

**ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

December 8, 2010

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

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 minutes from the November 10, 2010, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

**WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No written correspondence tonight.

**VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE**

There is no verbal correspondence tonight.

**MAYOR REPORT**

Mayor Hopely reported the Police Department received a grant to work the BUCKLE UP PA project. Officers were paid by the grant to enforce seat belt usage. This happened about a week ago and the Officers handed out quite a few tickets for seat belt violations among other violations. Officers also handed out numerous BUCKLE UP pamphlets to motorists. Those pamphlets are available tonight in the back of the room.

We have a lot of training going on with the Police. This is State mandated training and we continue to send our officers to various seminars, etc throughout the year to keep them up to date on as many relevant issues as possible.

Mayor Hopely wanted to wish Betty Alburger an early Happy Birthday.

Mayor Hopely commented we had our Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday and it was gratifying the number of people that come out and the children that sat on Santa’s lap. Councilmen Cosgrove said they gave out over 100 Candy Canes. The Mayor commented we did have a great turnout, the weather was good, and it was cold but no rain.

Mayor Hopely said we do have a guest, Christine Hermondollar, from Friendship Circle Senior Center, who will keep us up to date on activities over the past year.

Mayor Hopely, the Chief and all the Police Officers wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**TREASURER**

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer’s Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 676,877.99	\$ 1,169.22
Receipts for period	\$ 182,016.71	
Interest		\$ .10
Expenditures Prior Month	\$ 344,843.55	\$ 763.19
Expenditures This Month	368,639.85	\$ 406.13
Year end Adjustment	290.40	
Balance	\$ 145,120.90	\$ 0.00

Terry Quinn stated as part of the income this month some transfers were made, it was not really income to the Borough. There was some income to the Borough, one item being \$25,000.00 the Police Department received in a grant for a new Police Car, from Senator Erickson. Part of the income was do to a line of credit we obtained a few months ago. In order to obtain the line of credit we had to put \$125,000.00 aside for collateral and that came out of the General Fund initially, so this month the reserve reimbursed the General Fund for that money. That is why the income was high.

Terry Quinn asked Council’s approval to release check this evening from the State Highway Fund totaling \$406.13 and checks from the General Fund totaling \$368,642.11.8. Councilmen Xavier 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 Councilwomen Owen and unanimously approved.

**SOLICITOR**

Mr. Seflin reported our 2009 Tax Delinquent Program. Last Thursday our Tax Collector, Robert Park and Mr. Seflin attended a group of hearings before Judge Perfetti. These were on law suites that we filed to enforce numerous liens. There were 13 law suites pending and prior to reaching court one matter was settled for approximately \$1,670.00 for 47 Stratford Avenue. Of the 12 remaining delinquencies judgments were entered in favor of the Borough and against the various property owners in the amount of \$21,034.27. 4 property owners were present at court to contest these claims against them. After judgments in the favor of the Borough were entered, 3 property owners entered into 90 to 120 day payments plan, depending on the plan to pay the Borough. The owner of 413 E. Rively Avenue payment plan was for \$1,674.50; another property owner was 60 S Clifton Avenue for \$1,701.07; and the last property owner was 213 N Woodlawn Avenue \$1,700.07. Mr. Seflin will keep Council advised as to the progress of the payment plans as well as the remaining 9 delinquents. They have 30 days to appeal the judgments and Mr. Seflin will keep Council advised.

Mr. Seflin reported on our Refuse Collection Contract for the next 5 years starting on January 1, 2011. Mr. Seflin did provide that contract to Suburban Waste Services and did received it back and has been signed by all parties and we did receive from our Contractor a Performance Bond for 5 consecutive years and the Bond has been issued by an affiliate of the Berkley Group. The Berkley Group is a very large bonding firm and is A rated by A M Vest and Co. and a member of the T list. This is a very secure Bonding Company.

President Short commented Mr. Seflin does a good job collecting our taxes.

