

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

March 11, 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 Reinl Recreation Center 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; 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 February 11, 2009, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

There was no verbal correspondence tonight.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

MAYOR

Mayor Hopely reported the police department continues with in-service training, known as Act 180, which makes it mandatory for every police officer in Pennsylvania to complete 16 hours of classroom instruction, First Aid, CPR, and Firearms qualification. Chief Coppola, Sgts. Camarota and Fink are scheduled to be trained in ICS 300 and ICS 400. These are advanced Emergency Management classes mandatory for police supervisors. Officer Ziviello continues training classes each month so that he can remain a member of the Southeastern Delaware County Emergency Response Team (SWAT). This is intense training that each and every member of the team must complete several times per month.

TREASURER

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer’s Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 75,801.47	\$ 8,274.90
Receipts for period	239,799.46	1.47
Expenditures Prior Month	132,047.44	7,155.80
Expenditures This Month		
Balance	\$ 183,553.49	\$ 1,120.57

Terry Quinn asked Council’s approval this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$306,943.05. 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 2006 Tax Delinquency Program. Mr. Seflin was please to report we received a check for \$3,718.97 from HSBC Bank USA for the property at 38 Beech. This payment represents our 2006 and 2007 Tax Delinquency and a lien from last year for landscaping. This gave us 100% taxes collected for 2006. With the payment of the Loof estate we are down to 3 outstanding tax delinquencies for 2007. 128 Albert Avenue owned by Mr. McNaughton and we have a judgment against him and we 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, who is a Real Estate Agent in West Chester and he 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. Mr. Toth lives in North Fallowfield Township, Chester County, just south of Coatsville. We have asked for a levy on his residence also. Judge Perfetti and our Constable Jason Haley have refused to levy because Constable Haley’s opinion is that he does not have any legal authority to levy outside of Delaware County. Mr. Seflin and Judge Perfetti are going to consult at the end of this month. We will either have a Constable from Chester County levy against him or move the judgment from District Court to the Court of Common Pleas. We then get the Sheriff to go out and execute on his house but this is a long expensive process. Mr. Selfin will be discussing this with Council within the next few months and that way we can either execute against his house here in Delaware County or his house in Chester County.

Mr. Selfin thinks it would be cheaper and easier to execute against the one at 120 W. Providence Road. Mr. Seflin also wanted to report on the property at 329 Laurel Avenue. We had a judgment against this property and Judge Perfetti asked Mr. Seflin to give them 60 days instead of 30 days. They gave us the total amount of \$1,422.19. Mr. Seflin reported we are down to 2 tax delinquents for 2007.

Dan Procopio asked when the 2008 become delinquent. Mr. Seflin responded generally by March 15th but Mr. Park sent them out last week and gives them till the end of April. The list is then given to Mr. Selfin.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported as a follow up on the report from last month on our H2O PA Grant application. We submitted that application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on February 12, 2009. We expect to hear a decision on our application within 60 days of the date of that application. This was a request for a grant amount of \$750,000.00 for our Lobbs Run Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Replacement Project. In another follow up report we did receive approval for our CDBG application for Lobbs Run Interceptor repairs in the amount of \$275,000.00. Presently the application and paper work is being reviewed by OHCD staff, which is a normal part of their administrative process because there are federal funds involved. They expect to have all that paperwork taken care of by the end of this month, and then will be in a position to issue a notice to advertise for us. Also, as Mr. Close has reported, American Sewer did all the televising and cleaning of our lines in the Lobbs Run Interceptor district. American Sewer is finished and reported all the proper documentation to us and we have done a preliminary assessment on their televising. We pretty much know where our trouble spots are but we have to wait to see if that H2O PA money comes in because having that additional \$750,000.00 will give us a lot more capability to do a lot more repairs and replacement along that Interceptor. We really can't initiate the construction documents until we know if we are going to get that money. If we don't get it we know we have to scale it back a little bit for the first year's program. We will keep an eye on that and as soon as we hear we can go through the process of putting the construction documents together. Lastly, Mr. Close has been reporting we have been doing some night time studies to confirm our perimeters in our sewer map. We have had significant increases in our sewer bills as a result of this metering program that started two years ago and we are way out of line with what our bills used to be. We really suspected that there was something going on there. As a result of this night time work we really found some significant problems. As a result of that we sent a letter to Darby Creek Joint Authority and DELCORA on February 26, 2009, basically asking them to correct the map and make a correction on the bills that were paid for 2008 and 2009. What we found was in Darby Township on the corner of Rively Avenue and Oak Avenue, there is an additional 103 homes coming from Darby Township into our Borough that were not initially accounted for in our Meter 1. Over in our Meter 3, which is in our Lobbs Run Interceptor, we found 43 additional homes coming from Upper Darby Township that was not accounted for. The big one that we found is at our Meter 2, which is at Rively Avenue and Woodlawn Avenue, which was basically shown to leave our Borough and go through Collingdale. It does not do that. It leaves our Borough goes into Collingdale and turned back up into Aldan and re-circulates through our Meter 2. Essentially we are getting billed twice for a Meter. This is a pretty significant impact and it really gets our billing back where it really should be. We've reported these findings to Darby Creek Joint Authority and DELCORA and basically said, this is significant and you need to make this correction right away and we need to reconcile the over payments that we made on those two bills.

Some good news Darby Creek Joint Authority Engineer said this is a big find, so they went out and did their own dye test to confirm that in fact that meter is re-circulating and sent us an e-mail last week saying yes you are right and DELCORA we have to fix this situation. We have not seen the money or what they are going to do about it but we have asked for a meeting to try and reconcile this as quickly as possible. Mr. Close will be working on this for the next few weeks to get that meeting so we can get our situation where it should be.

President Short said it was an excellent job the guys from Kelly/Close, that came out and find what they did find in the middle of the night. This will turn into a significant savings for the Borough. The Borough found the problem and we expect DVJA and DELCORA to fix the situation. Mr. Baker asked if they would remove that meter. Mr. Close responded that is something we have to ask them. They might decide to keep it in place; these are \$15,000 to \$20,000 meters. Mr. Close would like them to keep the meter in there because it helps us to isolate are own system when we are doing our own I & I analysis. If they are willing to keep it in Mr. Close would love them to keep it in because it is a really good tool for us to monitor our own system. Mr. Close is going to try to convince them to keep it in. We essentially paid for our share so why not keep it in. President Short said it would be easy enough to deduct what ever comes out of Meter 1 off of Meter 2 and come up with our correct flow. They should have no problem doing that math.

Dan Procopio asked if we knew how many H2O PA grant applications were submitted and what kind of dollar figure was submitted to the state. Mr. Close answered he does not know, he has seen a lot of reporting on this but does not know the full extent of all the grants they have received. Mr. Close did say that almost every Municipality in Delaware County put in some projects. After all the approvals what is the time frame we have to use the money. Mr. Close responded that generally it is by the end of the year but they are very flexible and very common that it goes into the next year because of whatever circumstances are there. We will be able to work within the time frame.

Dan also asked do we know the gallons deduction. Mr. Close responded it is about a 20% reduction in our over all Borough. Dan asked what kinds of cost were associated with this kind of work on the perimeters of town. President Short said we have not gotten the total bills yet but what this is stopping is a recurring bill every year, so it has long term effects and it was money necessary to spend. When the bills come in they will be on the report.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Dan Procopio reported the Planning Commission met last month and did not have any new business.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Peggy Brookes will report during her committee report.

RECREATION BOARD

Bob Reardon is just getting ready to start the activities for the upcoming season. The process of obtaining bids for the grass cutting is ongoing. We are putting together a new team to run the snack bar and should have more information by next Council Meeting. Clean Up Date is March 28, 2009.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Mrs. Owen reported the Board of Health met this week and our Health Officer reported the Department of Environmental Protection was in Delaware County the last week of February to educate and inform the Township Managers and Borough Managers about West Nile Virus for the upcoming season. They talked about how infected mosquito bites lead to West Nile Virus in humans. The information they gave was about the notification procedure the DEP is going to use for spraying areas where the traps tested positive for West Nile.

Food License inspections will be conducted soon by the Health Officer.

Mrs. Owen the first of the four Household Hazardous Collections in the County will be held Saturday, March 28, 2009 at the Marple Transfer Station in Broomall from 9 to 3 rain or shine. Items they are taking are pesticides, toxics, caustics, oil based paints, flammables, and batteries. The next pick up will be for these products as well as computer equipment.

Mrs. Owen announced for Spring Clean Up the dumpster will be delivered the last week of March.

Dan Procopio asked how often are food inspection done. Mrs. Owen responded annually.

Michael Cici asked what food is getting inspected in Aldan. Mrs. Owen responded we have five businesses in the Borough that sell food products. The Health Officer inspects the standards set by the State Regulator.

HIGHWAY

Mr. Cosgrove was looking into putting together information necessary to create a Web site for Aldan Borough. Mr. Cosgrove has gathered this information and Council did review this information at Caucus made some changes that were talked about. We did end up with a list of 33 items and 7 icons; we have taken the prototype to the designer, Crafter Computer Solutions in Upper Providence. They are working on it now, so we are in stage 2 and within the next 3 weeks or so we should have the prototype back for review. By the time we meet next month we may be ready to push the button and publish. President Short commented that after the review Joe did some great work.

Mr. Cosgrove's first official act is to get a pot hole fixed. Mr. Cosgrove has created a form on the web site that allows residents to contact him via this form to let him know where there is a pot hole or sink hole or whatever. The form is titled Basic Road Maintenance.

Mr. Cosgrove reported with the warm weather here we are starting to plan for road repair and with that we have our application for County Aid. Mr. Cosgrove made a motion to apply for County Aid for the 2009 Road Resurfacing Program, seconded by R. Baker and unanimously approved.

Dan Procopio asked although it was a tough snow storm over 2 days there seems to be an extremely excessive amount of salt in piles throughout the Borough. Was there some sort of mechanical failure or not spreading correctly or what the problem was. President Short did call to ask the contractor about this matter. President Short was told because of the cold and then the rapid warm the snow never got a chance to wash the salt away. There were a couple of rains and we hoped it would take care of the salt but unfortunately it did not take care of the problem.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Coppola wanted to add another note of appreciation to P J and his staff for the work they did on the investigation of the sewer. It was P J's determination and diligence and investigating the perimeter of town that led to this substantial find. Council does appreciate your work and you are doing a great job.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's Report for the month of February. Collingdale Fire Company #1 and #2 responded to 8 calls during the month of February, 2009. 7 had no damage and one was a house on Hazelwood Road with damages of \$49,000.00. Also during the month of February, 2009, Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 44 calls in the Borough of Aldan.

Mrs. Brookes also reported the Historical Commission is scheduled to meet next and they are confirming the next collectable landmark. The new collectable looks like it will be the Colonial Playhouse. All previous collectables are available at the Municipal Building.

Mrs. Brookes also reported that Founder/Safety Day will be September 19, 2009, and the 4th of July Association will be sending a flyer out with the Information Cards letting residents know about the 4th of July celebration in the Borough.

LAW, ORDINANCE & BUILDING

President Short reported during the month of February, 2009 there were a total of 11 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$58,814.00; there was 1 plumbing permit with a construction value of \$14,015.00; there were also 17 transfer and mid-term inspections performed by our Residential Inspector.

President Short asked for a motion to nominate John McBlain to the Planning Commission for a term to expire in 2010. M. Xavier made a motion to appoint John McBlain to the Planning Commission for a term to expire in January 2010, seconded by P. Brookes and unanimously approved.

FINANCE

Mr. Xavier reported we received the Franchise Fee check for 2008 from Comcast for the amount of \$61,865.04.

Mr. Xavier also reported we are working on Permit Parking for Residents on the first block of Magnolia Avenue off of Oak Avenue. There is an issue in that area where non-residents from outside of town leaving cars on the street because they can't park in their area, the Oak Tree Apartments, because they are limited to one or two cars. As Council goes forward with this we will be talking to residents on Maple Avenue and Magnolia Avenue where the issue is pretty bad right now. We will probably be going to a parking permit for residents only there will be no overnight parking for non-residents. There will be no charge to the residents for the parking permits. We are doing this as a service to try to improve there quality of life when it comes to parking in front of your own house. A lot of these problems are due to the new owners of the apartments who put restrictions on their tenants where they limit the amount of cars they were able to park. So they were forced to park on our streets.

Michael Cici asked if it is only in one area that Council will be doing parking permits. Mr. Xavier responded it is just beginning now and we will target that area and we may have to go up to the first block on Magnolia Avenue.

Dan Procopio asked is there unfunded obligations that the Borough has in regards to employees for uncomplicated overtime which is not paid for in the year in which it is approved. Mr. Xavier responded no we don't approve overtime. Overtime is paid as it is earned. Also there are no bonuses paid and the hourly employees are paid and may get a cost of living raise at the end of the year. We don't pay any bonus or commissions or anything else outside of what is published and is public record.

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, April 1, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building; and Council will meet on Wednesday, April 8, 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 T. Owen, seconded by R. Baker and approved unanimously, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary