

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 7, 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   |
| Daisha Clayton   | Marilee Kessler |
| Christine Wilson | Kathleen Chvala |
| John Uskuraitis  |                 |

OTHER OFFICIALS:

|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lenny Collini, Mayor  | Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary      |
| Shae Kraft, Solicitor | Theresa Geltz, Assistant Secretary |
| Lucian Bove, Engineer | Joseph Caporali, Police Chief      |

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the July 3, 2023 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Sarno , second by Mr. Holmes. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

Lisa Dormire, 226 Franklin Avenue, Chairperson of Arts Festival, expressed her appreciation for the help provided by the Fire Departments, emergency services, the Borough Crew, Officer Gray, and the business who supported this event.

Paula Jones, Ianni's Pizza, requested permission to have lights strong across Grant Avenue, from one building to another.

Mr. Sarno stated that permission would need to be obtained from the building owners.

Solicitor Kraft stated that he would also need to check the Borough codes.

Ms. Jones questioned why the two signs at her business, indicating 15 minute pick-up parking, were removed.

Mr. Holmes stated that this type of sign was never authorized by Council. He suggested that she purchase a meter bag, like other businesses, that indicated "Courtesy Parking on behalf on the business establishment. He also stated that these meter bags are not for only the business establishment.

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street, questioned when the Code Officer will enforce sidewalks being cleared off and the placement of refuse cans on the sidewalks.

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

#### MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini stated that is has been a wonderful summer with all the different events held in town. It also stated that it is all about coming together as community, with personal responsibility on everyone's part.

Mayor Collini recommended that anyone who has a problem with a parking meter should contact the Borough Officer, instead of contacting the County Weight & Measure Department or the newspaper.

Mayor Collini stated that vehicles should refrain from parking against the flow of traffic on Borough streets.

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

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary informed Council that if they wish to participate in the 2o24 CDBC Grant Program an application must be submitted to the Westmoreland County Planning Department by September 30, 2023. (See page 2-A)

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to direct the Borough Engineer to file the aforementioned CDBG application to the County Planning Department. Motion carried.

Douglas W. Chew  
Vice-Chairman

Sean Kertes  
Chairman

2-A  
Gina Cerilli Thrasher, Esq.  
Secretary

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

TO: Westmoreland County Municipalities and Agencies

FROM: Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development  
Community Development Division

SUBJECT: 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications

DATE: July 6, 2023

Westmoreland County is now accepting applications for the 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Any municipality or agency that plans to submit a project for 2024 CDBG funding consideration must submit an application to this office by September 30, 2023. The 2024 program year begins May 1, 2024, however all projects must first be evaluated and inspected by CD staff, approved by the Westmoreland County Commissioners and submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for final approval. Therefore, it is essential that the application is submitted to us no later than September 30, 2023.

Prior to submittal, please review the application carefully to ensure that all requested information is included. Incomplete applications will not be considered. If a project was previously submitted and not chosen for funding, a new application must be submitted that contains updated cost estimates, maps, etc. to be considered for 2024 funding. Furthermore, please be aware that HUD has released new low and moderate income survey data based on the American Community Survey 2011-2015 (ACS). A map of all census tracts/block groups is available at <https://bit.ly/2RGTeEb>. Please review your census tract data carefully, as it may have changed from the last 5-year ACS estimate.

A copy of the 2024 Application is included with this notice. The application, as well as the *Guide to the CDBG Program*, may also be found at <http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/689/Community-Development> under "Forms & Documents".

Should you have questions concerning this notice, please contact any Community Development staff member:

|                   |                |                                |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Janet Parker      | (724) 830-3650 | jthomas@co.westmoreland.pa.us  |
| Jennifer Woodling | (724) 830-3615 | jwoodlin@co.westmoreland.pa.us |
| Amanda McDivitt   | (724) 830-3651 | amcdivit@co.westmoreland.pa.us |

Thank you.

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

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Holmes reported that the Code Officer issued 33 notice violation and filed 3 citations with the magistrate during the month of July.

Mr. Holmes stated that people need to be patient with these matters. He explained citations are filed with magistrate and it falls on the magistrate to act on them for resolution.

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

COMMUNIATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Exhibit 1-A: Westmoreland County's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversity Committee.

Subject: Requesting the Borough to donate an item for their time capsule.

Mr. Sarno recommended that the Vandergrift Museum & Historial Society be contacted for guidance as to this request.

Exhibit 2-A: Adriene Jozefczyk, S & S Real Estate SVcs.

