

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 3, 2023

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	Thomas Holmes	Christine Wilson
Daisha Clayton	Marilee Kessler	John Uskuraitis
Kathleen Chvala		

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Lenny Collini, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Shae Kraft, Solicitor	Theresa Geltz, Asst. Secretary
Lucian Bove, Engineer	

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the March 6, 2023 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

Ursula Clark, 916 Holland Street, recommended that Council raise the trash fees \$25 to \$45 so that all trash can be collected by the Borough, including all types of furniture, etc.

Leslie Uncapher-Zellers, 122 Woodland Drive, stated that she wanted to introduce herself as she is running for District Magistrate.

Megan Grantz of New Kensington requested approval of the use of Kennedy Park for a 5K Benefit for Josh Robinson on June 3rd, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. (Refer to Exhibit 2-A)

Nick Morgan, 328 Sycamore Street, stated that Council should reinstitute public commits at the end of each Council meeting. He also question why the parking passes were raised to \$30.00 per month.

The Secretary stated that was not correct and the monthly parking passes are only \$10.00 per month.

Don Detar, 213 Lowel Street, questioned why Council is not addressing the issue of his neighbor is leaving his trash can out all week.

Wayne Hamilton, 207 Lowell Street, stated that his trash can is left out because there is a cement block in it to prevent rodents from knocking it over.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mr. Holmes, to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.

OPENING OF BIDS:

The Secretary opened and read aloud the following bids received regarding the 2023 Street Paving and Patching Project using Liquid Fuel Funds:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. West Penn Paving, LLC | \$ 44,935.00 |
| 2. Dun Rite Construction | 53,737.50 |

The Secretary stated that an amount of \$38,302.00 was placed in the budget for this project.

Engineer Bove stated that low bid can be reduced by 15% in order to move forward with part of this project. He stated that this matter will be brought back to the May meeting of Council.

The Secretary opened and read aloud the following bids received regarding the 2023 Joseph Petrarca Memorial Pool Rejuvenation Project using DCED Grants & Borough Funds.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. KGD Contracting | \$ 75,400.00 Base Bid |
| | 61,900.00 Option A |
| | 75,305.00 Option C |

Engineer Bove stated that the Base Bid includes work to the entire circumference of the pool.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mr. Holmes, to award the Base Bid to KGD contracting in the amount of \$75,000, contingent upon the approval of DCED. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presented and read a letter from the Westmoreland Dept. of Planning & Development regarding the Borough award of \$155,012 for the 2023 CDBD Street Project. He stated that Council will need to act on the acceptance of this matter. (See pages 3-A & 3-B)

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to accept the aforementioned award. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mr. Sarno, to direct the Engineer to advertise for bids upon the Borough executing the Subrecipient Agreement with the County. Motion carried.

The Secretary announced that the Borough has received the following grant awards from the PA. Dept. of Community & Economic Development:

1. \$ 15,000 Dump truck for St. Dept.
2. \$ 2,850 Police FLR Safety Camera.
3. \$ 10,000 Pagers Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Dept.
4. \$ 419,593 Casino Theater and Library Building Project-Phase 2.

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

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Secretary reported that during the month of March, the Code Officer issued 23 notice violations and attended 4 magistrate hearings. He also stated that the County has razed six blighted properties to date.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Exhibit 1-A: Deborah Moffatt, 169 Lincoln Avenue.

Subject: Approval of participating in Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity at 302 Bryant Street.

Douglas W. Chew
Vice-Chair

Sean Kertes
Chairman

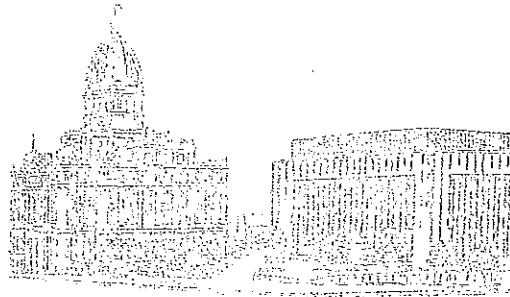
Gina Cerilli Thrasher, Esq.
Secretary

Westmoreland County

Pennsylvania

3A

DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
A DIVISION OF THE
WESTMORELAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
FIFTH FLOOR, SUITE 520
40 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
GREENSBURG, PA 15601



Telephone: (724) 830-3600
Fax: (724) 830-3611
TDD: (724) 830-3802

March 17, 2023

Vandergrift Borough
109 Grant Ave.
Vandergrift, PA 15690

RE: 2023 Community Development Block Grant Project
Street Reconstruction

Dear Municipal Officials:

This letter is to advise you that Vandergrift Borough has been selected to receive early funding for your 2023 Community Development Block Grant application. This project was approved by the County Commissioners on March 16, 2023 and will be funded as follows:

Project: Street Reconstruction—Portions of Pennsylvania Ave., Indiana Ave., Michigan Ave., and California Ave.

