

**ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

January 14, 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 Reind 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; J. McBlain; P. Brookes; M. Xavier;  
S. Coppola; T. Owen; 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 the minutes from the December 10, 2008, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

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**WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No written correspondence tonight.

**VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Dan Procopio reported for the Aldan boosters Civic Association the 2008 Best Decorated House Award. More than 50 homes in Aldan Borough received mention on the ballots of Boosters members. Third Prize went to the Xavier Family, 109 S. Oak Avenue; Second Prize went to the Matelli Family, 49 S. Sycamore Avenue; and First Prize went to the Boyle Family, 600 W. Magnolia Avenue. These awards culminate the 2008 Christmas activities of the Aldan Boosters Civic Association. The festivities started on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> with the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. During the month of December, the boosters helped Santa to answer the over 200 pieces of mail dropped in Santa's Mailbox in front of the Municipal Building.

On Christmas morning, the Aldan Boosters helped Santa to visit almost 200 homes in Aldan with over 350 children greeted. The Aldan Boosters Civic Association whose slogan is “We bring good things to Aldan” meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the American Legion Post #1000 on Bonsall Avenue at 8:00 PM and is always looking for a few good men to help with activities.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**MAYOR**

Mayor Hopely commented on the great article that Betty Alburger wrote on Charlie Duffy and the Boosters.

Mayor Hopely also read a greeting card to all at Aldan Borough, Police, Fire Fighters, Rescue and Ambulance that all of you and your families are very well, happy and blessed and thanks for all your great patience and kindness care and hard work. You are all dearly appreciated, from Christina and David Franklin.

Another note Mayor Hopely read wanted to thank Sgt. Camarota for his help. Her car door was locked, the motor was running and her handbag was inside the car. Sgt. Camarota was so patient and kind in getting the door open so I could operate the car again. People should know when others give good care and attention to others, signed Sincerely, Marguerite Brownback.

Mayor Hopely also wanted to remind everyone is you see anything at all suspicious please call 911 immediately do not wait.

**TREASURER**

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer’s Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 150,985.00	\$ 428.81
Receipts for period	27,826.24	.42
Expenditures Prior Month		
Expenditures This Month		
Balance	\$ 178,811.24	\$ 428.81

Terry Quinn asked Council’s approval this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$136,050.76 and from the State Highway Fund checks totaling \$7,155.80. Part of the checks from the General Fund is \$15,000.00 as a loan to the Highway Fund until our State Funds come in to cover the checks to be issued. 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.

**SOLICITOR**

Mr. Seflin reported on the 2007 Tax Delinquency Program. Tomorrow there are 4 hearing in front of District Justice John Perfetti at 1:00 P M. 329 Laurel Avenue; 120 West Providence Road; 119 South Woodlawn Avenue; 503 Sylvan Way. Mr. Seflin is happy to report that 2 of the 4 have been resolved. The Ramseys from 503 Sylvan Way and the Rigueur of 329 Laurel Avenue both paid. Mr. Seflin will tell the Judge tomorrow to discontinue that action and withdraw the Municipal lien against them. We will pursue the other two and Mr. Park, our Tax Collector will be at court tomorrow. The property at 128 Albert Avenue, Mr. McNaughton, is a habitual delinquent seven out of the last eight years. We received judgment against him on December 4, 2008 for \$1,475.22 and as of last week we did ask Judge Perfetti to issue an order of execution, we are asking the Constable to levy upon Mr. McNaughton's personal property within the home. Hopefully that will be done within a relatively short time.

Mr. Seflin along with Mr. McBlain's Committee will be working on the new Pennsylvania Open Records Law, which was passed last year. How it will effects the Borough and we have some regulations in effect regarding the former Right to Know Law and we hope within the next several months we will have up dated those regulations and have them ready for Council's consideration.

**ENGINEER**

Mr. Close reported we continue to fight our Inflow and Infiltration battle with the Sanitary Sewer System on a number of fronts. American Sewer will be rapping up their televising of the interceptor on Friday and Saturday to finish that up. We will then have the tapes to analyze and determine what rehabilitation we need to do in that Meter 3 area. Couzins was authorized last month to raise the four manholes that we found on the interceptor. They have done the work on the manholes and one was in the street and one was in the parking lot but they could not finish the paving due to the weather. As soon as weather permits they will do the permanent paving around those manholes. Tonight and tomorrow night P J will have his guys out investigating the other two meter areas. They will be doing a night time investigation to try and find any water that should not be in the system. Between midnight and 4:30 A M the guys will be popping manholes, starting at the meter and working their way up the system looking for water that should not be there. If we do see some, the first thing we do is contact Aqua and get them to look at those specific areas to see if they have a water main break that is contributing to that flow, also to help us target our search when we do future televising along that area. We will also be looking for some unknown connections, we still think there might be some pipes we don't know about coming from bordering communities. We will try to identify them over the next few nights. We are also coordinating with Aqua, as a result of finding that one leak on Glenwood Circle; they will be doing a leak survey throughout the Borough during this month. Aqua's specialist will do all of their lines and coordinate with our guy, Terry Gallagher, and if they find any more leaks they will hopefully correct them. If they are causing problems with our system that will help reduce our metering that we are seeing right now.

P. J. reported on the Lobbs Run Interceptor that is currently being surveyed and we need to identify an As Built Survey of that pipe so that when it comes time to repair it, after we analyze the tape we need a plan to put together to have the contractor do the repair work. Once the survey is done, once the tapes are analyzed, we will put the plan together to actually have the line fixed and reduce the water in the system. As Council is aware, we did see the advertisement in the paper on December 19, 2008 for the CDBG grant for \$275,000.00 which seems to be a go for Aldan.

Once these last few administrative steps are in place we will finish up the plans, get them to the County to approve them, and once that is done we can issue the plans for bidding. We are looking at late spring early summer to issue those plans to get the rehab work done on our Meter 3 area, which is by the intersection of Springfield Road, Clifton Avenue, Maryland Avenue and in that area.

Dan Procopio asked what areas they would be looking at for the next two nights. P J said it is outside of the current area. We have two other meters in town one down at South Woodlawn Avenue at the border of Collingdale and the other is at the South Linden Avenue also at the border of Collingdale. Essentially, we are talking about, south of Providence Road and flow towards Collingdale. We are starting at those meters and working our way up the lines. Dan also asked about the As Built Survey, is that Aldan's responsibility or is that part of the Grant money. P J responded that is not part of the grant money that is part of the design and construction drawing that are necessary to support the construction documents to do that work. Grant money is just for the construction and rehabilitation. We have a sub-consultant we use for the actual survey, which is coordinated through Kelly/Close. This is actually a physical survey of the pipe within the topography. Right now all we have is lines and dots representing the sanitary sewer and it is not of sufficient detail for them to go out and repair it. It would also be important for the Borough to have this As Built Survey because it is such an important artery of our sewer system. It is really the only artery we have outside of the streets. It goes back through the woods and along the creek, so we really need this As Built Plan of that sewer for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. President Short commented we are very lacking on any details of our infrastructure, particularly that one. With the streets we are OK, it is very easy to see, the dots and lines and the overall sewer map that we have is fine, but for that very critical artery that we have, and because it is such a focus of our work, we really need to have it surveyed and documented in a better form than we have right now. That is why the survey is being done.

## **REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Dan Procopio we are scheduling meeting for the end of the month for our the new members Council appointed at the end of last year.

### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Peggy Brookes will report during her committee report.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Mrs. Owen reported that on Monday, January 19, 2009 there will be no trash pick up due to the holiday and the transfer station being closed but trash will be picked up on Tuesday, January 20 the following day.

**HIGHWAY**

Mr. Baker asked whenever there is a threat of snow we ask the residents to park their vehicles off the streets so the snow plow so we can plow the streets from curb to curb.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Coppola reported a public notice was in the Daily Times for the CDBG grant money we requested on December 19, 2008 asking for \$275,000.00 to be allocated to our Lobbs Run Project. We hope to see that allocation soon.

Mr. Coppola attended a meeting on December 19, 2008 with Kelly and Close at DELCORA in Chester. P J requested the meeting to talk with DELCORA about the 43 home that are discharging sewage into our system at Lobbs Run. DELCORA believes it is between Aldan and Darby Creek Joint Authority to make those adjustments. P J has sent a letter to Darby Creek asking them to make the adjustments to the meter billing. We have not heard back from them but will keep Council posted.

Mr. Coppola reported Aqua is in town replacing the Water Main on Magnolia Avenue. We met with Aqua on Monday, January 12, 2009 for a pre construction meeting. Work is being done during the daytime hours and will last until April. Service interruption should be minimal and take place during final hook up when the entire main is in place. The residents were notified by mail by Aqua and if there are any problems or complaints contact the Borough and we will contact Aqua and get things resolved. The Borough will also send out a letter to the residents in that area informing them of the work and any issues they might have.

Charlie Duffy reported the Darby Creek Joint Authority meets next Wednesday night and he will be sure to bring it up the status of the 43 homes hooked up to our sewer system. Charlie will report back to Council. Mr. Coppola will get Charlie a copy of the letter Mr. Close sent to Darby Creek about this matter. President Short asked if it could be discussed if there were any future discoveries that might be made along the same lines and how it could be handled.