Subject: Request permission to provide a dumpster at 501 Jackson to serve a 10-unit building.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Ms. Clayton, to approve this request, with the stipulation that collection and disposal of the refuse be performed at no cost to the Borough. Motion carried.

REGULAR & 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:

Chairperson Wilson reported that the Department trimmed 28 low hanging tree limbs and that a large tee was removed that fell across the creek and parking lot of the pool area.

Mrs. Wilson reported tht 12 parking meters poles were removed on Washington Avenue.



July 10, 2023

Westmoreland County was founded in what is now Hanna's Town with the purpose of resisting "tyrannical acts" of parliament and King George III, and since then has continued to grow and thrive. As a county, we have seen the birth of Kevlar, the electric telegraph and the banana split within our borders. We have been entertained by Shirley Jones, Water Rollins (the writer of the beloved, "Frosty the Snowman") and the music of Paul Doucette (Matchbox Twenty).

As part of our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are burying a time capsule in our new courtyard. We ask that you, as a valued community leader, consider donating an item for our time capsule. That item could be a lapel pin, a photo of your downtown, or any item you feel captures the essence of the present.

Thank you for your commitment to the residents of Westmoreland County and we look forward to working with you to build the next 250 years.

You can send your contributions to:

Westmoreland County's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
2 North Main Street, Greensburg, Pa 15601

Sincerely,

Westmoreland County's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

2 North Main Street  
Greensburg, PA 15601

Exhibit 2-A

## S&S Real Estate Svcs

152 Columbia Ave  
Vandergrift PA 15690  
Office: 724-567-6700  
Fax: 724-567-6273

sue@sueshaffer.com or adriene@sueshaffer.com

July 31, 2023


To: Vandergrift Borough Council  
Re: Dumpster

Our office manages 501 Jackson Ave, it's a 10-unit building. As you would assume it accumulates a bunch of trash, with a bunch of trash is multiple trash cans which is a major eye sore. Some don't even use the trash cans or there is simply not enough so then tenants just put bags out and this is causing rodents to hang around and get into the bags and make a bigger mess making the property look trashy, also only place to put cans or bags is in front of the back door of some tenants units and with it being summer and humid it smells causing their unit to stink. This owner (T.J Gallo PAGTJ Ventures, LLC) nor do we want that for this property, he has provided trash cans previously, and we have gotten letters out to tenants about making to keep in cans, but trash is just too much. We are asking that we be allowed to put a dumpster in the parking lot between the buildings.

Please see attached photos for reference.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Adriene Jozefczyk  
Agent







Mrs. Wilson stated that the graffiti on the stage at Kennedy Park was able to be removed and that the area will need to be painted.

Mr. Holmes stated that the individuals responsible have been located and that they will be responsible for painting the area in question.

Mrs. Wilson stated that sink hole on Beech Street was determined not to be mine subsidence by the DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. (See page 4-A)

Mrs. Wilson stated that another sink hole was found on Sherman Avenue. She stated that the problem lies with the deterioration of an old man-hole. She stated that the repairs will cost \$6,974.40 by DC Campbell Plumbing.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to approve the \$6,974.40 cost to repair the sink hole problem. Motion carried.

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

#### ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove reviewed and commented on items 1 thru 9 of his monthly report. (See page 4-B)

Following concerns raised about a timely completion of the Olmsted Commons Project, Council questioned if an extension to the DCNR Grant would be advisable.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to direct the Borough Engineer to file an extension relative to the DCNR Grant for the Olmsted Commons Project. Motion carried.

The following other action was taken:

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler, to pay West Penn Paving, LLC the amount of \$2,003.28, which represents the 5% retainage due and final payment for 2023 Paving & Patching Liquid Fuels Project. Motion carried (See Page 4-C)

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler, to approve payment of Estimate No. 1 of \$129,442.58 regarding the 2023 CDBG Street Reconstruction Project, with a 5% retainage withheld. Motion carried. (See page 4-D)

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mr. Holmes, pay KGD Contracting the 10% retainage fee of \$7,540.00 for work done for the Pool Renovation Project subject to receiving the appropriate maintenance bond. Motion carried.

August 4, 2023

Tom Holmes, Vice President  
Vandergrift Borough  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Re: Inquiry No. 2023-07-179  
Problem Area No. 0230

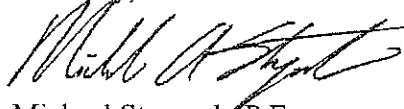
Dear Mr. Holmes:

As requested, an investigation into a possible mine subsidence problem was conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (PA DEP-BAMR) on July 21 near 317 Beech Street in Vandergrift Borough, Westmoreland County.