Amount Funded: \$155,012

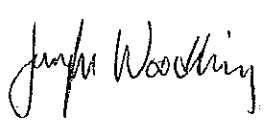
An Environmental Review is being conducted for this project and a Subrecipient Agreement will follow in a separate mailing. **You may consider this letter as a "letter of no prejudice" whereby you may begin preliminary work, such as the engineering design required to initiate the bidding process. However, this project may not be advertised for bid until the Subrecipient Agreement has been fully executed with the County. None of the preliminary costs are covered by the CDBG grant. You must contact Amanda McDivitt at 724.830.3651 (amcdivit@co.westmoreland.pa.us) before any engineering or design work is initiated. Do not award a CDBG-funded construction contract or authorize a material purchase prior to notification by this office.**

Please note that it must not be assumed that additional CDBG funds will be provided if the Project Amount Funded is exceeded during the bid process or in construction. You are requested to make every effort to keep project costs within the amount funded. It is recommended to include alternates in the bid proposal as a means of controlling costs. It should be noted that any project revisions that would affect the project's beneficiaries, could affect the project's overall eligibility. **You and/or your engineer are required**

to contact this office for approval at every step in the process to ensure compliance with the federal requirements attached to the CDBG funding. This includes (prior to advertising) submission of a request for federal prevailing wage rates, a copy of the bid advertisement, plans and specifications (in a compact disc format); bid tabulation, contracts, bonds, etc. Failure to do so could jeopardize the project's eligibility.

Please confirm your acceptance of this grant offer by signing below and returning both pages to my attention at *Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development, Fifth Floor Suite 520, 40 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Fifth Floor, Suite 520, Greensburg, PA 15601* no later than March 31, 2023. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Woodling
Grants Coordinator III

GRANT ACCEPTANCE

Kathleen A. Chvala
Signature

Kathleen A. Chvala
Printed Name / Title

Exhibit 1-A

February 26, 2023

Dear Vandergrift Borough Council:

I recently have been approved by Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity (ECHO) to add an elder cottage at 302 Bryant Street. This property is owned by my daughter Catherine R. Martin, who gives full consent for this project to begin. It is parcel id 37-01-13-0-006 with UPI code 37-02247-00000.

An elder cottage is a small, separate, manufactured residence that is a temporary modular home. This cottage will be owned and managed by the Housing Partner Agency, a nonprofit organization that has extensive experience in developing, owning, and managing affordable housing. This project will also work in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging Westmoreland County.

~~Attached are the completed construction permit application and the completed application for zoning and building permit.~~

Should you require any additional information or applications, please contact me at your earliest convenience. You may also contact Carrie Nelson, Administrator III, Area Agency on Aging Westmoreland County, 200 South Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601. Her email address is cnelson@co.westmoreland.pa.us; her phone number is 724-830-4515.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Deborah S. Moffatt
169 Lincoln Avenue
Apartment 313
Vandergrift, PA 15690
724-472-7739

Solicitor Kraft stated that this matter will first need to go before the Vandergrift Zoning Hearing Board.

Exhibit 2-A: Megan Grantz.

Subject: Request permission to host a 5K walk and Run Benefit Event on behalf Josh Robinson at Kennedy Park on June 3rd.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Ms. Clayton, to approve this request Contingent on the proper certificates of insurance submitted to the Borough. Motion carried.

Exhibit 3-A: Michael Reilly, President of Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department.

Subject: Permission to hold their annual carnival fund raising event on June 6th thru June 10th.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second Mr. Holmes, to approve this request, and to include a "Touch-a-Truck" event. Motion carried.

Exhibit 4-A: Michael Reilly, Commander Vandergrift Veterans Honor Guard.

Subject: Permission to hold a "Memorial Day Parade".

A motion was made by Mr.Uskuraitis, second by Ms. Clayton, to approve this request. Motion carried.

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson reported that under the terms of the Costar's Contract for the purchase of road salt, the Borough will be required to purchase 60% of 850 tons requested. She explained that due to a mild winter the need to purchase salt was much less than predicted. However, Mrs. Wilson stated that there was a savings in overtime and vehicle fuel.

Mrs. Wilson stated that she, Glen Rupert and Christopher Promozic attended an update meeting regarding the Pa. One Call System on March 23rd.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the Borough Crew have removed fencing at Kennedy Park and the former baseball dugouts.

Exhibit 2-11

Event Request

To vgborosec@comcast.net

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Meghan Grantz, and I am contacting the Vandergrift Boro to request permission to host a 5K Walk and Run Benefit Event. In the early hours of July 4th last summer, a Vandergrift resident was badly injured in a motorcycle accident. Josh Robinson has made significant bounds in his recovery since the accident, but he still has an extremely long journey ahead of him.

I would like to hold a 5K benefit for Josh on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at Kennedy Park from 12pm-5pm. The flyer, sponsor form, and participant waiver are attached to this email. Designs for a t-shirt have been established, and I also have a long list of potential sponsors and food trucks for the event. The next step for making this dream possible is to get permission from the boro.

Kennedy Park is the perfect location for this event for a few reasons. First, Josh lives on Emerson, so Kennedy Park is a close location. This would be the first event held that Josh would actually be able to attend since he is out of the hospital, and a close location would make his attendance even more possible. Second, hosting a 5K at Kennedy Park provides ample space to hold a run. Thanks to the sidewalks in the area, only the small alleyway between the park and Linden Street would need to be closed for the event. Third, Kennedy Park is not surrounded by many businesses, so it would not interfere with any storefronts. Finally, the basketball courts would provide a parking option for the event.

I ask that you please take my request into consideration and let me know of any additional procedures that may need completed to make this possible. Additionally, it would be greatly appreciated if you could inform me of the date and time of the meeting when this request would be discussed for approval. I look forward to hearing back. Feel free to contact either Jo Troya (jocastatroya@gmail.com, (724) 681-5368) or myself.

Thank you,

Meghan Grantz
(724) 575-2365
meghangrantz@gmail.com

- Josh's Journey 5K walk & run.pdf (2 MB)
- JOSH'S JOURNEY WAIVER - Google Docs.pdf (54 KB)
- JJ5KWRSponsor.docx - Google Docs.pdf (144 KB)

Exhibit 3-A

Vandergrift Fire Dept. No. 1
278 Franklin Ave., P.O. Box 6
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Station 51

Randy Dunmire, Chief
Michael J. Reilly, President
724-567-7171
www.vfr51.com

March 28, 2023

Vandergrift Council,

The Vandergrift No.1 Fire Department is again planning our annual carnival fund raising event. It is scheduled to be held Tuesday; June 6th thru Saturday; June 10th, 2023. We are, as a result, requesting the use of Kennedy Park from Walnut Street north to the middle sidewalk and from Jackson Avenue west to Kennedy Drive. Please accept this request to include the field, the gazebo and all associated utilities (i.e. water and electric).

The events will operate Tuesday, June 6th thru Thursday, June 9th from 6:00PM To 10:00PM; and on Friday & Saturday June 9th and 10th from 6:00PM to 11:00PM. Activities being planned include carnival rides, associated games and food concessions. This year's rides and concessions will again be provided by Penn Premiere Shows/LAM Enterprises. This will be our sixth year with this local, family owned and operated business. Over that period we have experienced little or none of the field damage issues we had with our previous vendor.

I have been in contact with the owner/operator of the organization and have been assured that all the standard licensing, insurance and liability coverages are in place; including all PA Dept of Agriculture regulations regarding operating with any ongoing COVID protocols.

We will also be continuing our joint operation and fund raising efforts with both the Vandergrift #2 Fire Dept. As well as any interested, local non-profit organizations.

Finally, there is a possibility that we will be sponsoring a Battle of the Barrel competition this year on Saturday, June 10th in conjunction with the carnival. At that point we would need permission to close Jackson Avenue from Walnut Street to 24th Street for several hours during the afternoon/early evening. We would of course coordinate with the Vandergrift Police on any closures.

This event annually provides one of our largest sources of local fund raising. We would like to thank you in advance for your ongoing support and co-operation.

Please feel free to me with any questions. Thank you.



