councilwoman Owen explained we presented this program by the benefit of a grant of money that was provided from the State. That was a finite amount of money. We had to provide a can to every residence in the Borough as a result lids would have been a substantially higher amount that we were unable to afford. In doing research about recycle bins most boroughs don't have lids but we did have drain holes drilled in the bottom so water collection would not be an issue. Councilwoman Owen's recommendation is to put your newspapers and items that can be flattened into a paper market bag and set that on the side. Also many plastics are made of thinner materials so they can also be flattened to make more room in the bins. We can provide you with a second bin or you can use any other trash can if filled with recyclables can be put out on Wednesdays. Ms. Norman asked if there is anything you could pass out to let residents know how to better dispose of their recyclables to prevent them from blowing around. Councilwoman Owen responded every resident received that literature when they received the bin. There was a magnet and a four sided pamphlet. Councilman Cosgrove added we can put a reminder on the web site. Tom Morse suggested he puts his cans and plastics in a plastic bag and put it on top or the side of the bin. Mike Ceci asked if the plastic bags like from Giant are not supposed to be recyclable. Councilwoman Owen explained that is considered residue, it is collected with the recyclables but it is not a recyclable but that is extracted at the processing plant.

Yusef Sayeed 634 Maple Avenue wanted to commend Council on the efforts of the Drug Take Back Program that is important and valuable to the community. One thing noticed there has not been a lot of advertising for it this is the first I am hearing about it. What effort has been given to distribute literature like flyers or something like that to the community? Councilwoman Owen explained this is a Nationwide Program and it is held twice a year this will be the beginning of the fourth year. There are billboards, it has been in the newspaper and we typically have our banner up by now but there was a problem with changing the date on our banner. Many of our residents are repeat and they know when we have it and tell them the time frame for the next one usually in the Spring and in the Fall. There is web site DEA.gov; it is on our web site and on the LED sign. President Short commented the County has started a program The Delco Medicine Drop boxes and they will be installed permanently at the following police department: Darby Township, Haverford, Marple, Radnor, Ridley Township, Springfield, Tincum, Upper Chichester and Upper Darby to drop off drugs any day. Mr. McBlain also commented these programs receive extensive coverage in the Daily Times and in the Philadelphia Inquirer at Phila.com will publish those things. If you sign up for DELCO alert you will get a text message or an email notifying you and it is also on Social Media face book and tweeter accounts, as well as the web site for the County. If you look in today's paper there is story regarding the permanent drop boxes. Mr. Sayeed added many of the elderly population don't have access to cell phones, computers and advanced technology will there be a leaflet drop or something along those lines. President Short explained all these things cost the residents money. For the amount of information we get to people, especially the tonnage for recycling, it does seem the message is getting out and in an effort to hold cost we try every other way of getting our message out. Mike Xavier commented he filled in for Terry one year for the Drug Take Back and it is nothing short of amazing the amount of people that come out. Councilwoman Owen said we have increased our totals every single time we have an event so we do see this program is working.

Yusef Sayeed asked Councilwoman Owen, as the public health representative, is there any effort by the Borough to vaccinate for influenza season coming up? Councilwoman Owen explained we have had a flu vaccine clinic and they are held all over the County. There was a drive threw in Tincum Township Fire Company last weekend sponsored by the PA Dept of Health and there also be another one somewhere in the County but we have not heard a location or date. As far as in the Borough itself there probably will not be one, when we have had it in the past there was very little turn out.

HIGHWAY

Councilman Cosgrove reported our Borough Engineer has reviewed the punch list generated from the 2013 Road Program. The punch list items have been corrected and the Engineer has recommended final payment of \$5,734.10 and this will close out the 2013 Road Program.

Councilman Cosgrove has a few updates: 1) the No Turn on Red above the traffic light at Woodlawn and Providence Road, the sign was old, faded and when the light was red this made the sign not visible. Our correction was to get a larger and reflective sign and install it about 4 to 5 feet higher and it is much more visible now. 2) deals with 2 low lighting situations on Willows Avenue and the other on Woodlawn to date PECO has sent engineers out to check the working of the lights and they found them to be in order with the wattage to be correct. Their question to us is if you want them to be improved you have to take the next step which is the next level in PECO to review our request.