**ENGINEER**

Mr. Close reported about our annual MS4 Storm Water Program we received our annual review letter from DEP on November 22, 2010 for our 2009 report. We got a generally good report again this year and we will be responding back to them within a few weeks with our upgrades how we implement our program. The main feedback was some suggestions for improvements to our web site relative to our Storm Water Management links. They are constantly upgrading and adding information and they like Borough residents to have available. We will put those recommendations together and will talk with our MS4 coordinator, Charlie Duffy, and he will work with Mr. Cosgrove to implement those changes to the web site.

Mr. Close commented we submitted a H2O PA Grant for our ongoing Sewer I & I work for the interceptor and our collection system work. We were not approved last year however our application went back into the eligible pile. The Commonwealth Financing Agency was supposed to meet on November 17<sup>th</sup> but postponed the meeting until December 14, 2010. They will reconsider all the second round eligible projects. For all the sewer work it was estimated to be about \$1.5 million dollars and that is a matching grant half would be from the Borough and half would be from the grant. They could deny the request again; they could partially fund it; or they could fully fund it. Mr. Close will let everyone know when we hear anything.

Mr. Close reported on Phase II of Lobbs Run interceptor rehab work and he spoke to the Office of Housing and Community Development today and the notice to proceed should be issued by them late December or early January.

Mr. Close will be looking for a request to advertise at the January Council Meeting and then have bids available at the February Caucus and hopefully by late March we can start Phase II of that project.

Mike Ceci asked what we could use the H2O PA grant for. Mr. Close responded water and sewer projects. This is part of the stimulus program on a state wide level. There was a lot of these applications turned in back in early 2009, ours being one of them. We were not funded in the first round, so they put us back into the pile. Ours is for our sewer I & I rehab work. We will be reconsidered along with many other applications at the December meeting. Mike asked did they give any indication why it was not accepted the first round. Mr. Close responded no indication but there are a lot more applications than funds available and they can only give out so much money. We hope we will be a favorable consideration this time.

Dan Procopio asked in regard to the H2O PA Grant and did we have to change any of the application or the one submitted in 2009. Mr. Close said we made some minor updates but they allowed us to keep the same application. This work includes interceptor and collection system. Dan asked about the first part of the interceptor has all the work been completed on the punch list and everyone signed off on this, meaning the Swim Club, No Name, and property owners on Maryland Avenue. Mr. Close explained it is essentially completed but there are 1 or 2 small punch list items left to do and we are working with the contractor on that matter. Then the final payment will be recommended within a couple of weeks.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Councilwoman Owen reported on the trash collection schedule at the end of December. There will be no trash interruption in our trash collection service in the Borough. We will have normal trash collections on Mondays and Thursdays during the last two weeks of the month.

Councilwoman Owen said on behalf of the Public Health and Sanitation Committee we wish our residents a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

### **HIGHWAY**

Councilmen Cosgrove reported we have initiated communication with Penn Dot regarding the drainage problem in Providence Road and North Sycamore Avenue. When it rains this time of year with all the leaves within no time the grate is covered. It is a street level grate and is bicycle proof, meaning more grating than normal, but restricts the amount of water flow and blocks up in minutes. Our call to Penn Dot was, our responsibility is under the ground and making sure the water moves once it goes in but is Penn Dot's responsibility to get it off the street. We are recommending the sewer grate that is there now is not sufficient and our opinion is if they add an additional curb sewer inlet there any water that would be blocked because of leaves would be carried away by overflow. We are waiting to hear back from Penn Dot.

Mike Ceci asked about a report back on the water main break on Providence Road on Monday night into Tuesday morning. They worked from 10:00 in the evening till 5:30 Tuesday morning. They had thing cleared up before heavy traffic started on Tuesday.