Michael Reilly
President
(412) 558-5673

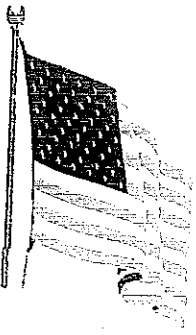
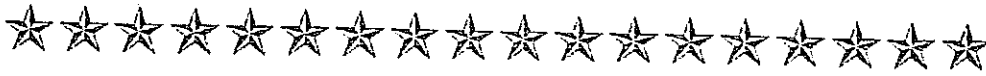
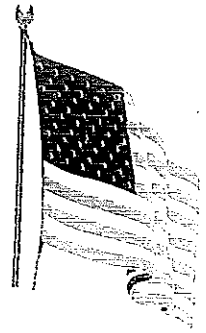


Exhibit 4-A

Vandergrift Veterans Honor Guard Inc.



Post Office Box 166

Vandergrift, PA 15690

March 28, 2023

Mayor/Council,

As we have in previous years the Vandergrift Joint Veterans are again working on plans to mark the Memorial Day holiday.

As usual this will include morning services at seven (7) separate memorials, monuments and cemeteries in Vandergrift, East Vandergrift, Parks Township and Allegheny Township. Followed later in the morning by a parade from the Kiski Area East Primary school on Franklin Avenue to the Casino Theater for a final memorial service.

As in the past we will be receiving permission from the Kiski Area school district for both a service at the memorial at the Kiski Area High School and parade staging at East Primary. Allegheny and Parks township officials, will also be contacted regarding plans for activities in their communities. We will also be coordinating traffic control around our morning activities, as well as the parade route and Casino service with the appropriate police departments.

After last year's return to our pre-COVID schedule of activities we are hoping this year's parade will continue to grow. We once again hope to include the Kiski Area marching band, local scout troops, the local Junior ROTC program and any other interested local civic organizations. We, as veterans, believe that Memorial Day, of all the patriotic holidays that we observe, deserves to be commemorated to the fullest extent possible.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding our plans for these observances.

Michael Reilly
Commander
Vandergrift Veterans
Honor Guard
(412) 558-5673

Mrs. Wilson reported Denise Lewandowski through the "Vandergrift Back When Holiday Extravaganza" has donated \$855.00 towards the purchase of barricades for the Street Dept.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to accept the Street & Sanitation Report. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove reviewed his agenda for the meeting and responded to any comments. (See page 5-A)

Engineer Bove discussed revision to making application to the Ninth St. Retaining Wall Project.

Mr. Holmes stated that he would like to apply for grant to fund this project at the bare minimum specifications. He suggested that the Engineer make application for another Multi-Modal Grant Application, to include a waiver of the 30% match from the Borough.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to direct the Engineer to apply for the aforementioned grant application. Motion carried.

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

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Clayton stated that each member was provided copies of the General Fund, Pool Fund and State Aid Fund budgets for the month of March.

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

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Holmes presented an application for Persons With Disability Parking Place from Lisa Irwin, 1006 Cooper Street. He stated that she does meet the criteria set forth in the ordinance, and therefore, it is recommended that this matter be approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the aforementioned handicap parking application. Motion carried.

Mr. Holmes provided the following activity of the Vandergrift Police for the month of March:

1. Responded to 246 911 calls.

Engineer report and agenda items

To Stephen DelleDonne <vgborosec@comcast.net> • kathychvala@vandergriftborough.com Copy
 Larry Loperfido <ldl@gilawyers.com> • Christine Wilson <christinewilson1782@gmail.com> •
 Tom Holmes <tomholmes@vandergriftborough.com> •
 Marilee Kessler <marileekessler@vandergriftborough.com> •
 Daishaclayton <daishaclayton@vandergriftborough.com> • johnuskuraitis@vandergriftborough.com •
 jodysarno@vandergriftborough.com • Anthony Bove <aboveengineering@comcast.net> •
 Lenny Collini <lennycollini@vandergriftborough.com>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My report and requested agenda items for the April 3, 2023 Council meeting are as follows:

1. 2023 Paving & Patching Liquid Fuels Project – Plans, specifications and bid documents were prepared, the bid was advertised in the newspaper on 3/21 & 3/24. (See Action Item 1)
2. Vandergrift Pool Rejuvenation - DCED GTR Grant – Plans, specifications and bid documents were prepared, the bid was advertised in the newspaper on 3/21 & 3/24. On 3/23 we submitted a Scope Amendment Request to Brett Ennis of DCED for which we are anxiously awaiting a favorable reply. (See Action Item 2)
3. MAAT Act 537 Plan Update & Resolution – We have begun to review the Act 537 Plan and we have numerous questions. We've reached out to KLH to schedule a time to discuss the reimbursement of all Borough's costs, tap-in fees, transportation fees, sewer recovery fees and the need for an intermunicipal agreement before the Borough can pass the requested Resolution.
4. Unsafe Structures / Conditions – Notice issued regarding unsafe porch at 506 Hancock.
5. Columbia Avenue Parking Lot Stormwater Mitigation Project – PennDOT has finally approved the Stormwater Mitigation Agreement with the WCD and Vandergrift Borough. We anticipate engineering work will be needed in short order to prepare necessary items for the required DEP permit (all Borough costs to be reimbursed by PennDOT as per the agreement).
6. County Water & Sewer Grant – See correspondence dated March 14 regarding this matter. (See Action Item 3)
7. Train Station Parking Lot Property Line Survey – Began research of recorded documents, deeds, plans and adjoining properties and started field reconnaissance work.
8. DCED Local Share Category 4 Grant – \$419,593 was awarded by the Commonwealth Finance Agency for the Phase 2 - Casino Theater & Library Building Preservation Project. (See Action Item 4). The Multi-purpose Tractor was not awarded. Other awards include \$15,000 toward the Dump Truck Purchase, \$2,850 for Police FLR Safety Camera and \$10,000 for Fire Department Pagers.
9. DCED 2023 Multimodal Grant Program – This Grant program was announced in March. Applications are due July 31st. Action is required in order to apply for this grant, (See Action Item 5)

Action Items:

1. 2023 Paving & Patching Liquid Fuels Project – Open Bids and make awards if acceptable.
2. Vandergrift Pool Rejuvenation - DCED GTR Grant - Open Bids and make awards if acceptable.
3. County Water & Sewer Grant – Discuss possible matching funds commitment if the Council is interested in this grant program.
4. DCED Local Share Category 4 Grant – Official action to authorize signing the Grant Agreements.
5. DCED 2023 Multimodal Grant Application – Discuss any revisions to the Ninth St. Retaining Wall & Street Reconstruction Project and consider authorizing the application and required Resolution.

2. Issued 2 non-traffic citations and 9 traffic citations.
3. Arrested 9 individuals on criminal charges.
4. Issued 8 tickets for illegally parked vehicles.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Sarno reported that there are roof problems at the Vandergrift No. 2 Fire Department that may need addressed.

Mr. Holmes stated that some of the problems stems from the Department not maintaining the roof gutters and downspouts.

Mr. Sarno stated that he is planning to eliminated the toilet and sink facilities in the basement of the Municipal Building.

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

TREE AND LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Kessler presented a draft for "Request for Tree Services" for residents wishing to have a tree issue addressed. (See page 6-A & 6-B)

In regards to a delay in replacing street lights, Mrs. Kessler stated that West Penn Power is having a problem getting bulbs.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

President Chvala commended the members of the Vandergrift No. 2 Fire Department spending over 24 hours on Hamilton Avenue to watch that no one gets close to a downed power line.

RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Uskuraitis stated that he has addressed some of the issues raised at the March meeting regarding the opening of the parks. He stated that until the parks are open, access can be obtained by request and he will work with interested groups.

Mr. Uskuraitis stated that the following dates will be set for opening and closing of Borough parks: Opening to be set at April 15th and to be closed on October 31st of each year.

VANDERGRIFT BOROUGH TREE COMMITTEE

DRAFT

Borough Tree Information

The Borough of Vandergrift provides tree maintenance service for trees located along the streets in Borough right-of-way, usually between the sidewalk and the curb. Trees located on private property do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Borough. Pruning and maintenance costs are assumed entirely by the Borough.

TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS:

The Borough will only remove trees if they are diseased, dying or dead, or if they pose a threat to public health and safety. If the tree in question falls under these circumstances, AS DETERMINED BY ARBORIST, Trees can be removed only by borough tree committee-approved professional tree services.. Tree services must provide proof of liability insurance. **Please note:** Only emergency situations will be handled directly via phone call. All non-emergency requests should be submitted in writing by completing the **Request for Tree Services** form and either mailing it or dropping it off at the Borough office. You can email your form directly to the CHAIRMAN OF TREE COMMITTEE AT *(email address)*

After inspection by Arborist named by the Tree Committee, a Member will contact you to discuss their findings. If the Tree Committee agrees the tree should be removed, the tree will be placed on a removal list and removed by the Borough.

TREE TRIMMING:

If you notice a Borough Tree near your property that needs to be trimmed, or appears to pose a safety hazard, please use the Request for Tree Services form to report the problem and submit to the Borough Office. Tree trimming requests will be responded to within 10 working days by the Tree Committee. If pruning is necessary, the tree will be placed on a pruning list, unless it is an immediate danger and safety risk. If you feel the tree is an immediate danger contact the Borough Office or chairman of the Tree Committee (INSERT PHONE #'S).

TREE PLANTING:

A property owner can request that a Borough Tree be planted in front of their house. After receiving your written request, a Tree Committee member will inspect the location to determine whether it is an appropriate and safe location for a tree to be planted. The Tree Committee member will discuss with you which species of tree is best suited for the location. After the site inspection is done, an Inspection Request form will be turned into the Borough Office for our records. The location is then placed on a planting list. Residents, themselves, are not permitted to plant, prune or remove trees in Borough right-of-way without the approval of the Tree Committee. If approved, the Resident is responsible for all costs.

SUBMIT COMPLETED FORMS TO:

Vandergrift Borough
Tree Committee
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690
Fax: 412-828-3479

E-mail:

6-B

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT
TREE COMMITTEE
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690
724-567-7818



REQUEST FOR TREE SERVICES

(01/2023)

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ **PHONE:** _____

ADDITIONAL INFO: _____

TREE LOCATION

ADDRESS: _____

LOCATION: (CORNER, ETC) _____

TYPE OF TREE, IF KNOWN _____

=====

TREE CONDITION

___ Low/Dead Branches ___ Pest Infestation ___ Other

___ Diseased ___ Visibility Hazard

___ Dead ___ Street Sign Clearance

=====

SERVICE REQUESTED

___ Trim ___ Remove

___ Inspect/Advise ___ Plant

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date Submitted _____

FOR BOROUGH USE ONLY TREE COMMITTEE INSPECTION REMARKS (DATE _____)

___ Immediate Action _____

___ Removal _____

___ Pruning/Shaping _____

___ No Action _____

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

Mr. Uskuraitis reported that the Boy Scouts will be working with scheduled "Clean Up Day" program on April 29th.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Holmes stated that he was approached by several communities of whom are pursuing a partnership for purpose of developing a renewable energy plan-solar panels. He stated that this is in the early discussion stage. He continued by presenting, for approval, a non-binding letter of intent to participate in this plan. (See pages 7-A, 7-B, 7-C)

Solicitor Kraft stated that the execution of this intent would only be exploratory in nature.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Wilson, to enter into the aforementioned letter of intent. Motion carried,

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to name Mr. Holmes and Ms. Clayton as the Borough's representatives on this matter. Motion carried.

Mrs. Kessler discussed the Borough participating in plan to identify blighted properties for the AK IGC member communities.. She stated the plan will be performed by the Local Government Academy and the Redevelopment Authority/Planning Commission. She stated that the cost to the Borough would be \$5,262.80.

Mr. Sarno stated that this cost can be paid over two (2) budget years. He also stated this will provide a market plan for all members.

Mr. Holmes stated that the 2023 budget does not provide for this expense.

n. 11

Executive Summary
Project Solar: Developing a Renewable Energy Plan

March 2023

Background: East Vandergrift Borough officials have been researching ways to generate more revenue and to reduce electricity costs so funds can be reallocated for other municipal operations. The grant writer and consultant for the Borough have engaged with the PA Solar Energy Center a Pittsburgh-based non-profit organization, as a partner to assist with **Project Solar: Developing a Renewable Energy Plan (Project Solar)** for four Kiski Valley municipalities – East Vandergrift, Vandergrift, Apollo and North Apollo.

PA Solar Energy Center Mission: To provide trusted guidance to usher all Pennsylvanians into the clean energy economy in order to create more resilient communities.

The PA Solar Energy Center notes that solar is the fastest growing and cleanest form of energy, noting its abundant natural generating source. Internationally, climate change is the catalyst for moving toward an economy powered by clean and safe energy. The solar energy movement has two key premises: (1) the utmost importance to the health of communities, people, and the world and (2) the unlimited opportunity to grow and expand economic development.