The 2 lights on Willows are both 4000 and we are recommending they change 1 to an 8000 and wattage on Providence & Woodlawn is 8000 and the next step would be 13,600. It is now at the next level of authority in PECO to review and have 2 weeks to do that. PECO can respond no they are not doing anything or yes that is a reasonable thing to do and will say OK. If they say OK it comes back to us with a contract with costs. Then we would review the costs because it would be an increase in wattage therefore an increase in the yearly bill and an increase to buy a new bulb and have it installed. Councilman Cosgrove has no idea nor did the person the Councilman spoke with have any idea what the cost would be. So we are just waiting to hear from the next level of authority at PECO. 3) in front of the Borders house at 503 W. Providence Road as explained by Mr. Borders to turn into their driveway they need to go to the yellow line in the middle of Providence Road to make the turn and have situations where drivers have passed them on the right while they were making the turn and they asked if we could do anything about that. We had a PennDot engineer come out and a few suggestions were we paint lines with another being put a light in proximity to that curve. The maintenance supervisor came out and reviewed the situation and said lines would move everyone over to the far side of road and don't know if that would solve the problem nor would a light be a solution to the problem because it would have to be back further along the turn and the cost would be prohibitive. His suggestion was to put a sign with words to be determined telling people turning is taking place and keep in one lane. He is going to send a traffic engineer out and come up with the right words and sign and post it accordingly. Councilman Cosgrove is not sure what a sign will do be for right now it's going to be our fix and if not we will review it again. The last 2 items are in the works and will see what happens by next month.

Mr. Borders thanked Councilman Cosgrove for keeping on top of the situation

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo reported on adopting the Delaware county Sewage Facilities Plan Update-Eastern Service Area 2013-07. Mr. Kelly of Kelly/Close Engineers reported DELCORA has been working for the past several years on re-writing the Act 537 Plan. An extensive alternative analysis has been completed within the 537 plan. As you are also aware each Municipality needs to have a 537 plan, a comprehensive sewage facilities plan which needs to be updated every 10 years. In some ways you are fortunate that DELCORA writes yours and DELCORA has done all of the homework, the studying and the alternative analysis. Mr. Kelly did get a copy of the numbers today but I am not necessarily familiar with them but as Mr. McBlain said these are projections. Sewage cost money to treat that is the bottom line and there is only one place to put it and that's DELCORA. DELCORA wrote the Act 537 plan for 39 different Municipalities and if you do not adopt the Resolution you would have to write your own. You would have to do the alternative analysis, the studies and everything that goes along with the 537 plan. It is a big, big job and is cost prohibitive to write your own. It is Kelly/Close's recommendation that you do adopt this. In 2011 you passed a Resolution that said you would participate in the data collection, which you have and that is complete. Now it is time to adopt the Act 537 Plan. Mr. Kelly asked if there were any questions he will attempt to answer them. Mr. McBlain commented about the Act 537 Plan, Mr. Kelly has been a participant in the formation of the plan along with most Municipal Engineers, some Solicitors, some Elected Officials, it is safe to say Mr. McBlain has been more critical of the Act 537 Plan than any individual with one of the biggest problems that I foresee was previously the requirement of the sewer lateral inspections and the plan has been revised. Alternatives can be developed by Municipalities and may very well be that there is not a better alternative for Aldan. Mr. McBlain does think this is a careful and thoughtful plan. There is a difference between being critical of a plan and not liking or being unhappy with what the recommendations are.

As Mr. Kelly said sewage becomes more and more expensive to treat. The EPA provides more and more requirements and limits as to the treatment of sewage. The fact that it may cost some Municipalities more in the future is something we don't like but it doesn't mean the Act 537 Plan isn't valid. There has been a lot of careful thought that has been put into the plan. I am not somebody that likes everything about this plan but it is something that has to be dealt with and you can only deal with what you have. There are more and more houses in Delaware County, more and more businesses in Delaware County and more and more sewage that needs to be treated. For the most part it is the same sewer lines that have been there for a long, long time.

Paul Krueger asked this Act 537 is that the plan that addresses the lateral inspections? President Short responded yes it is. Mr. Krueger said if we adopt this Resolution are we committing to a plan or the overall umbrella of Act 537, so later we can discuss which inspection we like and which financing. President Short responded yes that is correct. Mr. Kelly added you have a year after DEP approved it, which could be 14 maybe 16 months.

