

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 5, 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 August 7, 2023 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Sarno , second by Ms. Clayton. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street, questioned if any thing is going to be done about the high grass problems in town.

The Secretary requested Mr. Detar to provide the addresses where there are high grass problems.

Mitchell Rodriguez, 108 Arizona Avenue, stated that he has a hearing at the Magistrate's Office on November 30th in regards to complaints filed regarding damage to the road by his 7 ton truck. He also stated that he was found not guilty at a previous hearing.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Borough's garbage truck weighs about 3 times his truck and that there seems to be no problem. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he will not be parking his truck everyday, but only once a month for maintenance.

Chief Caporali stated that he could get a permit under the existing ordinance or attend the hearing to see how it happens.

Jim Williams, 126 Oregon Avenue, questioned what action can be taken regarding problems existing at 137 California avenue.

Chief Caporali stated that Officer Gray is working on this police matter.

Mr. Williams questioned when the noise ordinance starts and stops in town.

With no one knowing the answer, President Chvala directed the Solicitor to look into this matter.

Deborah Moffat stated that she was approved by the Vandergrift Zoning Board to have a Echo Housing Unit from the Westmoreland County. She stated that the Borough Engineer is requiring her to provide a separate sewer line extension to the property, as required under the Borough's ordinance, of which cost her approximately \$45,000.

President Chvala held any action on this matter when Council returns to the regular order of business.

A motion was made by Ms. Clayton, second by Mr. Sarno, to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini announced that the Oktoberfest will be held on September 16th, from 12: noon to 9:00 pm. He also stated that the Halloween Day Parade will be held on October 29th beginning at 5:00 pm. and trick or treat will held on October 31st.

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

SECRETARY' REPORT:

The Secretary presented and reviewed the Borough's Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to the Police Pension Plan for 2024 to be \$99,957, an increase of \$18,378.00 over 2023 MMO. (See page 3-A)

The Secretary also presented and reviewed the Borough's MMO for the Non-Uniformed Pension plan for 2024 to be \$7,631.00. (See page 3-B)

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

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Secretary reported during the month of August the Code Officer issued 18 violation notices and filed 2 citation at the magistrate's office.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Exhibit 1-A: Tony Callipare.

Subject: Request to install a trash dumpster at 120 Custer Avenue to a three-Unit dwelling.

A motion was made by Ms. Clayton, second by Mrs. Wilson, to approve this request, with the understanding that the three units to continue the payment of all refuse fees. Motion carried.

Exhibit 2-A: Joe Pittman, State Senator.

Subject: Letter in support of the Borough's Multimodal Transportation Grant application.

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT POLICE RETIREMENT PLAN
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION
FOR 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

A. Normal Cost

1. Normal Cost as a Percent of Payroll	19.477%
2. Estimated 2023 Payroll for Active Participants	\$ <u>644,594</u>
3. Normal Cost (A1 x A2)	\$ <u>125,548</u>

B. Financial Requirement

1. Normal Cost (A3)	\$ 125,548
2. Anticipated Insurance Premiums	0
3. Anticipated Administrative Expense	34,163
4. Amortization Payment, if any	<u>0</u>
5. Financial Requirement (B1 + B2 + B3 + B4)	\$ <u>159,711</u>

C. Minimum Municipal Obligation

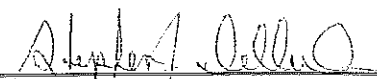
1. Financial Requirement (B5)	\$ 159,711
2. Anticipated Employee Contributions (6.23% of Estimated Payroll)	40,158
3. Funding Adjustment, if any	<u>19,596</u>
4. Minimum Municipal Obligation (C1 - C2 - C3)	\$ <u>99,957</u>

NOTES:

1. 2024 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, 2024 to avoid an interest penalty.
3. Any delinquent Minimum Municipal Obligation from prior years must be included in the 2024 budget along with an interest penalty.

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

9/13/23
Date

Prepared using the January 1, 2021 Valuation.

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES'
PENSION PLAN
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION
FOR 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

A. Defined Contribution

1. Employer Defined Contribution as a Percent of Payroll	3.0%
2. Estimated 2024 Payroll	\$ <u>254,363</u>
3. Total Defined Contribution (A1 x A2)	\$ <u><u>7,631</u></u>

B. Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)

1. Total Defined Contribution (A3)	\$ 7,631
2. Anticipated Administrative Expense	<u>0</u>
3. Total Financial Requirement and MMO (B1 + B2)	\$ <u><u>7,631</u></u>

NOTES:

1. 2024 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. Actual employer obligation for 2024 will depend on actual eligible participants and payroll for 2024.
 3. Any delinquent Minimum Municipal Obligation from prior years must be included in the 2024 budget along with an interest penalty.
-

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

9/15/23
Date

Exhibit 1-A
Rec'd 8/9/23

125 Community Park Road
Vandergrift PA 15690
August 3, 2023

Vandergrift Borough
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift PA 15690

To Whom It May Concern:

This correspondence is in relation to a request for installation of a trash dumpster at 120 Custer Avenue, Vandergrift PA 15690.

This property is a three-unit dwelling, and as is, there is often a lot of trash accumulated in the alley way. A dumpster would eliminate the need for multiple cans (upwards of five to six on weekly basis). Use of a dumpster would allow the property to appear more presentable while providing for a more sanitary means of trash removal.

We are requesting to eliminate the individual cost of weekly pick up and rather pay for a dumpster fee. When the property was insured the property was deemed commercial due to the three units – as such we are requesting the Borough's approval for a dumpster like the other commercial properties located within the Borough.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated. Kindly advise of the Boroughs determination either in writing me at the above address or phoning me at 724-568-3756.

Regards,

Tony Callipare

Tony Callipare

Exhibit 2A

41ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
JOE PITTMAN

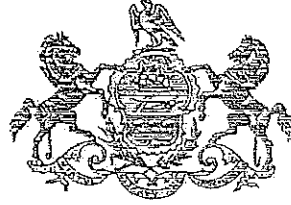
SENATE BOX 203041
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3041
717-787-8724
FAX: 717-772-1589

618 PHILADELPHIA STREET
INDIANA, PA 15701
724-357-0151
FAX: 724-357-0148

109 SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET
KITTANNING, PA 16201
724-543-3026
FAX: 724-548-4856

2400 LEECHBURG ROAD, SUITE 102
NEW KENSINGTON, PA 15068
724-216-6165

Majority Leader



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

RULES & EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, CHAIR

EMAIL: jpittman@pasen.gov
WEBSITE: senatorpittman.com

July 28, 2023

The Honorable Rick Siger
PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

RE: CFA Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant
Vandergrift Borough, Westmoreland County

Dear Secretary Siger,

A single grant application has been submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development by Vandergrift Borough in Westmoreland County in the amount of \$480,533 for funding through the CFA Multimodal Transportation Fund. The application has my strong support.

Vandergrift Borough will use this funding to assist in their efforts to replace a portion of the Ninth Street retaining wall which currently poses a significant safety hazard. The full scope of the project is further detailed in the grant application.

I encourage your favorable consideration of this grant application for Vandergrift Borough. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joe Pittman
State Senator, 41st District

JP:gmj
cc: Vandergrift Borough

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson reported that the Street Department dug out 5 stumps at various locations in town.

Mrs. Wilson stated that she is purchasing TV camera for sewer inspections at a cost of \$13,657.60. She stated that this item was purchased through Co-Stars to be paid out of the Sewer Recovery Fund.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer presented and reviewed report for the month of August.

Engineer Bove requested Council to approve the final CDBG Street Reconstruction Project invoice in the amount of \$8,312.77, which payment is from the County Planning Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to approve the aforementioned invoice. Motion carried.

Engineer Bove requested approval to apply for a DCED LSA Category 4 Grant application and resolution for the reconstruction of Grant Avenue and ADA Ramp costing approximately \$204,430.00.

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

Engineer Bove requested approval to apply for a DCED LSA Category 4 Grant application for a maintenance tractor at cost of \$40,000.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the aforementioned matter. 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 members of Council were provided with copies of the General Fund, Pool Fund, and State Aid Fund budget for the month of August.

RE: Engineer report and agenda items

To Stephen DelleDonne <vgborosec@comcast.net> • kathychvala@vandergriftborough.com Copy
Larry Loperfido <ldl@gllawyers.com> • Shea M Kraft Esquire <smk@gllawyers.com> •
Christine Wilson <christinewilson1782@gmail.com> • Tom Holmes <tomholmes@vandergriftborough.com> •
Marilee Kessler <marileekessler@vandergriftborough.com> •
Daishaclayton <daishaclayton@vandergriftborough.com> • johnuskuraitis@vandergriftborough.com •
jodyarno@vandergriftborough.com • Lenny Collini <lennycollini@vandergriftborough.com>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please see below my report and requested agenda items for the Tuesday, September 5, 2023 Council meeting.

Engineer Report:

1. 2023 CDBG Street Resurfacing Project – Work complete as of 8/2/23 cost for backfilling behind curb to be sought to see if the County will approve same.
2. ~~Vandergrift Pool Rejuvenation - DCED GTR Grant – Final Reimbursement Request and canceled checks sent, grant finalized, remaining funds (\$19,470) pending.~~
3. Olmsted Commons - Revised schedule to be prepared. Documents to be submitted to DCNR in the fall. Anticipate advertising/bidding over winter months with construction in spring of 2024. A time extension request will be required.
4. Columbia Avenue Parking Lot Stormwater Mitigation Project – Submitted 7 page plan set to WCD, PennDOT and DEP. 46 comments received from DEP mostly for bridge site. Revisions to address DEP comments on the parking lot project plan narrative, calculations, etc. to be submitted by 9-1-2023.
5. Unsafe Structures / Conditions – Reports pending for 2 structures with unsafe conditions (419A Hancock and 158 Sherman).
6. DCED 2023 Multimodal (MTF) Grant Program Application – Application received by DCED and an updated commitment letter was sent.
7. 714/716 Wallace (former church at corner of Emerson) – Request to use existing driveway for new business. No plans or information received to date.
8. Beech Street Sink Holes – Monitor patch and street for settlement. Replace bricks once settlement has stopped. Request permission to see if any leftover County Water/Sewer funds can be obtained to replace the sewer and restore the street.
9. Excavation Permits – Several issued to utilities. Noticed a unfinished sewer patch on Walnut where sewer is deep. No permit application has been made.
10. 2024 CDBG Application – Being prepared as authorized at the August meeting. See attached list with priority.
11. Spaniel Beer Distributors Collapsed Storm Sewer – Investigated with Borough Crew and Camera. Pipe break to be repaired. The ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the pipes through the property need to be investigated as we foresee future maintenance issues in this area.
12. Sewer Collapse on Grant Avenue – Issue has yet to be investigated and extent of repairs needs to be established.
13. Sherman Avenue Sewer Manhole Repair – Repair in progress.

Requested agenda items:

1. 2023 CDBG Street Reconstruction Project - Request approval of Payment Estimate No. 2 with 5% retainage.
2. Vandergrift Pool Rejuvenation - DCED GTR Grant – Request approval or discussion regarding Renosys Invoice.
3. DCED LSA Category 4 Grant Application for Grant Avenue Street and ADA Ramp Reconstruction – Request authorization to apply and approval of Resolution.
4. DCED LSA Category 4 Grant Application for Maintenance Tractor with attachments – Request authorization to apply and approval of Resolution.
5. 302 Bryant St. ECHO Cottage - Second request from Ms. Moffit to allow sanitary sewer connection to be on the same lateral as the adjacent home owned by the daughter, conditioned upon the owners of both dwellings to sign a waiver as may be drafted by the Solicitor to protect the Borough from liability from damages that could result from later line back-ups at both structures.

I plan to attend the meeting. I will be available to answer any questions and to assist with any 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
8201 Route 819
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 925-9269



- List.pdf (89 KB)
- image001.jpg (10 KB)

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

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

A motion was made Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to amend the agenda to inform Council of the verbal resignation of Officer Ada Vega, effective October 15, 2023, with a written letter to follow. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept Officer Ada Vega's resignation from the Vandergrift Police Department, effective October 15, 2023. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton, to advertise for the position of a full-time police officer for the Vandergrift Police Department. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton, to activate the Vandergrift Civil Service for the purpose of providing Council with a list of eligible candidates for the above position. Motion carried.

Chief Caporali reported the following activity of Police Department for the month of August:

- 1: Responded to 340 calls.
2. 3-nontraffic tickets.
3. 25 traffic tickets
4. 3 criminal arrests.
5. 12 illegal parking tickets.

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Sarno reported that temporary repairs were made to the roof at the No. 2 Fire Department building.

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

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Kessler provide the following report: (See page 5-A)

September 2023

5-19

Tree and lights report

Dead sycamore tree cut down and all cuttings removed from corner of Washington and Franklin Ave.

To be completed in 2023

2 very bad hollow maple trees to be cut at 174 Washington

2 very bad trees at 508 Hancock-both will probably have to be removed

408 Hancock Ave—Tree to be cut back from porch roof of house and over street this was deferred from 2022 and needs to be done now

325 Hancock-Large dead branches hanging over road to be removed

125 East Adams— Very large tree with large branches impeding parking and walking—

182 Grant-Remove several large dead branches overhanging street and sidewalk

All other work deferred to 2024 unless emergency

No new trees to be planted from this year's budget

Lights

Light pole and Streetlight on Lincoln Ave near ATI guardhouse was hit and splintered ; leaning precariously toward Lincoln Ave. by large vehicle. Pole replaced.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Uskuraitis reported that the pool had a successful season. He stated that a pipe broke in the pump room and will cost \$2500 to repair.

Mr. Uskuraitis stated that he will provide a final water meter reading and the Borough Crew will begin to winterize the pool and the other park facilities.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Kraft discussed the new tax assessment of the ATI facility. He stated the he and the Kiski Area Solicitor wish to explore this matter further.

Solicitor Kraft requested that Council call executive session for the purpose of discussing a litigation matter.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Holmes stated that he and Ms. Clayton met with a gentleman regarding the placement of solar panels on the roof of the Borough Garage. He stated that the cost of this project will be \$210,600, and the company would maintain them from 30 years, with a 71% savings of electric use.

Following a discussion of this matter, a motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Wilson, to proceed with an application of a grant for purchase of the solar panels. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Holmes recommended that the Borough consider adopting a permit policy regarding events being held in town, of which, to establish the following items:

1. Fees for garbage collection.
2. Providing porta-johns.
3. Non-discriminating clauses.
4. Liability insurance certificates.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to direct the Solicitor to prepare a policy regulating events held in town. Motion carried.

At 8:35, a motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Sarno, to call an executive session of Council for the purpose of discussing a litigation matter. Motion carried.

At 9:10, a motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mr. Holmes, to return to the regular order of business, and to state that no action was taken during the executive session. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.