The PA Solar Energy Center recognizes that by offering affordable, stable and long-term energy pricing, this will save residents, businesses and institutions money and create thousands of new jobs. To that end, the PA Solar Energy Center will provide the following services to support **Project Solar** by:

- ✓ Offering the municipalities to go solar by walking them through every step of the process and linking them with investors and qualified solar developers
- ✓ Providing the municipalities with an online resource hub as a source of unbiased education and information about solar as well as a qualified solar developer directory, solar project map, and solar jobs board
- ✓ Engaging the public with policy development and advocacy in an effort to transform Pennsylvania into a leading solar state.

Project Solar will work in cooperation with Galvanizing our Energy Transition to Solar (GET Solar), a team of experts who:

- ✓ Gather project proposals for organizations interested in solar from regional developers,
- ✓ Help organizations understand and compare proposals, and
- ✓ Develop a financial strategy for organizations to complete the project.

Recommendation: Each of the four Kiski Valley municipalities identified, should name two Borough representative to an Exploratory Planning Committee for **Project Solar**. Additionally, approve and sign (by April 15, 2023) a Non-Binding Letter of Intent to explore the next steps of the project with the PA Solar Energy Center and GET Solar.

Project Solar

March 20, 2023

This Non-Binding Letter of Intent is issued by the Borough of Vandergrift authorizing participation in **Project Solar: Developing a Renewable Energy Plan (Project Solar)** by naming two representatives each from four Kiski Valley municipalities – East Vandergrift, Vandergrift, Apollo, and North Apollo to an Exploratory Planning Committee to partner with the PA Solar Energy Center.

The Exploratory Planning Committee will engage the PA Solar Energy Center to develop a Solar Energy Plan by:

- Offering municipalities to go solar by walking them through every step of the process and linking them with investors and qualified solar developers
- Providing municipalities with an online resource hub as a source of unbiased education and information about solar as well as a qualified solar developer directory, solar project map, and solar jobs board
- Engaging the public with policy development and advocacy in an effort to transform Pennsylvania into a leading solar state.

Project Solar will also engage with Galvanizing our Energy Transition to Solar (GET Solar) to meet the project goals.

It is understood that:

- Respective governing bodies will receive regular updates, approve necessary action steps, and meet all public voting requirements throughout the planning process;
- Every effort will be made to secure grants through state, federal, and not-for-profit organizations;
- Data from respective municipalities will be reviewed: current electricity usage (including street lights, buildings, park/recreation sites, etc.), cost savings for electricity use, and a return on investment for solar infrastructure costs;
- An intergovernmental cooperation agreement among the municipalities may be developed if **Project Solar** progresses in a positive and productive manner as a pilot project, safeguarding respective governing bodies and their municipal interests
- Other interested municipalities, school districts, businesses, non-profits, and residents may have an opportunity to join as participants in the cooperative venture in the future, depending on the successful outcomes of the pilot project and specific requirements for those entities

The next steps of the planning process, include but are not limited to each municipality providing:

1. One month's copies of all of an electricity bill (required to review various data points) for each account # paid by the municipality;
2. Any physical property addresses, coordinates, or map pins for property owned that may be viable for solar panel farm.
3. (Optional for Now) Photos of electrical infrastructure (utility boxes, switchgear, on-site generators, etc.)
4. (Optional for Now) blueprints, engineering reports/surveys, or other technical drawings of rooftops or ground locations of prospective solar site (s).

This Non-Binding Letter of Intent was approved at a public Council meeting on:

April 3, 2023

Naming two Borough Representatives:

1. Daisha Clayton

2. Thomas M. Holmes

ATTEST:

Kathleen A. Kusala

President, Borough Council

Correspondence and notification should be directed to Christopher J. Zelonka, East Vandergrift Council President at zelonkac@gmail.com and copy evboro@comcast.net . Documents may also be mailed to East Vandergrift Borough, 254 Kennedy Avenue, P.O. Box 460, East Vandergrift, PA 15629.

Following a discussion of this matter, a motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Kessler, to consider budgeting for the years 2024 & 2025, the amount set forth in the above cost to the Borough of Vandergrift.

President Chvala call for a Roll Call on the motion on the floor with a yes in favor of the motion and a no opposing.

Mrs. Wilson	No
Mrs. Kessle	Yes
Mr. Holmes	No
Mr. Sarno	Yes
Mrs. Chvala	No
Mr. Uskuraitis	Yes
Ms. Clayton	Yes

The Secretary stated that the motion on the floor carried, with 4 members voting yes and 3 members voting no.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Kessler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.