Councilman Oropollo made a motion to adopt Resolution 2013-07, seconded by Councilman Coppola and unanimously approved.

Councilman Oropollo reported the gas line on Providence Road has been fixed and the pipes have been taken down. Councilman Oropollo did talk to Ralph Brown from PECO 2 days ago when the full project would be completed including the road and sidewalks. Mr. Brown will get back to the Councilmen in a few days. Councilman Oropollo wanted to thank Rich Matrone, who works for PECO and lives in that area called the Councilmen and said they would be back on the job site with a week or two and they were on that job within that time. Councilman Oropollo is just waiting for Mr. Brown to call back with the information on the street and sidewalk repairs.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Brookes Rankin reported we received three checks from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania this month. On September 27th the General Municipal Pension System which is part of our Minimal Municipal Obligation (MMO) the 2013 State Aid for \$38, 843.58; our second check on September 27th was for Fireman's Relief our 2013 allocation and this money is a straight pass through, it is sent to the Collingdale Fire Company for their service to our community; the third check was from the Public Utility Realty Tax (PURTA) for \$1,238.60 and this was our 2012 allocation.

Councilwoman Brookes Rankin reported we are in the mist of budget calculations for the 2014 Budget. President Short, Terry Quinn, our Treasurer, and Councilwoman Brookes Rankin have been working on the budget and looking for ways to keep our taxes down without to large of an increase. We will have a preliminary budget for next month.

Councilwoman Brookes Rankin reported our Founders Day was held on September 21st we had over 28 vendors for the Flea Market, we had entertainment by Mojo 13 and the Lukens Bank which everyone enjoyed. We had plenty of food and beverages prepared by many of the people sitting in the room today. Our cupcake contest has just really blossomed. We had 15 entrances this year. Each year we just keep getting better and better. All of our residents and people from the surrounding communities had a wonderful time. Thank you all for participating and look forward to even a bigger event next year.

Dan Procopio asked for the current amount balances in the Reserve Funds and the amount of the 2nd check; Councilwoman Brookes Rankin reported for the Fireman Relief was for \$26,616.45, in the General Reserve we have \$278,306.20 in the Sewer Capital Reserve we have \$437,589.63; and in the Police Capital Reserve we have \$17,161.30.

Yusef Sayeed asked from you report regarding the budget you alluded to a possible tax increase could you expand on that please. President Short explained it is a work in progress and have not come up with any figures yet. Councilwoman Brookes Rankin added we are working very hard to come up with the best budget. President Short said we do everything possible to keep everything down. The Councilwoman commented we examine line by line and really go through it. Mr. Sayeed asked when will the budget be completed. Councilwoman Brookes Rankin reported we are required to have the preliminary budget to be presented by November.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Corrigan reported on the Fire Marshall Report for the month of September, 2013. Collingdale Fire companies #1 and #2 responded to 5 calls in the Borough of Aldan all with no damage. During the month of September, 2013 Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 24 calls in the Borough of Aldan.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Coppola reported the Building Inspector issued 24 building permits with a construction value of \$61,224.00; the Residential Inspector completed 24 transfers and mid-terms inspections; and the Plumbing Inspector issued 1 plumbing permits with a construction value of \$2,350.00

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at and Council will meet on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at the Reinl Recreation Building at 7:30 PM for Executive Session and General Meeting starting at 8:00 PM.

PRIVLIDGE OF THE FLOOR

Mike Xavier wanted to follow up on a question from last month about the 4th of July books and whether or not there was any movement. Mr. Xavier was told by Dan Procopio the book would be out by the end of last month and what the status is on the books. Mr. Procopio responded there will be a move in that direction this month we will be giving people the option a refund or holding the money for next year. President Short asked so there will not be a book coming out this year? Dan responded it seems unlikely.

Mike Xavier asked I was told last month the end of month you are going to have an answer by next month. Dan answered yes.

Mike Ceci asked if we have any updates about fiber optics installation. President Short do you mean Fios, it is in town. Councilman Cosgrove explained we mentioned a few months ago about talking with Verizon who are wiring the town that it would take a year to wire the town. President Short commented we signed the agreement in 2007 in the summer and were told it would be by October of that year for service.

