

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

September 6, 2022

The Council of the Borough met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm, with President Chvala presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Sarno	Tom Holmes
Christine Wilson	Daisha Clayton
Marilee Kessler	John Uskuraitis arrived at 7:35 pm.
Kathleen Chvala	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Lenny Collini, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfido, Solicitor	Theresa Geltz, Asst. Secretary
Lucian Bove, Engineer	Joseph Caporali, Police Chief

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the August 1, 2022 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno. Motion carried.

At this time, President Chvala presented a award to Kristian Clayton for his action and life saving heroism on August 8, 2022.

VISITORS:

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to hear from visitors at this time. Motion carried.

Lydia Bertelle, 929 Cooper Street, questioned if the Borough has an ordinance to require residents to place their garbage in metal containers. She stated that people are just placing

their garbage for collection in bags, of which, is drawing skunks. She also questioned whether properties are properly inspected, especially at 927 Cooper Street.

Lisa Dormire, Artfess Chair, requested Council's permission to begin planning the Arts Festival for 2023 and that the theme will be the "Wizard of Oz". (See page 2-A)

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street, requested that Council mail notices to all resident that their garbage is to be set out for collection the night before the scheduled pick up.

Joe Wright, 407 Linden Street, complained about the structure at 411 Linden Street. He stated that this is in deplorable condition and that something needs to be done. He also complained about the former Lombardi building across the street from his residence.

Tammy Domiano, 109 Lowell Street, questioned if Council is going to do anything about her neighbor not addressing the tree problem that exists. She also stated that her neighbor's gutter is causing a water problem on to her property.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Holmes, to return to the regular of business. Motio carried.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini announced that this year's 2022 Halloween Parade bill be held on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 pm and "Trick of Treat" will be held on Monday, October 31, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Mayor Collini stated that he and his wife received a warm welcome from the Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department during the 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Holmes, to accept the Mayor's Report. Motion carried.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presented and reviewed the Borough's Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation to the Police Pension Plan for the 2023 Municipal Budget. See page 2-B)

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to place \$81,579.00 in the 2023 Municipal Budget of the Vandergrift Borough. Motion carried.

#### CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

August 31, 2022

J-A

Dear Vandergrift Council Members,

First of all, I want to thank you for your support for the 2022 Arts Festival. We are so grateful for everyone who helped to bring Wonderland to Vandergrift. It was a memorable day enjoyed by so many, and it really took this whole village to make it happen.

I am coming to you now on behalf of the Vandergrift Improvement Project and the Vandergrift Arts Festival to ask the Council's permission to begin planning for the 2023 event. We would like to continue with the last Sunday in July, which will fall on July 30th in 2023. In 2023 we would like to push back the start time to noon, and the end time to 9 pm, based on what we have learned over the past two years. Since our Wonderland theme brought so much enthusiasm in 2022, we are looking forward to a Wizard of Oz theme in 2023. Stay tuned for more details on that.

We would once again request the following street closures beginning at 7 am that Sunday morning:

- Grant at Jefferson
- Grant at Sumner
- Farragut at 11<sup>th</sup>
- Columbia at 11<sup>th</sup>
- Columbia at 12<sup>th</sup>
- McKinley at 12<sup>th</sup>

This year we had the street reopened an hour after the close of the event, so we anticipate being able to reopen the streets around 10 pm.

We will be distributing flyers to residents and businesses leading up to the festival so residents should be aware of the plans. Having Artsfest on a Sunday eliminates the concerns previously expressed by some businesses.

We look forward to another great day for Vandergrift.

Thank you –

*Lisa Dormire*

Artfest Chair

2-B

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT POLICE RETIREMENT PLAN  
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION  
FOR 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

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**A. Normal Cost**

1. Normal Cost as a Percent of Payroll	19.477%
2. Estimated 2022 Payroll for Active Participants	\$ <u>545,504</u>
3. Normal Cost (A1 x A2)	\$ <u>106,248</u>

**B. Financial Requirement**

1. Normal Cost (A3)	\$ 106,248
2. Anticipated Insurance Premiums	0
3. Anticipated Administrative Expense	28,912
4. Amortization Payment, if any	<u>0</u>
5. Financial Requirement (B1 + B2 + B3 + B4)	\$ <u>135,160</u>

**C. Minimum Municipal Obligation**

1. Financial Requirement (B5)	\$ 135,160
2. Anticipated Employee Contributions (6.23% of Estimated Payroll)	33,985
3. Funding Adjustment, if any	<u>19,596</u>
4. Minimum Municipal Obligation (C1 - C2 - C3)	\$ <u>81,579</u>

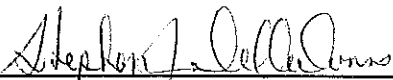
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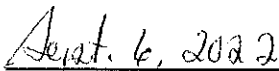
**NOTES:**

1. 2023 General Municipal Pension System State Aid may be used to fund part or all of the municipal obligation and must be deposited within 30 days of receipt. Any remaining balance must be paid from municipal funds.
  2. Deposit into the Plan's assets must be made by December 31, 2023 to avoid an interest penalty.
  3. Any delinquent Minimum Municipal Obligation from prior years must be included in the 2023 budget along with an interest penalty.
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**I hereby certify that the above calculations, to the best of my knowledge, are true, accurate, and conform with the provisions of Chapter 3 of Act 205 of 1984.**

Certified By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Prepared using the January 1, 2021 Valuation.

The Secretary reported that the Code Officer issued 35 violation notices, issued 2 citations, attended 2 magistrate hearing during the month of August. He also stated that \$1030.00 has been spend on grass cuttings in town and that there is a need for 3 additional areas.

Mr. Holmes infored Council that the Westmoreland Landbank has acquired the following properties in town: 512 Longfellow, 303 Lowell, and 110 18<sup>th</sup> Street. He also stated the the property at 114 West Adams has recently been sold and that the properties at 111 & 121 18<sup>th</sup> Street has been placed on the rehab program.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mrs. Kessler, to provide \$400.00 to the Code Officer to address the grass cutting problems in town.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler, to accept the Code Officer's Report. Motion carried.

#### COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

None

#### REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to pay all stated and approved bills. Motion carried.

#### STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

No Report

#### ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove discussed his conference call with DCNR regarding the Olmsted Commons Project. He stated that will not establish a parking lot, but will provide two handicap parking spaces. He also stated that Council will need to move forward with establishing a volunteer group to perform certain work as part of this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to appoint Mrs. Kessler to spear head this matter. Motion carried.

Engineer Bove suggested that Council have a traffic to enter 13<sup>th</sup> Street off of Washington Avenue and make 13<sup>th</sup> Street "One Way" along Olmsted Commons park.

Engineer Bove stated that he is awaiting for signed agreements in regards to 2022 Street Paving and Patching Project. (First Street and Oak Street.)

Engineer Bove stated that Resolution No. 8-2022 will need to be adopted. He stated that the Resolution is in regards the filing of a DCED Local Share Account Westmoreland Grant Application in the amount of \$595,000.00 for the Vandergrift Boroug Casino Theater & Library Building Improvemen Project-Phase 2. (See page 4-A)

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to adopt Resolution No. 8-2022. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler, to authorize the Engineer to file a 2023 CDBG application which is due by September 30, 2022. Motion carried.

A motion was made Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Holmes, to approve storm water exemption (SWM) for the Italian American Citizen Bari Society. Motion carried. (See page 4-B & 4-C)

Engineer Bove provided an update regarding a septic complaint at 809 LaBellvue Road. He stated that the owner will provide a holding tank.

Engineer Bove stated that the properties at 122 Franklin Avenue and 1013 Poe Street need authorization for demolition.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to declare the properties at 122 Franklin, 1013 Poe, and 411 Linden Street a nuisance and to have a "Red X" placed on each property. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Mrs. Wilson, to direct the Solicitor to perform a title search on each of the aforementioned properties. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to authorize the Solicitor to take legal action against and obtain a right-of-entry for each of the aforementioned properties. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

#### BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Clayton stated that copies of the General Fund, Pool Fund, and State Aid Fund Budgets have been provided to members of Council.

The Secretary stated that he is concerned in regards to the over-runs in expenditures in the General Fund, primarily overtime within the Police Department and the high cost of fuel. He suggested that chairpersons hold all unnecessary spending at this time.

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT  
RESOLUTION 8 OF 2022**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT, COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL ACTION TO FACILITATE AND ASSIST IN OBTAINING REQUESTED GRANTS.**

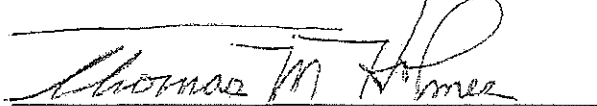
**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift, of Westmoreland County, hereby request a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$595,900.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for The Vandergrift Borough Casino Theater & Library Building Improvement Project – Phase 2.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Applicant does hereby designate Kathleen Chvala, Council President and Thomas Holmes, Council Vice-President, as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Vandergrift and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Stephen. J. DelleDonne, duly qualified Secretary of the Borough of Vandergrift, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift at a regular meeting held on August 1, 2022 and said Resolution has been recorded in the minutes of the Borough of Vandergrift and remains in effect as of this date.


**RESOLVED**, at Vandergrift Pennsylvania, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT:**



**THOMAS HOLMES, Vice-President**

ATTEST:

 (SEAL)  
**STEPHEN J. DELLEDONNE,**  
Borough Secretary

Vandergrift Borough **TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH**  
**MUNICIPAL PRIOR APPROVALS**

Parcel # 37-01-05-0-295  
Lot # 15 & 16

4-B

**Applicant/Property Owner:** Italian American Citizen Bari Society **Phone:** 724-567-7761

**Address:** 329 Sycamore Street, Vandergrift, PA 15690

**Contractor:** Feerst Concrete and Landscaping, Inc. **Phone:** 412-287-4342

**Address:** 1335 Renton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15239

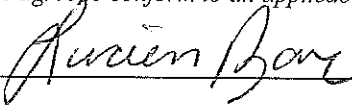
**Single Family Dwelling**     **Multi-Family Dwelling**     **Accessory Structure**  
 **Addition**     **Trailer**     **Trailer Replacement**     **Temporary Trailer**  
 **Commercial Building**     **Addition – Commercial Building**

**Description:** Covered Patio Addition and ADA Ramp **Size:** 15' x 15'

**Construction Cost:** \$11,250 **Plot Plan Attached?** Yes **Insurance Info. attached** Yes

**Location:** 329 Sycamore Street

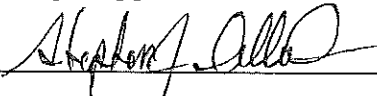
*I hereby certify that the proposed work is authorized by the owner of record and that I have been authorized to make this application as his authorized agent and we agree to conform to all applicable laws of this jurisdiction.*

**Signature:**  **Date:** 8-30-2022

**APPLICANT MUST HAVE TOWNSHIP, BOROUGH OR CITY COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

<b>Site Located Within Flood Plain?</b> <u>No</u>	<b>Zoning Type</b> <u>R-3</u>
<b>Type of Sewage:</b> <u>Public</u> (Approval Attached)	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Type of Water:</b> <u>Public</u> (Approval Attached)	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Road Occupancy Permit:</b> <u>N/A</u> (Approval Attached)	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Stormwater Management:</b> <u>Exemption Approval 8-30-22</u> (Approval Attached)	<b>Not Applicable</b>

**I hereby certify that this application is in compliance with all relevant ordinances of Township/Borough and therefore eligible for Municipal approval.**

**Date Approved/Issued:**   
**Township/Borough Officer/Secretary:** Stephen J. DelleDonne, Secretary



4-8

# BOVE ENGINEERING COMPANY

ARMBRUST PROFESSIONAL CENTER

8201 ROUTE 819

GREENSBURG, PA 15601

724-925-9269

FAX: 724-925-1216

Italian American Citizen Bari Society (Bari Club)  
329 Sycamore Street  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

August 30, 2022

Attn: Ray Pugliese, Vice President

Ref: Stormwater Management: Application No. 2022-01  
Bari Club 15'x15' Patio and ADA Ramp Addition

Dear Mr. Pugliese,

We have received and reviewed the above referenced Stormwater Management Application for a No-Harm Evaluation including Plan, Details, calculations, checklist, etc. to determine compliance with the Vandergrift Borough Stormwater Management Ordinance (No. 1 of 2021). The new impervious area is 460 square feet.

Please be advised that this plan will be considered a No-Harm Evaluation due to following:

- a.) The project contains less than 500 square feet of new impervious surface and less than 1,000 square feet of land use changes.
- b.) The project will generate less than 0.25 cubic feet per second for the 10-year storm peak rate increase over the pre-development peak rate.
- c.) The project is not part of a larger development which is being piece-mealed to avoid Stormwater Management regulation.
- d.) The project is not located in a neighborhood, watershed or location where known stormwater problems exist.
- e.) The project will not degrade water quality of the receiving stream.

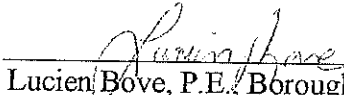
This Stormwater Management No-Harm Evaluation Plan is found to be acceptable and will be approved upon receipt of the SWM fees listed below.

Application Fee:	\$ 10.00
Review Fee:	\$ 50.00
Construction Inspection Fee:	N/A
Total Fee:	\$ 60.00

The plan will be officially accepted by Vandergrift Borough Council at the next available Council meeting. Please note that the Borough reserves the right to invoice the owner for any and all future costs incurred by the Borough as a result of this plan. Please also note that all required Erosion and Sediment Controls are to be implemented and maintained until the site has reached at least 70% stabilization.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
**BOVE ENGINEERING COMPANY**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lucien Bove, P.E., Borough Engineer

LMB/VB

copy: Vandergrift Borough, Attn: Stephen J. DelleDonne, Secretary  
Vandergrift Borough, Attn: Bryan Young, Code Officer  
Westmoreland Conservation District, Attn: Jim Pillsbury, P.E.  
2021-520:VANDERGRIFT 2021/SWM Applications

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept the Budget & Finance Report. Motion carried.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Holmes recommended the hiring of Ronald Harshman as a substitute school crossing guard.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to hire Ronald Harshman as a substitute school crossing guard. Motion carried.

Mr. Holmes stated that a handicap parking request was submitted by George Beer, 505 Lowell Street, and is recommended that said request be approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to approve the aforementioned request. Motion carried.

Chief Caporali reported on the following activity for the Vandergrift Police during the month of August:

1. Responded to 316 911 calls.
2. Issued 19 traffic citations.
3. Issued 7 non-traffic citations.
4. Made 13 criminal arrests.

Chief Caporali stated that the lady who attended the August meeting that she had called 911 in regards to kids playing in Davis Field. He stated that upon checking calls received at 911, it was determined that no complaints were received regarding Davis Field.

Chief Caporali stated that the Department will begin citing large delivery trucks going up Linden Street.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that Section 470-16 of the Borough Code establishes certain approved truck routes, with certain exemptions. He recommended that this section be revised.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to accept the Police & Public Safety Report. Motion carried.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Sarno reported that repairs and painting to exterior stairs at the No. 1 Fire Department have been completed, except for two steps.

Mr. Uskuraitis stated that the underside of these stairs were not painted.

Mr. Sarno stated that he would be looking into the roof problems at the No. 2 Fire Department and sidewalk concerns.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to accept the Building & Grounds Report. Motion carried.

#### TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Kessler reported that several trees on Washington Avenue were trimmed during the month of August. She stated that she will conclude the tree trimming and stump grinding during the month of September.

Mrs. Kessler stated that new trees will be bought and planted during the month of October or early November. She also stated that an arborist will be coming next week to discuss trees at an open meeting at 10:00 am.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept the Tree & Light Report. Motion carried.

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

President Chvala provided an Honorary Membership Application to members who wish to join the Vandergrift Business Association.

President Chvala stated that she and Mr. Holmes met with Sen. Joe Pittman. She stated that they discussed difference needs of the Borough and requested his assistance in seeking grants.

Mr. Holmes stated that it was requested of Sen. Petterman to provide an aide at the Municipal Building for a least one day a week.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept the General Government Report. Motion carried.

#### RECREATION REPORT:

No Report

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Loperfido requested Council hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing two on-going litigation matters.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno to direct the Solicitor to notify the owner at 1015 Poe Street, by letter, remove a basketball hoop that is protruding out on to the street. Motion carried.

Solicitor Loperfido presented for adoption a Cooperation Agreement between the County of Westmoreland and the Borough of Vandergrift. He stated this agreement established the Alle-Kiski Intergovernmental Council. He stated that Borough's annual dues will be set at \$947.33.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mrs. Kessler, to adopt the aforementioned Agreement. Motion carried.

Solicitor Loperfido presented for adoption an Agreement between the Westmoreland Councy Land Bank and the Borough of Vandergrift.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to adopt the aforementioned Agreement. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to accept the Solicitor's Report. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

At 8:36 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to call an executive session for the purpose of discussing two on-going litigation matters. Motion carried.

At 8:55 pm, a motio was made by Mr.Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to return to the regular order of business and to state that no action of Council was taken during the executive session. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.