

**ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

April 8, 2009

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 Reim Recreation Center 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; M. Xavier; S. Coppola;  
T. Owen; R. Baker; J. Cosgrove

Council members absent: None

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

Officers absent: None

**MINUTES**

On a motion made by P. Brookes seconded by S. Coppola the minutes from the March 11, 2009, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

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**WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No written correspondence tonight.

**VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no verbal correspondence tonight.

**SOLICITOR**

Mr. Seflin reported 2008 Tax Delinquency Program and letters have gone out. With the payment of the Loof estate we are down to 2 outstanding tax delinquencies for 2007. One house at 128 Albert Avenue owned by Mr. McNaughton, we have a judgment against him and are currently waiting the Constable to levy upon his house. Another is 120 West Providence Road owned by Mr. Toth. Mr. Toth is a non resident property owner and has not responded to any of Mr. Seflin's requests. There are also some Code Enforcement issues at the property which also have not been responded to.

Mike Ceci asked what Delinquent Penalties are. Mr. Seflin explained we have two Ordinances relating to this matter. We have a Tax and Delinquency Collection Ordinance and a Tax Levy Ordinance both address these issues. There are penalties and interest which are both assessed. We could start to assess them January 1<sup>st</sup> but we don't we generally start February 1<sup>st</sup> and this has been a long standing position of the Borough. Even then if somebody reaches an agreement with Mr. Park within the delinquency period as opposed to the lien period the Borough and Mr. Park, an individually elected official, are very flexible in that delinquency period, which is February 1<sup>st</sup> till May 1<sup>st</sup> and this is a 15% penalty. After that time period there is an additional penalty imposed and the interest really starts to accrue and we start getting attorney's fees, court costs, court fees, service fees and it can really, really adds up over time. The longer a delinquent waits the worse it is.

Dan Procopio asked if Mr. Seflin could elaborate what the assessment irregularities were. Mr. Seflin can't elaborate at this time because it might go into litigation. Mr. Seflin can say, there are some properties where irregularities have to do with a decrease without any type of appeal or any kind of formal notice. We are trying to get that corrected so there are certain things that can not be disclosed at this time but when the situation has been dealt with we will give out that information.

President Short announced we have a deviation from our regular meeting at this time. We often report how important it is for citizens to get involved not only in Neighborhood Watch but observing in their own neighborhoods. We have someone here tonight who by observing and by doing this led to the capture of a criminal, who was wanted for several burglaries and has been sentenced to three to four years in prison. Mayor Hopely also commented in the fall of 2008 Aldan was experiencing an increase in daytime burglaries. The Aldan Police, through Betty Alburger from the Daily Times, put an article in the Daily Times asking residents to call 911 if they see anything suspicious. On November 25, 2008 Dianne Carr saw a male that she did not recognize walking around her neighbor's home. Dianne asked the male what was he doing and he said he was looking for someone that Dianne did not know. Dianne called 911. As a direct result of Dianne's phone call to 911 the Aldan Police arrested this individual as he was attempting to break into a house on another street. Mayor Hopely then presented Dianne Carr a Borough of Aldan Citizenship Award for her assistance to the Aldan Police Department and the Citizens of the Borough of Aldan. Dianne's actions represent the Highest Degree of Spirit, Integrity and Enthusiasm of our Citizenry. The award presented on April 8, 2009.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS****MAYOR**

Mayor Hopely commented on a report from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to Chief Coppola.

The Victims Compensation Assistance Program is committed to helping victims and their families through the emotional and physical aftermath of crime by easing the financial burden imposed upon them. There are 1,200 police departments that serve and protect the 12 million citizens of Pennsylvania and our department was one of only 202, which consistently returned the reports to the VCAP in 15 days or less, which has significantly helped in reducing the claim processing time. The staff and the management of the Victims Compensation Assistance Program want to thank us for all we are doing to assist Pennsylvania's crime victims and want us to know that our hard work and efforts are making an enormous difference in their lives. The letter was signed by Lynn Shiner Deputy Director Office of Victims' Services. Mayor Hopely thanked Betty Alburger for putting the articles in the paper that assist and help us immensely. Chief Coppola also commented that the Borough Secretaries consistently take care and notify VCAP regarding these matters.

**TREASURER**

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer's Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 183,553.49	\$ 1,120.57
Receipts for period	631,828.06	15,002.04 transfer from General Fund
Expenditures Prior Month	306,943.05	
Balance	\$ 508,438.50	\$ 16,122.61

Terry Quinn asked Council's approval this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$120,594.80 and from the State Highway Fund \$7,241.92. M. Xavier made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented and authorize her to release the checks as indicated on the bills list, seconded by T. Owen and unanimously approved.

**ENGINEER**

Mr. Close reported there is nothing new to report on the Lobbs' Run I & I Sewer Project at this time because we are waiting our funding decision from the PA H2O Grant. We hope to receive some sort of decision this month or next and then we decide how extensive we can do our repairs.

Mr. Close also reported the Borough Office provided a two lot sub-division at 2 Ridley Avenue belonging to Michael Murphy. Mr. Close is in the process of reviewing this and will provide his review to the Planning Commission at the meeting on April 23, 2009.

Mr. Close is in the process of working on our 2009 Road Resurfacing Program with Councilmen Cosgrove. We are also working on a sign with President Short. Mr. Close will be available for any discussion during their reports.

Mike Ceci asked what happens if we can not get the H2O grant money that we need. President Short commented that will determine the extent of the work we will do.

Mike Ceci asked about sub-division, is that when you have a single lot but want to sub-divide to put another house on it? President Short said that is what the land owner is proposing. Mr. Close added when he receives this, it is his task to review the plan prepared by their engineer against the Borough Sub-Division Land Development Ordinance and the Zoning Ordinance. I check all the provisions to determine if that plan complies with our Ordinances or where it is deficient and then comment on that. I then provide the information to the Planning Commission and they use that as part of their recommendation whether that can be approved or denied.

## **REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Planning Commission reported on their last meeting. On March 26, 2009 the Planning Commission welcomed back John McBlain after an eighteen year absence to serve on Borough Council. With this recent appointment the commission is seven members with freshmen Mary Reardon and Harry Short, Jr. The meeting was mostly informal however the one form of business was reorganization. The new Chairman of the Planning Commission is Anthony Tartaglia, Vice Chair is Pat Tursi, and Recording Secretary is Mary Reardon. The commission's focus during the next year will be to review the Land Development and Subdivision Ordinance, then the Zoning Ordinance for their appropriateness in today's climate. There will also be a review of a proposed subdivision for the corner of Ridley Avenue and Providence Road in April.

### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Peggy Brookes will report during her committee report.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Mrs. Owen reported the second Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm rain or shine. The location will be at the Emergency Services Training Center on Calcon Hook Road in Sharon Hill. They will be collecting computer systems, fax machines, printers, scanners, and portable TVs. The next collection will be held in October and I will report when that date is coming up.

The Board of Health will meet on Monday, April 13, 2009 at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Building. Anyone interested is welcome to attend we can always use new members.

Bulk Trash Pick Up dates have been determined for the Borough for this year. This is our 28 consecutive year of service provided for the residents. The first pick up will be May 6, 2009 for the East side of Aldan from Clifton Avenue to Springfield Road. The second pick up will be May 20, 2009 for the West side of town from Oak Avenue to streets west of Clifton Avenue.

The annual Recycling Report has been submitted to the County. This report is submitted each year that reflects the recycling totals collected by businesses and residents of the borough. Mrs. Owen is happy to announce there is about 50 tons more collected than in 2007, mainly by the businesses. We appreciate the response to the support of our program, even though it is voluntary. This is a good time we can ask to dispose of their old phone books, since all the new ones were delivered and the place to dispose of them is the dumpster behind Aldan Elementary School. They weight a lot and that converts into tonnage which will then help us recoup some funds for the Borough later in the year.

Our 2007 Recycling Performance Grant is currently being reviewed. The Department of Environmental Protection does this review and has asked for a quote from memory what was recorded back in February of last year. Mrs. Owen will be going back to some businesses for their recollection. Mrs. Owen hopes to have the amount of the check soon.