Tom Morse commented there is a property on Hazelwood Road that has been a problem in the past but the new owners are fixing the property and the neighbors are very happy.

Mr. McBlain wanted to follow up on the earlier report by Mr. Seflin, which the Borough has pursued for many, many years, in regards to the Delinquent Payer Program and congratulate Council on the job they do with that in conjunction with Mr. Seflin. Even though the number is up it is wonderful they have been able to get that down to 20 or under at this point. In the past we are 100% collected for prior years up to 2012 or so whatever the case might be. Mr. McBlain thinks Aldan does the best job of any Municipality in terms of making sure it is fair to all and everybody pays their fair share and ensure it is done. We wish other Municipalities around us would do the same thing.

Jerry Barber 417 E Rively Avenue commented on Mr. Seflin on doing a good job with collections but do we know how many vacant homes do we have in the area. Earlier we talked about the possible raising of our taxes but out of how many homes or just 20 that are delinquent; how many are we actually receiving funds from in the Borough. President Short responded eventually we will receive it from all of them even if they have walked away, the Bank will own it eventually and once it is settled we get paid. Even if there is no one in the home for some time we will get paid. President Short explained maybe not come right away with the regular taxes being paid. Sometimes if the bank ends up with it they pay the taxes they don't want us foreclosing on the properties that they have large mortgages on. Tom Morse, our tax collector, also explained we have gotten a number of payment for bank owned properties this year. Mr. Barber was curious how many homes are vacant in the area. Mr. Seflin explained in many instances where you have Fanny Mae or banks they will pay as mentioned before I am in negotiations and still in negotiations with multiple institutions where they will pay now and not when sold or transferred. Mr. Seflin said they don't want us taking action against their properties.

Mr. Seflin also commented he has been very busy with phone calls just today one person called 4 times and claims he didn't get his tax bill and his assertion was he didn't have to pay his taxes if he didn't get his bill but had paid it in the past. Mr. Seflin told him it was a novel argument but if you are the owner of a property you are responsible to pay your tax bills.

Mr. Sayeed asked if there was an update on the previous tax collector. President Short reported since last month we have not received anything from the County. Mr. Seflin responded he was in touch with CID about some evidence Mr. Seflin came across but can not speak about this because it is in litigation. Some potential new evidence has come to light but don't know if they will update any charges against the former tax collector as a result that is up to the District Attorney Whelan and his staff.

Mr. McBlain wanted to make it clear we are in the political silly season and so people don't mislead the public and indicate there is some sort of tax increase being proposed that wasn't what was stated here.

Since we have some folks that have never been here before or only on one occasion and are new to any involvement in Aldan and whether there was any sort of specific proposal regarding the budget that they might have here tonight. John also commented any specific proposal that anybody might have on the budget here tonight. President Short asked do you mean coming from the floor. Mr. Sayeed asked do you want us to run the budget I don't understand. Is that the question? Roxanne Norman asked about being made aware of what the budget entails. Mr. McBlain asked if you have not looked at the budget as of yet. If no one has actually looked at the budget then I could understand they wouldn't have a specific proposal. Mr. Sayeed asked if you have a copy of the budget with you. Mr. McBlain explained he doesn't have the budget with him but it has been on line every year and it is actually on your own organization's web site you put it on line. If you look at your own web site you would see the budget has been on line and is a pretty open transparent process where the budget has been available. I could understand you wouldn't have any proposals if you have never actually seen a budget.

Roxanne Norman had a request as the cold winter months are coming and should we have any snow that whoever you're contracting to remove the snow in the street to be mindful not to block the driveways of the residents. President Short explained the reality is imagining a plow truck going down the street and starting and stopping at every driveway that is impossible. Ms. Norman responded no it is not there is a spot on her street where they could plow the snow. President Short said they plow continuously straight down the street. Ms. Norman said she is a resident and has had her driveway blocked several times so as a resident I am making this request and I am not debating whether it's happening or not I know it's happening because it has happened to me. President Short said I didn't say it's not happening. Ms. Norman said my request is that you remind the contractor to be mindful where possible not to block someone's driveway.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilman Coppola and seconded Councilwoman Brookes Rankin unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary