

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL

APRIL 2, 2018

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathleen Chvala	James Rametta
Peter Basile	Vernon Sciallo
Lenny Collini	Christine Wilson
Casimer Maszgay	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Barbara Turiak, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfito, Solicitor	Theresa Geltz- Asst. Secretary
Lucien Bove, Engineer	Joseph Caporali, Police Chief

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the April 2, 2018 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Sciallo. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

Don detar, 213 Lowell Street, questioned if the street sweeper will be running.

Mr. Sciallo stated that he will present a schedule under his Street report.

Michael Hepler, 206 Washington Avenue, questioned if something could be done about the parking on 10<sup>th</sup> Street near the Hancock Avenue intersection. He stated that cars are parking on both side of this section, which makes it impossible for vehicles to get through.

President Chvala turned this matter over to the Police & Public Safety Committee for study and recommendation.

Jim Williams, 119 Oregon Street, question if action has been received on the sewage rates.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that the K.V.W.P.C.A has not completed the analysis to date. He stated those interested in this matter should attend their meetings.

Jim Dunmire, 181 Sherman Avenue, stated that there is a traffic safety problem at the intersection of East Madison and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. He stated that vehicle are going the wrong on East Madison.

President Chvala requested Chief Caporali to look into this matter.

Ashley Hannigan, 216 Holmes Street, stated that she is concerned over the Borough not having ambulance service over night. She requested that this matter be looked into.

Tammy Domiano, 109 Lowell Street, stated that she has placed an application for Code Officer position and believes she is capable of performing the work. She hoped that she wasn't being considered due to her being a women.

President Chvala stated that Melissa Holmes, a women, held this position for several years.

Mrs. Domiano stated the due to lines being painted on her street, there are is a parked vehicle taken three spaces.

Mrs. Chvala requested that Mrs. Domiano contact the Chief when this occurrence happens.

Reverend John Jackson, 320 Hancock Avenue, stated that he would like to have two events at Kennedy Park to honor the First Responders of the area

Mr. Basile requested that Rev. Jackson stop at his shop to discuss details and dates.

Amy Holter, 161 Hamilton Avenue, addressed Council in regards to her concerns at the Vandergrift Pool: Safety issues; pool not kept clean; lifeguards not paying attention, and groups of individuals coming to the pool after 3:00 pm causing problems.

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

#### MAYOR'S REPORT:

No Report

## SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presented a letter of resignation from R. Jerry Little as the Borough's Solicitor for the Vandergrift Borough Zoning Hearing Board, effectively immediately. (See page 3-A)

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Rametta, to accept Mr. Little's letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that he had contacted Attorney James Favero of Leechburg, who serves many zoning hearing boards, and that, Mr. Favero has indicated an interest in this position. Solicitor Loperfito recommended that Council consider appointing Mr. Favero as the Solicitor to the Vandergrift Zoning & Hearing Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Basile, second by Mr. Collini, to appoint James Favero to the position of Solicitor to Vandergrift Zoning & Hearing Board. Motion carried.

The Secretary presented a notice from the Westmoreland Tax Claim Bureau regarding an Unsold Property Repository located at 912 Wallace Street. He stated that a bid of \$1,281.00 was received, and that said property is a vacant parcel. (See page 3-B)

All motion was made by Mr. Sciuлло, second by Mr. Rametta, to take consent to this matter. Motion carried.

The Secretary present and read a Mission Statement from the Vandergrift Improvement Program. (See page 2-C)

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Maszgay, to name said park area across from the Post Office on Farragut Avenue "Olmstead Memorial Park". Motion carried.

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

## COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary presented the following correspondence:

Exhibit 1-A: Natalie Jaworsky, Farmers' Market Manager.

Subject: Request to use lower portion of parking for this year's market from June 7<sup>th</sup> and ending October 11<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciuлло, second by Mr. Collini, to approve said request. Motion carried.

**R. JERRY LITTLE**  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW  
333 Freeport Street, Suite 202  
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-1327  
Email: rjerrylittle@comcast.net

Telephone (724) 334-7711  
Fax (724) 334-7288

April 24, 2018

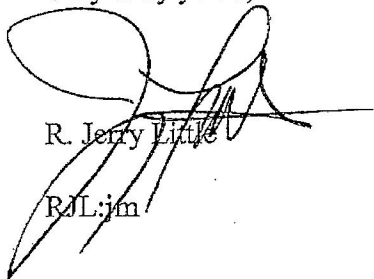
Borough Council, Borough of Vandergrift  
c/o Larry D. Loperfito, Attorney at Law  
159 Lincoln Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

**Re: Notice of Resignation**

Dear Members of Council:

I wish to advise you that effective immediately I am resigning my position as Solicitor for the Vandergrift Borough Zoning Hearing Board. I want to take this opportunity to thank all members of council; members of the Zoning Hearing Board; Theresa Geltz, Zoning Officer; and Steve DelleDonne, Borough Secretary, for all of your support and kindness.

Very truly yours,



R. Jerry Little

RJL:jm



Ted Kopas  
Commissioner

Gina Cerilli  
Chairman

Charles W. Anderson  
Commissioner

# Westmoreland County Pennsylvania



REAL ESTATE  
TAX OFFICE

Director

Deborah T. Chiado

Telephone: 724-830-3420

Fax: 724-853-4628

Deputy Director

JoAnn Sebastiani

Telephone: 724-830-3422

Date: April 26, 2018

To: BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT      ATTN: SECRETARY  
109 GRANT AVENUE  
VANDERGRIFT, PA 15690

Gentlemen:

A bid has been received by the Westmoreland County Tax Claim Bureau to purchase a property in your taxing district that is presently in the Unsold Property Repository pursuant to Section 627 of the Real Estate Tax Sale Act (72 P.S. 627).

Section 627 requires the written consent of each taxing district where the property is located prior to the sale. No taxing district may unreasonably withhold its consent to the sale of the property.

The information concerning the proposed sale is as follows:

Tax Map No: 37-01-09-0-416

Property Address: 912 WALLACE STREET (VANDERGRIFT BORO)

Property Owner: JOHN ANDREWS

Amount of Bid: \$1,281.00

Please bear in mind that a property is placed in the Repository after it has been exposed to the annual public sale and at least one judicial sale proceedings. Most often, the reason that the property has not been sold is because the amount of the delinquent taxes and judgments of record far exceed the market value of the property. In addition, as long as the property is held in the Repository, it does not generate any real estate taxes.

Accordingly, please take action at your public meeting with regard to this request for consent. Please indicate your consent by countersigning this letter and returning it to this office within 40 days. We must have written consent in order to proceed to place this property back on the tax rolls and for your district to receive tax dollars.

PROSPECTIVE BUYERS:  
KAREN A. HANS

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah T. Chiado".

Deborah T. Chiado  
Director, Tax Office

CONSENTING: \_\_\_\_\_

# *Vandergrift Improvement Program, Inc.*

P.O. Box 77, Vandergrift, PA 15690

Phone: 724-567-5286 Email: [vip15690@comcast.net](mailto:vip15690@comcast.net)

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A 501©3 non-profit organization

## Mission Statement

The Vandergrift Improvement Program's (VIP) mission is to protect, preserve and restore the historic commercial district and improve the quality of life in Vandergrift.

May 3, 2018

Dear Vandergrift Council,

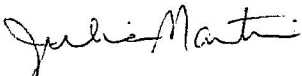
In 2012 Vandergrift Improvement Program used grant money received from Representative Petrarca and Senator Ferlo to make improvements to an empty lot owned by the Boro across from the Post Office on Farragut Avenue. It changed the space from a scruffy looking lot to a nicely landscaped park with picnic tables and benches that is well used by local residents.

In the fall of 2017 an Eagle Scout Project was done in the park. Brick pads were made under the picnic tables and benches to help make the area under them look neater and mowing in the park easier. A kiosk was added to post information about up-coming events. Trees and shrubs were trimmed, beds weeded and re-mulched.

The VIP would like to hold a long overdue dedication ceremony for the improved space and, with Councils permission, name it 'Olmstead Memorial Park'. The name was chosen in recognition of Olmstead's original design for Vandergrift that included green spaces for the town's people to enjoy. And dedicate it in memory of and in honor of those with a vision of a revitalized Vandergrift.

If approved by Council, we would like to hold the dedication in the park on Memorial Day following the Veteran's ceremony at the Casino Theatre and invite all of Council to attend.

Sincerely,



Julia Martin

Chairwoman, VIP Inc.



Vandergrift Farmers' Market  
PO Box 191  
Spring Church, PA 15686  
724-422-3883



May 1, 2018

Vandergrift Borough Council  
c/o Steve Delledonne, Borough Secretary  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Council Members:

On behalf of the Vandergrift Farmers' Market, I ask your permission to use the lower portion of the Columbia parking lot and Teeple park for the market.

The market will be open from 3 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. every Thursday beginning June 7th and ending October 11th, 2018.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie Jaworskyj".

Natalie Jaworskyj  
Market Manager  
724-422-3883

Exhibit 2-A: Vanessa Groholski, Director/Children's Librarian.

Subject: Request to use Gazebo at Kennedy Park to provide a "Storytime in the In the Park" for all ages.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Collini, to above said request. Motion carried.

Exhibit 3-A: Nadine Artman, Secretary of Vandergrift No. 2 Fire Department.

Subject: Request for approval of certain events to be held during the hosting of The Western PA Fireman's Convention on August 11, 2018.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Sciuillo, to approve this matter. Motion carried.

#### REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

#### STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Sciuillo stated that he will be needing part-time help this summer. He stated that Dennis Wolfe will be scheduled to perform all the parking line painting.

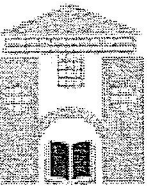
In regards to use of the Street Sweeper, Mr. Sciuillo provided that following schedule:

1. The First Friday, Longfellow to Bryant.
2. The Second Friday, Walnut, Jackson to the Park Plan.
3. The Third Friday, Franklin to Downtown.
4. The Fourth Friday, West Vandergrift.

Solicitor Loperfido reported that he and Mr. Basile met with Michael Reilly of Vandergrift No. Fire Dept. regarding them providing a \$5,000 Bond to cover any damages during and after the carnival.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciuillo, second by Mr. Basile, to approve the following stated motion prepared by Solicitor Loperfido. Motion carried. (See page 4-A)

Mrs. Wilson reported that there appears to be a blockage in the sewer line at Delaware and Pennsylvania Avenues. She stated that there were large stones in the line, and therefore, recommended that the line be videoed.



Vandergrift Public Library  
128C Washington Ave. Vandergrift, PA 15690  
724-568-2212 [Vanessa.Groholski@wlnonline.org](mailto:Vanessa.Groholski@wlnonline.org)  
[www.vandergriftpubliclibrary.org](http://www.vandergriftpubliclibrary.org)

April 6, 2018

Vandergrift Municipal Building  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Dear Vandergrift Park and Recreation Committee,

The Vandergrift Public Library would like to request the use of the Gazebo at Kennedy Park on Wednesdays at 11:00am from June 13<sup>th</sup>-August 15. We would like to provide a "storytime in the park" series this summer. Children of all ages are invited to participate in storytime. These storytimes were very well attended last summer. I attached the poster for your review.

Please let me know if we are allowed to use the gazebo space for this event.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Groholski  
Director /Children's Librarian



# STORYTIME in the PARK

June 13-August 15  
WEDNESDAYS

11:00 AM  
All ages



**Gazebo, Kennedy Park, Vandergrift**

## Vandergrift Fire Department No. 2

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May 7, 2018

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please accept this letter of information and a request from Vandergrift Fire Department No. 2. As you are aware, we are hosting the Western PA Fireman's Convention in Vandergrift. Part of that hosting is a parade that will be held on **August 11, 2018.**

This letter is to inform you that the parade will begin at 5:00pm from Longfellow Street Extension and continue down Longfellow, across Hancock, to Walnut, to Franklin, ending on Grant Avenue at the borough building. The parade will disband at Grant and Washington with all parties involved returning to our field at Longfellow Ext. and 56.

We also request the use of the Washington Ave. parking lot for pre judging of apparatus on that day from 1pm-3pm if at all possible.

This letter also serves as an invite for the Borough officials to attend and be in the parade as well. We will have a reviewing stand at Grant and Farragut for you to view the parade from. Please let me know if you wish to attend and/or be in the parade at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Nadine Artman  
Secretary  
Vandergrift Fire Department No. 2

4-A

## MOTION

I seek a motion to amend the prior motion of Council which granted to the Vandergrift #1 Fire Department the authorization to use Kennedy Park for the fireman's carnival. The amendment would reduce the requirement of the Vandergrift #1 Fire Department to provide a \$10,000.00 cash bond for field damage from \$10,000.00 to \$5,000.00, subject further to the understanding that Buildings and Grounds Committee through its Chairman or designated representative will meet with the firemen, photograph the condition of the field prior to the entry of the carnival and also following the exit of the carnival to compare the condition of the field and to assess any damage thereafter. The Borough of Vandergrift will then accurately define costs associated with the repair and remediation of the field, said costs to include, but not be limited to, repairs, costs of soil, seed, labor, equipment and other factors as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Borough of Vandergrift after discussion of the same directly with Vandergrift #1 Fire Department's representatives. The costs of the damage must be related solely to the carnival and the use of the field during the carnival and cannot be related to any other expenditures associated with the field or the park.

It should be noted that the firemen agree that the \$5,000.00 may be held in a non-interest bearing account by the Borough of Vandergrift given the fact that the carnival is right around the corner and that the funds will either be utilized or released shortly after the carnival has ended.



President Chvala requested the Engineer to obtain a cost to have the line videoed.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Maszgay, to accept the Streets & Sanitation Report. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove reported that he has obtained three quotes regarding the repair of the sanitary sewer lateral line at 406 Whittier. (See page 5-A)

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Sciallo, to accept the bid to perform the aforementioned sewer line from Winfall Energy at the price of \$2,600.00. Motion carried.

Engineer Bove reported that the work has been done regarding the unsafe structure at 501 ¾ Emerson Street.