Dan Procopio asked about the new water main replacement. Steve Coppola responded they are installing a new main. The old main will stay in place until the entire new main is built and then they will go in and charge that system and chlorinate it and once it passes their inspection then they will go back and make the individual home connections.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mrs. Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's Report for the month of December. Collingdale Fire Company #1 and #2 responded to 4 calls during the month of December. Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 26 calls in the Borough of Aldan. A note from the Fire Marshal: Please take a look at the damages and call volume this year compared to 2008.

Total Damages 2008: \$31,500.00; 2007: \$140,000.00 (Approx) 2206: \$22,000.00 (Approx)  
\$1,000.00 (approx) Building/ \$30,500.00 (approx) contents. EMS Calls: 2008 - 394; 2007 - 351;  
2006 - 382; 2005 - 376; 2004 - 328

Councilwoman Brookes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2009-01 appointing Michael Xavier as Chief Administrative Officer of the Aldan Police Pension Fund seconded by J. McBlain and unanimously approved.

Mrs. Brookes also reported for the Historical Commission they are looking forward to spring.

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

Mr. McBlain reported that during the month of December there were a total of 6 building permits issued with a construction value of \$16,732.00 in addition there were a total of 20 transfer and mid-term inspections performed by our Residential Inspector and there was also 1 Plumbing Permit issued with a construction value of \$944.00.

Councilmen McBlain introduced Resolution 2009-02, the fees for building and construction permits, use and occupancy certificates, demolition, swimming pools, signs, garages, plan reviews, roofing, accessory building, storage tanks and pumps, sidewalks/curbs, driveways, electrical permits, etc shall be amended and updated pursuant to the Fee Schedule. This new Fee Schedule shall replace the current fee schedule currently contained within the Code of the Borough of Aldan. The last time the Borough revised the Permit Fees was 1997. In the process our fee structure has become outdated and does not cover the costs of inspections and the operations of our Code Department and the increase of these fees will also bring us into conformity with what is in the Uniform Construction Code as recommended by our Code Officials. Even with these increases Aldan is still lower than other Municipalities in the area. Our philosophy has never been that we would use our permit fees and fee structure as a money maker. Our plan is to cover the cost of the inspectors the cost of the support staff and the incidental office cost that along with the Codes Department. This will bring us up to what we need do. We have monitored this over the past few years the fees that are generated vs. the costs and we have broken even but over the last couple of years we have held off but we thought it was appropriate at this point and moving into this year to take action at this point in time. Mr. McBlain made a motion to adopt Resolution 2009-02 seconded by M. Xavier and unanimously approved.

Mr. McBlain explained that this being our first meeting of the New Year he made a motion to re-appoint, ad seriatim, for a one year term all the various offices of the borough to include the Police Chief, Borough Secretaries, Solicitor, Borough Engineer, Code Official, Building Inspector, Inspectors, Health Officer, Treasurer and Zoning Solicitor for the same individuals that currently serve in those positions. J. McBlain made a motion to re-appoint the same individuals to the various offices for a 1 year term, seconded by R. Baker and unanimously approved.

Mr. McBlain asked President Short, Mayor Hopely and members of Council a request for your indulgence for a few moments for the purpose of making some remarks. Mr. McBlain made his remarks as his final council meeting and attached to these minutes are a copy of these remarks. These remarks are emotional but have been attached for you read. President Short responded even though he knew this was coming, "I still don't know what to say." We will never have comments like that again; we all look forward to John's comments. As we look around at many of the Council members John's legacy will live on and he will be sadly missed on Council but you will still be around town and involved.

Dan Procopio commented he was speechless but glad John is not going anywhere and will still be around.

**FINANCE**

Mr. Xavier had nothing new to report this evening.

**BUILDINGS**

President Short had no report for the Building Committee.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There is no unfinished business this month.

**NEW BUSINESS**

President Short announced that Caucus will be Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building; and Council will meet on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in an executive session and regular session at 8:00 p.m. at the William Reinl Recreation Center.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Charlie Duffy mentioned about expanding the Townwatch Program. We are now up to about 30 members but still are in need of more. To be really viable Townwatch needs about 50 people. Please consider this program.

Betty Alburger from the Daily Times wanted to thank the Mayor, Council and everyone who signed her Birthday Card and this was very much appreciated. Betty also commented she will miss John, who has always been great to her.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by J.McBlain, seconded by M. Xavier and approved unanimously, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

**ATTEST**

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MARIE V. KAUT  
Borough Secretary