Michael Cici asked why Aldan doesn't have curbside pick up for recycling. President Short responded because of the cost and because of the size of our town we are not required to recycle but we do offer volunteer drop off of sites.

Mr. Ceci also asked if we ever considered eliminating one of the two pick ups of trash in the winter. President Short said it is not something we have considered because the feed back we get is the residents enjoy the two trash pick ups during the week. There are a lot of towns because of cost savings trying to eliminate that but we are still hanging on until we would get some feed back that the people would rather go to the recycling as opposed to two pick ups we will stay with what we have been doing. Mrs. Owen commented that the hauler told her that recycling at this point in time is \$85.00 a ton and for solid waste it is \$15.90. Mrs. Owen said the hauler has his eye on the price and will let us know when it will be economical for us to participate. Mr. Ceci heard that some towns actually get paid to recycle. Mrs. Owen responded there are programs out there but there is a large start up cost that is the responsibility of the residents in the Borough and it takes a long time to off set that cost.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Coppola did not have any more to report after the report from Mr. Close.

Dan Procopio asked what the status is of our request to Darby Creek Joint Authority to have our sewer rates adjusted. Mr. Coppola said Mr. Close is going to give them a few more weeks and then respond with another letter.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mrs. Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's Report for the month of March, 2009 Collingdale Fire Company #1 and #2 responded to 6 calls with no damage. Also during the month of March, 2009, Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 34 calls in the Borough of Aldan.

Mrs. Brookes reported the Historical Commission will meet next Wednesday and will be discussing landscaping and maintenance of our Historical Park as well as the finishing touches on the latest collectable.

Mrs. Brookes also wanted to personally thank the Aldan Boosters for another successful Easter Egg Hunt. Despite the winds a nice crowd of children enjoyed collecting eggs and seeing the Easter Bunny. Thank you again for all your hard work and bring good things to Aldan.

### **LAW, ORDINANCE & BUILDING**

President Short reported during the month of March, 2009 there were a total of 20 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$58,214.00; there was 2 plumbing permit with a construction value of \$4,700.00; there were also 96 transfer and mid-term inspections performed by our Residential Inspector.

### **FINANCE**

Mr. Xavier did not have anything to report for the Finance Committee tonight.

Mr. Xavier wanted to report the Residents Parking Permits have been ordered for the overnight parking for the first block of Magnolia to Beech, Ridley and Maple. We are going to put them out with a five year renewal, rather than every year. There will be no cost to the residents and the time will be from midnight to 6:00 am. The permit will be in the form of mirror hangers and we will start the distribution of those after the Council Meeting in June.

### **HIGHWAY**

Mr. Cosgrove reported on the status up date of the Web site. It is alive and in the development stage but there are corrections to be made. We will be handing out a flyer to advertise to let resident know the web address and know it is available. Hopefully in a few weeks we will be ready to publish.

Mr. Cosgrove reported we have a proposal to put a communications sign in front of the Municipal Building. This would have LED communications which would identify things happening in the Borough, like voting day, baseball sign up or whatever it might be. The specifications have been developed through our Borough Engineer. Mr. Cosgrove made a motion to have P J Close advertise for bids for the LED sign, seconded by M. Xavier and unanimously approved.

Mr. Cosgrove did a review of all the streets in town, their condition and we also did the intersections because there are situation where the cross streets are fine but the intersection is not so fine. Having done this Mr. Cosgrove is now working with the Borough Engineer to come with estimates for repairs so we can make the proper choices based on funding, criteria and degree. Once we have those we will be in a position to come back to Council with recommendations for the 2009 Resurfacing Program.

### **BUILDINGS**

Mr. Baker had nothing to report this evening.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There is no unfinished business this month.

**NEW BUSINESS**

President Short announced that Caucus will be Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building; and Council will meet on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in an executive session and regular session at 8:00 p.m. at the William Reinl Recreation Center.

**PRIVELIGE OF THE FLOOR**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ATTEST**

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MARIE V. KAUT  
Borough Secretary