Engineer Bove stated that he has inspected the structure at 173 Grant Avenue. He stated that the front & rear porches need repaired.

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

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

No Report

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Collini presented a letter of resignation from Bethany Allera from the Vandergrift Police Department effective May 3, 2018.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Sciallo, to accept Ms. Allera's resignation letter. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Rametta, to hire Jeremy Howell as an extra police officer serving on a part time basis for the Borough from time to time on an hourly or daily basis as needed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Rametta, to hire Jerry Hobeck as an extra police officer serving on a part time basis for the Borough from time to time on an hourly or daily basis as needed. Motion carried.

5-A

**BOVE ENGINEERING COMPANY**

**ARMBRUST PROFESSIONAL CENTER**

**8201 ROUTE 819**

**GREENSBURG, PA 15601**

**724-925-9269**

**FAX: 724-925-1216**

May 4, 2018

Vandergrift Borough Council  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

ATTN: Steven J. Delledonne, Secretary

Reference: 406 Whittier Street Sanitary Sewer Lateral Repair  
Bid Quotations  
Vandergrift Borough, Westmoreland County

Ladies and Gentlemen:

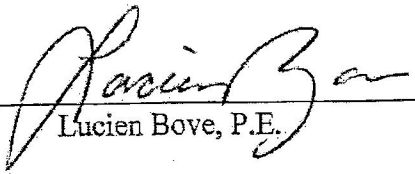
Attached please find copies of 4 Bid Quotations received for the above referenced project. The deadline for submittal of the quotes was Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

Winfall Energy	\$2,600.00
Lutterman Excavating	\$4,800.00
Nagy Construction	\$5,900.00
Weaver Construction	\$10,000.00

As shown above, the lowest quote is from Winfall Energy in the amount of \$2,600.00. Therefore, at this time, we recommend that Borough Council authorize Winfall Energy to perform the above referenced work in the amount of \$2,600.00.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours,  
**BOVE ENGINEERING COMPANY**

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

LB:lar  
Attachments

Mr. Collini stated that John Zinchini of 413 Emerson Street has submitted a Persons With Disability Parking Place Application. He stated that he does meet the criteria set forth in the ordinance and recommends that this be approved.

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

Mr. Collini stated that Sherry bash of 105 Lowell Street has submitted a Persons With Disability Parking Place Application. He stated that she does meet the criteria set forth in the ordinance and recommends that this be approved.

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

Mr. Collini stated Susan Dunmire of 181 Sherman Avenue has submitted a Persons With Disability Parking Place Application. He stated that she does meet the criteria set forth in the ordinance and recommends that this be approved.

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

At 8:05, a motion was made by Mr. Sciuillo, second by Mr. Rametta, to call an executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and a litigation matter. Motion carried.

At 8:36, a motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Sciuillo, to return to the regular order of business and to state that no action was taken during the executive session. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Rametta, to accept the Police & Public Safety Report. Motion carried.

#### BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

No Report

#### TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Maszgay reported that he is obtaining prices from M & M Tree Service for the purpose of trimming and/or removing certain trees within the Borough.

Mr. Collini questioned if Mr. Maszgay will be planting four trees within Kennedy Park.

Mr. Maszgay stated that he would like to meet with Mr. Collini for the purpose of determining the location of these trees.

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

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

President Chvala stated a decision has been made by the General Government Committee to hire Brian Young to the position of Code Officer.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Sciallo, to hire Brian Young as the Borough's Code Enforcement Officer. Motion carried.

#### RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Basile reported that work is going well for the opening of the pool. He stated that the painting work has begun. He also stated that Daisha Clayton, pool manager, is working out well.

Mr. Basile stated that the Committee is looking into possible leaks at the pool. He stated that a leak detection company is coming on Friday to locate said leaks.

Mr. Basile stated that he is still looking into a camera system at Kenney Park. He also stated that a new swing set will soon be installed at the Franklin Playground.

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

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor stated that he had spoke to a realty agent regarding her, and other agents, having a problem obtaining an occupancy permit on foreclosures. He stated he would like amend Chapter 317-2 of the Borough's Code Book for the purpose of permitting the sale and/or closures of foreclosed properties, but not to occupy.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Collini, to authorize the Solicitor to draft an amendment of Ordinance No. 8-2007, as stated above. Motion carried.

Solicitor Loperfito reported that the Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department has reviewed the proposed lease agreement with the Borough. He stated that they will sign the agreement if the Borough assumes responsibility to exterior of their building. He also stated that they are requesting the Borough to repair the pillar to bay door of the building.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Collini questioned if the gas company will repave 13<sup>th</sup> Street following the work done by them.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the gas company has applied a temporary patch, but will repave at a later date.

Mr. Collini stated that condition of Holland Street needs to be addressed.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that he will contact the water company about this matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Rametta, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.