Based on the findings presented in the attached Inquiry Report 2023-07-179, it was determined that the cave hole opening, depression area on Beech Street and cracked sidewalk are not mining related. Therefore, in accordance to our program and the Office of Surface Mining guidelines, no further action is warranted by PA DEP-BAMR at this time.

If you have any further questions or have any future abandoned mine land problems, please contact Chadwick Paronish of my staff at 814.472.1922.

Sincerely,



Michael Stayrook, P.E.  
Chief  
Investigations Section

Attachment

## Engineer report and agenda items

To Stephen DelleDonne <vgborosec@comcast.net> • kathychvala@vandergriftborough.com Copy  
 Larry Loperfito <ldl@gllawyers.com> • Christine Wilson <christinewilson1782@gmail.com> •  
 Tom Holmes <tomholmes@vandergriftborough.com> •  
 Marilee Kessler <marileekessler@vandergriftborough.com> •  
 Daishaclayton <daishaclayton@vandergriftborough.com> • johnuskuraitis@vandergriftborough.com •  
 jody samo@vandergriftborough.com • Lenny Collini <lennycollini@vandergriftborough.com>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please see below my report and requested agenda items for the August 7, 2023 Council meeting.

Engineer Report:

1. 2023 CDBG Street Resurfacing Project – Work to start in July and will be substantially complete as of 8/2/23.
2. 2023 Paving & Patching Liquid Fuels Project – Work completed in June.
3. Vandergrift Pool Rejuvenation - DCED GTR Grant – Liner restoration work substantially completed 7/15/23.
4. Olmsted Commons - Working on the electrical contract requirements, plan and quantities.
5. Columbia Avenue Parking Lot Stormwater Mitigation Project – Submitted 5 page plan set to WCD, started on requested changes/additions/details and additional plan views, title sheet, etc.
6. Unsafe Structures / Conditions – Inspected 2 structures for unsafe conditions 419A Hancock and 158 Sherman.
7. DCED 2023 Multimodal (MTF) Grant Program Application – Submitted 7-28-23 and \$100 application fee paid (due before July 30<sup>th</sup>).
8. 714/716 Wallace (former church at corner of Emerson) – Request to use existing driveway for new business.
9. Beech Street Sink Holes – Field inspected street and conditions. Appears to be a water issue undermining the street and affecting the sewer trench backfill. Note that there are 14 waterline break patches on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street which is uphill of Beech and there are current waterline leaks, and there are several new PA one call markings for excavations. This line is constantly being patched. Basements of homes on Beech have been flooded from past waterline breaks. Also note that PNG replaced gas lines on both sides of Beech Street in 2019 creating numerous water transport paths. The old gas lines were left under the street which may also be collecting and carrying water under the street and sidewalks.

Requested agenda items:

1. 2023 Paving & Patching Liquid Fuels Project – Request Approval of Payment Estimate No. 2 for retainage only (maintenance bond received).
2. 2023 CDBG Street Reconstruction Project - Request Approval of Payment Estimate No. 1 final with 5% retainage.
3. 2024 CDBG Application – Request List of Streets and Authorization to submit a CDBG application (due Sept. 2023).
4. Vandergrift Pool Rejuvenation - DCED GTR Grant – and Request approval of KGD Contracting Payment Estimate No. 2 for retainage. Request approval or discussion regarding Renosys Invoice.

4-C

# WEST PENN PAVING, LLC

# INVOICE 162/2023

INVOICE NO. 162/2023

4311 SARDIS ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15239  
Phone 724-339-0138  
Cell 724-321-1492

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

DATE: August 7, 2023

TO: BOVE ENGINEERING COMPANY  
ARMBRUST PROFESSIONAL CENTER  
8201 ROUTE 819  
GREENSBURG, PA 15601

JOB NAME: VANDERGRIFT BOROUGH  
2023 PAVING & PATCHING PROJECT  
USING LIQUID FUELS FUNDS

|                          |    |                 |
|--------------------------|----|-----------------|
| ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT | \$ | 38,435.00       |
| NET CHANGE ORDERS        | \$ | 1,630.55        |
| PRESENT CONTRACT VALUE   | \$ | 40,065.55       |
| TOTAL WORK THIS ESTIMATE | \$ | 40,065.55       |
| LESS PAYMENT RECEIVED    | \$ | 38,062.27       |
| 5% RETAINAGE DUE         | \$ | 2,003.28        |
| AMOUNT DUE THIS PAYMENT  | \$ | <u>2,003.28</u> |