Dan Procopio asked Councilmen Cosgrove how Aqua is doing with their program, they are doing a lot of repaving and are they done the work for the year and will they be able to do the paving work. Councilmen Cosgrove responded when he talked to them on the 28<sup>th</sup> they were still on schedule for finishing the work up. The last activity was in the area of Beech Avenue and Magnolia Avenue. They have widened the cuts and they are in the final stage. They may be off by a week or so but this is the last stage of putting the patch down and top coat. Mr. Tartaglia commented they can't put the top coat until the weather is 40 degrees or higher so it may be a while before they finish. Mr. Tartaglia talked with Bill Miller from Aqua today and they are putting down the base but no top until the weather cooperates. President Short asked if it stays cold will they put cold patch down. Mr. Tartaglia said he was going to suggest that.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilmen Coppola reported Lobbs Run Phase I is 98% completed and on behalf of the Borough and the residents of Aldan we would like to thank the business and residents that were effected by the work done during the Lobbs Run Project. The Aldan Swim Club was affected; the No Name Food Store especially because of the pumps in the parking lot we appreciate for allowing items in their parking lots. They worked well with us and it was a lot longer than we expected. Also McFadden Funeral Home and Tom Shaiko were affected and residents of Maryland Avenue and Glenwood Circle also dealt with this situation during the summer. Again on behalf of the Borough and the other residents we appreciate them putting up with any incontinence during that period of time.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY/ HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Councilwomen Brookes reported the Historical Commission was happy to participate in the Aldan Booster's Tree Lighting Ceremony. The night of the tree lighting residents could see the Historical Commissions LED lights had been installed and beautifully outlined the Trolley Stop Museum. Many thanks to the Boosters, whose donation helped, defray the cost of the lights and thank you to Harry Short, Jr., and his neighbor John, both residents, who installed the lights for free. Paul Kruger from the Historical Commission was also helping on the ground crew.

Councilwomen Brookes reported we received a letter from Bill Garrity, our Fire Marshal, thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement for his wife Marti who passed away, Marti was the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator for many years. We appreciate you love and friendship. We especially appreciated Ken Coppola, Jr. and all he did providing the police escort. We received many compliments about this. Bill, Joe, Trish and Kate.

Councilwomen Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's report for the month of November. During the month of November Collingdale Fire Companies #1 and #2 responded to 8 calls during the month and the Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 35 calls in the Borough.

A note for the Fire Marshal: the holiday season is now upon us. I would like to remind all residents and their families that all electrical lights, ornaments, etc, should be checked for broken wires and faulty defects, and while no one is home all electrical decorations should be disconnected and not left on. Also all live Christmas Trees should be kept in water and away from any heat source or ignition points." Don't let your dreams go up in smoke".

Fireplaces, wood burning stoves and other types of open flame appliances and chimneys should be kept cleaned and serviced to insure proper and safe use. Heaters should also be serviced and cleaned on a yearly basis.

During the last 2 months, the Fire Marshal and Aqua Water Company have been monitoring work that was being performed in the borough on several fire hydrants and their flows. A new fire hydrant was added at West Providence and Bonsall Avenue on a new water main and the fire hydrant at Bonsall Avenue and West Wayne Avenue will remain at that location to conform to homeowners insurance regulations.

The Fire Marshal also reported on the fire on May 14, 2010 on Beech Avenue, a female victim died on September 30, 2010 as a result of the injuries (smoke and thermal burns). This was the final ruling from the medical/coroners office. This was the first fire related death in the borough of Aldan since 1971. Preliminary cause of the fire was an old/defective heating pad.

The Fire Marshal also said to have a safe and joyous holiday season.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUILDINGS**

Councilmen Baker reported we are still getting bids on the Municipal Building on replacing the roof, gutters and soffit.

Dan Procopio asked if the Trolley Stop needed a roof from the hail storm in June. Councilwomen Brookes responded when John, who is a roofer, was helping with the lights on the Trolley Stop he checked the roof and said it was OK.

### **FINANCE**

Councilmen Xavier reported we originally advertised the adoption of our Budget for the meeting tonight but we are still continuing to make adjustments to provide the best possible budget for our Borough residents. Councilmen Xavier made a motion to continue the budget consideration to a Special Meeting on Wednesday, December 22, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Rec Building, seconded by Councilmen Baker and unanimously approved.

Mike Ceci asked Councilmen Xavier about the budget being difficult and could he elaborate. Councilmen Xavier responded we are trying to look at every single category, every expense, income and do our do diligence so we don't present a budget that is not ready. There have been a lot of reassessments this year so there has been a reduction in that area. We have less transfer coming in and that is an income we are loosing. We have less income and bill keep going up just like everyone's household budget and we treat it like that. We try to spend just what we have except when it comes to necessities. We will work up to the end to give the best budget possible. Mike also asked if we have to have a budget by then end of the year. President Short said yes we do and we will have a budget ready.

