

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

DATE: June 5, 2023

The Council of the Borough of Vandergrift will meet in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm, with President Chvala presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

OTHER OFFICIALS:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of May 1, 2023 minutes.

VISITORS: (3 minute limitation per commenter)

OPENING OF BIDS:

1. None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. Act on request by the Kiski Valley Lancers to use Kennedy Park for the 2023 season.

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

1. Issued 32 notice violations and 2 citations in May.

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Richard & Michele Stefanik-141 California Ave. Address drainage problem.

APPROVE REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

1. Update on major repairs to backhoe.
2. Painting marking spaces of Holland Street, Franklin & Sherman Avenues.
3. Trimmed low hanging tree limbs on various steets.
4. Put up new dog signs along fence at Davis Field, Kennedy Park, Franklin Park and four "No Parking" signs on Kennedy Way at area where fencing was removed.
5. Need to install small 2 x 2 catch basin in field behind the YMCA building. Work done in-house.
6. Need to install trench boxes on California Ave. for proper drainage-Work done in-house.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

1. See attached

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

1. Distribute monthly General Fund, Pool Fund, and State Aid budge reports.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

1. Parking meter update.
2. Act on conditional hiring of a part-time police officer.
3. Police activity for May.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

1. Repair steps/tiles to Grant Ave. side entrance to police department

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

1. No Report

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

1. No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

1. Updates on Pool Project and other recreation matters.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. Resolution 5-2023-Victorian Vandergrift Museum & Historical Society Subdivision.
2. Resolution 6-2023- Destruction of Borough Records.
3. Resolution 7-2023- Destruction of Borough Records.

4. Davis Field Lease Agreement-KVL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss participation in regional inventory. (see attached)

ADJOURNMENT:

Engineer report and agenda items

To Stephen DelleDonne <vgborosec@comcast.net> • kathychvala@vandergriftborough.com Copy
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

My requested agenda items for the June 5, 2023 Council meeting are as follows:

1. 2023 CDBG Street Resurfacing Project – Open bids, if acceptable award to lowest bidder contingent upon County Planning approval.
2. California Avenue Trench Drain – This drain is within the Borough right-of-way and since the Borough will be required to maintain it, we recommend replacing the plastic trench drain with a concrete trench drain. The property owner has provided written permission for the discharge pipe onto their property. This and some grading work at the end of the street needs to be done before the CDBG street paving begins.
3. 2023 Paving & Patching Liquid Fuels Project – Job number has been assigned by PennDOT. We will schedule the preconstruction meeting.
4. Vandergrift Pool Rejuvenation - DCED GTR Grant – Due to subfreezing overnight temperatures, the concrete contractor, KGD was not able to start concrete repair work until May 25th. KGD has 30 days to complete their work. We have requested a schedule from the Pool Liner company Renosys weeks ago, but we are not getting a response as to when they can schedule. The pool completion will depend upon Renosys' availability to re-attach the liner, which may take 3 days or so once they start.
5. Unsafe Structures / Conditions – Hearing for 704/706 Holland scheduled for June 1st.
6. Columbia Avenue Parking Lot Stormwater Mitigation Project – On May 2nd, we received the signed agreement and the go ahead from PennDOT to proceed and we are working with the WCD on the design for the DEP permit.
7. County Water & Sewer Grant – Cory Johnson informed me that the Commissioners have lowered the match requirement to 25% to see if more communities can participate.
8. DCED Local Share Category 4 Grant Casino Theater & Library Building – Awaiting grant contract from DCED
9. DCED 2023 Multimodal (MTF) Grant Program Application – We are working on the application. DCED is requiring more info. this round. As usual, we will need a commitment letter from the Borough (as per the approved resolution and cost estimate) and a copy of the 2022 Financial Audit.
10. MS4 Waiver Status – Discuss application needed.
11. Project 70 Tree Harvest – Work completed. We will have a walk-through with the forester, Dave O'Barto when he is available.

I will be available during the meeting to answer any questions and to assist with items duly added to the agenda during the meeting. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lucien Bove, PE
Bove Engineering Company

June 2023 Council Meeting

Agenda Items

Meeting to discuss participation in regional Blight inventory

Benefits of collaboration with other communities for sharing resources, grant applications, fighting blight, etc. Benefits of being part of a regional group of communities (attachment to read prior to meeting from May 17 front page article in Tribune review)



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Proposed Pa. budget nearly quadruples funding for local government cooperation

by Min Xian of Spotlight PA State College | May 17, 2023



MATT SMITH / FOR SPOTLIGHT PA

This story was produced by the State College regional bureau of Spotlight PA, an independent, nonpartisan newsroom dedicated to investigative and public-service journalism for Pennsylvania. Sign up for our regional newsletter, Talk of the Town.


A state program that incentivizes local governments in Pennsylvania to work together to provide public services would see its funding nearly quadrupled under a proposal from Gov. Josh Shapiro.

In his first budget as governor, the Democrat has pitched a 266% funding boost to the Municipal Assistance Program, which pays up to half the cost of eligible projects in which municipalities collaborate to deliver government services more efficiently.

The increase — from just over half a million to \$2 million — would “set the groundwork for the rehabilitation and growth” of Pennsylvania communities, Shapiro wrote in the proposed budget. The proposal projects the same amount of expanded support can be funded through the 2027-28 fiscal year.

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SPOTLIGHT PA

Pennsylvania contains 67 counties and more than 2,500 townships, boroughs, and cities. These municipalities vary widely in size, but the same sets of rules determine their organization and responsibilities. Regardless of their capabilities, each local government must provide the same level of basic services to taxpayers.

This uniform standard imposes disproportionate costs of operation, especially on smaller municipalities. That burden has led to slow economic growth in many parts of Pennsylvania, according to a 2002 study

of Pennsylvania, according to a 2022 study.

The Municipal Assistance Program was created to encourage collaboration across municipal boundaries to address this dilemma. A common example of intergovernmental partnership is when multiple localities make bulk purchases together and benefit from discounts that save taxpayers money.

The state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) administers the program and funded 10 projects in 2022. The approved grants — totaling \$326,000 — went to Allegheny, Bradford, Butler, Carbon, Cumberland, Elk, Luzerne, Lycoming, Venango, and Westmoreland Counties for various regional comprehensive plans, Spotlight PA learned through a public records request.

Venango County plans to use the \$37,000 it received to update its nearly two-decade-old comprehensive plan to establish new goals and policies. In Bradford County, Towanda Borough, Towanda Township, and North Towanda Township plan to use their allotment to update a regional plan that steers how they manage local industries.

Lisa Schaefer, executive director for the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, said this type of comprehensive planning helps ensure “there is a long-term vision” for regional growth.

How well local governments implement the recommendations of such plans is a barometer of the success of the grant program, Penny Ickes, a DCED spokesperson, told Spotlight PA in an email.

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The proposed funding raise would “allow DCED to work with more communities overall, and that’s a good thing because demand is high,” Ickes wrote. The additional money would allow the program to assist up to 65 local governments over the next fiscal year, according to budget estimates from the Shapiro administration.

There is a “great need” for cooperative ventures among Pennsylvania local governments, and the current program funding level doesn’t reflect the need fully, said Ron Grutza, senior director of regulatory affairs at the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. He called the proposed funding increase “significant” and said it could foster more collaboration among local governments.

“In reality, municipalities are working together,” John Brenner, executive director for the Pennsylvania Municipal League, told Spotlight PA. Partnerships across boundaries, such as those among police and fire departments, are commonplace, he said, but local governments face challenges as the costs of providing public services balloon.

Brenner said his organization supports Shapiro’s proposal and favors its broader goals.

“One of the answers is [for local governments] to get together with their neighbors to help taxpayers afford those services,” Brenner said. “The great thing about this [program] is the state is encouraging the conversation.”

State Rep. Bob Freeman (D., Northampton), who chairs the House Local Government Committee, told Spotlight PA that the proposed funding increase “is a very promising start ... for the state to step up to the plate and provide more support for municipalities.”

While budget negotiations will continue into late June, Freeman said there’s “a good likelihood” local governments will see more state grants to help with shared services in the new budget.

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