         8/7/2023  
Charles J. Nagy/West Penn Paving LLC

REQUEST FOR PAYMENT  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM  
WESTMORELAND COUNTY

4-0

MUNICIPALITY / AGENCY: Vandergrift Borough  
ACTIVITY: 21-30 Street Reconstruction  
CONTRACT NO. / HUD ACTIVITY NO.: 2023 - 100 / IDIS# 2055  
ALLOCATION: \$ 155,012.00  
REQUEST NO.: 1  
AMOUNT OF REQUEST: \$ 129,442.58 (ATTACH INVOICES)  
PREVIOUS REQUEST(S): \$ 0.00  
TOTAL TO DATE: \$ 129,442.58 (THIS LINE CANNOT EXCEED ALLOCATION)  
BALANCE: \$ 25,569.42

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAYMENT REQUESTED IS CORRECT AND THAT THE WORK HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT.

 8/7/2023  
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE – MUNICIPALITY / AGENCY DATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED INVOICE(S) CORRESPONDS WITH THE WORK COMPLETED TO DATE AND HAS BEEN PROPERLY COMPLETED ACCORDING TO THE APPROVED PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.

 8/3/2023  
LOCAL PROJECT ENGINEER, ARCHITECT, ETC. DATE

CHECK IF FINAL REQUEST FOR PAYMENT

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Nagy Construction & Asphalt Paving  
4311 Sardis Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15239

APPROVED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LABOR COMPLIANCE OFFICER

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PROGRAM ACCOUNTANT

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Clayton provided members of Council copies of the following budgets to July 31, 2023: General Fund, Park & Pool Fund, and the Special State Aid.

Ms. Clayton gave each committee chairperson budget request form for the 2024 Fiscal Budget and requested that these budget requests be submitted to the Borough Secretary by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

President Chvala requested that all committee chairperson refrain from unnecessary spending for the remainder of the year.

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

### POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Holmes reported that Jennifer Redemer has submitted a letter of resignation as full-time school crossing guard.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to accept Ms. Redemer's resignation. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to move Ron Harshman from the position of part-time crossing guard to full-time school crossing guard. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Wilson, to hire Bethany Allera as an extra police officer serving on a part-time basis for the Borough of Vandergrift from time to time on a hourly or daily basis as needed. Motion carried.

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

### BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Sarno stated that he has contacted J & J Roofing, of whom, stated that he can make temporary repairs at this time and that this can be address in the 2024 budget.

Mr. Sarno stated that the Vandergrift Library has indicated an interest to installing security cameras for the purpose of stopping the theft of books. He stated that the Building & Grounds Committee has no objects and will not be any expense to the Borough.

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

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

No Report

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Uskuraitis stated that the parents of the youth who applied graffiti markings at the stage at Kennedy Park have agreed to make the necessary repairs.

Mr. Uskuraitis stated that the installation of security cameras at the basketball courts is deterring certain activities.

Mr. Uskuraitis stated that the pool is doing well and the dirt on the liner is now clean. He also stated that the kitchen remodel is done.

Ms. Clayton stated that due to the pool opening late, some people have indicated for the pool to remain open until the end of September.

Ms. Clayton stated that is not feasible due to most of the life guards will be returning to school leaving the facility not properly staffed, and due this time of the year not profitable.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Sarno requested that Council act on the Alle-Kiski Intergovernmental Council blight inventory and plan project through the Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development. He stated that Borough's share in this project is \$5,178.98 with payments over a two year period on a quarterly basis.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Kessler, to approve the aforementioned matter. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Clayton questioned if there is a need for a stop sign at Wallace Street.

President Chvala stated that a stop sign was temporarily placed at the intersection and was determined to be an unsafe and hazardous condition during winter weather.

Ms. Clayton stated that she is interested in applying for consultant grant relative to a PA Walk Way.

Ms. Clayton questioned if the Borough can restrict the number of gambling machines/establishments in town.

This questioned was turned over to the Solicitor.

Mr. Holmes stated that he has been contacted by Paradise Energy Solutions regarding the placement of solar panels in certain areas of town, such the roof of the Municipal Building, the roof of the Borough Garage and possibly the roof of the Grand Stand at Davis Field. He stated that this program will reduce electric cost and possibilti provide income from the power company, and therefore, requested Council to apply for grant regarding this matter.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mr. Sarno, to apply for the aforementioned grant. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.