Dan Procopio asked if there was updated budget information available. President Short said not prior to the meeting but the information will be available the night of the meeting. Dan asked what the sewer charges are set for. Terry Quinn responded \$535,837.00 and this is a pass through tax. Dan asked if there was some questions if the reading were correct.

President Short commented we are always looking to make sure because of what happened in the first years we always scrutinize our sewer bills. There was an increase so we want to make sure that increase is proper. Dan asked if the numbers were correct. President Short said we haven't determined the numbers were wrong so if in the Engineers search for why the increase if there is a discrepancy found we will approach them with that information. There is no reason for us to believe at this time they are wrong.

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

President Short reported for the month of November we had 81 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$613,062.80; and there were 28 Mid-Term/Transfer Inspections.

President Short commented 2010 was an extremely busy year for Council. This started with the purchase of a pool and this has turned out to be a win, win situation for both parties. Councilmen Xavier, Councilwomen Brookes, and the Mayor were all involved with the pool. Councilmen Baker was very busy with the storm damage. Councilmen Coppola doing an enormous sewer project talking to neighbors and store owners with a minimal of complaints. Councilwomen Owen achieving another great trash contract and also information about a recycling program. Councilmen Cosgrove started out terrible with all the snow which used up about 90% of his budget. Councilmen Cosgrove is doing a terrific job with the web site and he is always looking for ways to help the budget by applying for grants for LED lights and he is now in the process of looking at our electric bills and how to reduce that by changing carriers. This was a great job for everyone and President Short wanted to thank everyone for all the hard work all year. Councilmen Xavier thanked President Short for all he does.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There is no unfinished business this month.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at 7:30 PM.; and Council will meet on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. in an executive session and regular session at 8:00 P.M. at the William Reinl Recreation Center.

President Short asked Mayor Hopely to introduce our guest tonight. Mayor Hopely introduced Christine Hermondollar, Director of the Senior Center, who will give us history of the year and what is going on. Christine presented to Council and the Mayor a Christmas Card. The Friendship Circle Christmas card was created by Ruth DiCrecchio, in our pencil class. Christine handed out an overview to Council to look at the total number of people that use Friendship Circle. Last year was 892 and this year was 1,097, with last year 83 people from Aldan and this year 118 people from Aldan. The total value of In-Home Care, this is services provided in the house, they have someone sit with them, or do some light house keeping and that money goes really fast. Another highlight to mention is there are a lot of classes going on. It is important when over the age of 50 to take part in activities. Our oldest member is 105 and her daughter is 82. Friendship Circle is an active place to be.

There is Zomba classes, Pilates, pencil drawing, Marie Gilligan who lives in Aldan is our Water Color instructor every Monday from 10 to 12. People are exploring new talents and really doing marvelous things. Christine invites all to come in June to Delaware County Community College where we do an Art Show. There is also Social Networking Classes, Facebook, ordering things on line, and many other classes. There is only 6 computers and one teacher monitor but what we did, and Mayor Hopely was involved in the committee, we had a special event in November and the only way Friendship Circle is going to keep growing is provide more quality programs, with teachers that teach professionally. We had 2 computer teachers and we paid them to teach classes throughout the Fall Semester and we will do this again in the spring. This keeps the Center going and we don't see it as a Senior Center, you start to see it as a Community Center and you are not paying that high cost of the Y. You can take low impact aerobics, or yoga stretch and these are available at all times. Christine wanted to thank Aldan and Mayor Hopely for coming down a being visible to the members at the center. We are on the right track and we hope to continue on that track. We do worry about the building being small. Mayor Hopely commented about the garden and the card players and how very active it is at the Center and what a good job Christine is doing in taking over Dixie's position. Christine thanked everyone for letting her come to the Council meeting and Happy Holidays to all.

### **PRIVELIGE OF THE FLOOR**

Dan Procopio as Chairmen of the Aldan Boosters Christmas activities they want to extend thanks to the Historical Commission, Council for all of their support.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Councilwomen Brookes seconded by Councilmen Baker and unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

### **ATTEST**

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MARIE V. KAUT  
Borough Secretary