

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2024

The Council of the Borough of Vandergrift met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm, with President Holmes presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Sarno	Thomas Holmes
Daisha Clayton	Marilee Kessler
Christine Wilson	John Uskuraitis
Rae Ann Bruner	

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 January 2, 2024 were approved by motion of Ms. Clayton, second by Mr. Uskuraitis. Motion carried.

At this time, President Holmes introduced Nicole Ziccarelli, Westmoreland District Attorney, to present a grant in the amount of \$4,449.50 for the purchase of hand guns for the members of the Vandergrift Police Department.

President Holmes thanked District Attorney Ziccarelli on behalf of the Vandergrift and the residents of Vandergrift

VISTORS:

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton, to hear from visitors. Motion carried.

James Held, 211 Holmes Street, thanked the Street Department and Mrs. Wilson for resolving the ice problem on the street.

Nicole Reed, 310 Beech Street, requested the dates for the Gathering on Grant to be changed to June 20th and July 11th.

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street, stated that a property at the end of Beech Street needs the hedges trimmed. He stated the hedges make it difficult to pull out on to the road.

Karen Cramer, 910 Holland Street, questions when a meeting will be scheduled between members of Council and one individual representing each event.

Laura Cicuca, 326 Beech Street, requested a rough draft of check list for the events.

President Council appointed Ms. Clayton, Ms. Bruner and himself to a committee to meet with event representatives.

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

At this time, a motion was made by Ms. Clayton, second by Ms. Bruner, to reconsider the implementation of the Borough's policy on the use of public property.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini stated that he would like to begin enforcement the vehicles being parked on sidewalks. He wished to meet with the Police & Public Safety for the purchase of placing warning notices on vehicles parked on sidewalks and for vehicles parking against the flow of traffic.

Mayor Collini stated the people need to refrain from bashing Council members on social media. He stated that the town needs to come together for the good of the town, and to promote the town.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presented a letter from the Westmoreland Tax Officer regarding a bid to purchase the property located at 140 Hamilton Avenue in the Unsold Property Repository in the amount of \$1500,00. (See page 3-A)

A motion was made by Ms. Bruner, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to consent the sale of said property. Motion carried.

The Secretary presented and reviewed a Debt Statement of the Borough as of December 31, 2023. (See 3-B)

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

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Secretary stated that the Code Officer issued 278 notice violation and issued 37 citations for 2023 and January 31. 2024.

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

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS:

The Secretary present the following correspondence:

Exhibit 1 A: Steve Jurovic, 135 Farragut Avenue, propose the Vandergrit Council consider a tax increase to benefit the local fire departments in town.

No action was taken on this matter.

Exhibits 2-A thru 10-A: Requests from event organizations to obtain permission to schedule their dates and times to use public property.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Ms. Clayton, to approve the following:

1. No. 1 Fire Department Annual Carnival: Kennedy Park-June 4th to 8th.
2. Pride in the Park: Kennedy Park- June 15th.
3. Until the Whole World Know-Kennedy Park -4th Sunday May thru September.
4. Vandergrift Libray-Kenedy Park: Easter Egg Hunt 3/16/24; 7/9 & 7/30-Story Timein the Park.
5. Gathering on Grant: May 16th, June 20th, July 11th, August 15th, and September 12th.

Douglas W. Chew
Vice-Chair

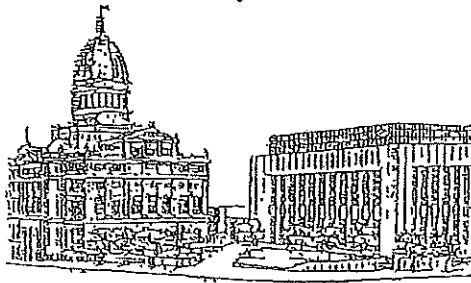
Sean Kertes
Chairman

Ted Kopas 3-14
Secretary

Westmoreland County

Pennsylvania

REAL ESTATE
TAX OFFICE
Director
Denyel D. O'Brien
Telephone: 724-830-3420
Fax: 724-853-4628



Deputy Director
Linda Kuchar
Telephone: 724-830-3422
Fax: 724-853-4628

Date: December 29, 2023

To: Borough of Vandergrift
Attention: Secretary
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Borough of Vandergrift:

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: 37-01-06-0-559

Property Address: 140 Hamilton Avenue, Vandergrift, PA 15690

Property Owner: Gene J. Iagnemma

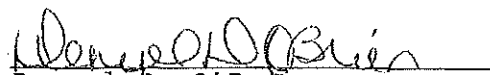
Amount of Bid: \$1,500.00

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.

Please notify us in writing of your consent to the proposed sale from the Repository delinquent tax properties. Pursuing to Act 33, if no response is received within 60 days, your consent will be presumed and the sale will move forward.

PROSPECTIVE BUYERS:
Richard Greece

Very truly yours,


Denyel D. O'Brien
Director, Tax Office

CONSENTING: _____

3-B

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT DEBT STATEMENT

Title of Purpose of Debt	Year of Issue	Term	Gross Debt Outstanding at Beginning of Year January 1, 2023	Amount Paid During Year 2023	Gross Debt Outstanding at the End of Year December 31, 2023
Mack Refuse Truck	2020	5 yrs.	\$100,488.20	\$50,241.60	\$50,241.60
Penn Vest Loan	2016	30 yrs.	\$6,588,224.85	\$252,973.47	\$6,335,251.38
2021 Ford F-600 Dump	2021	4 yrs.	\$29,481.92	\$15,566.65	\$13,915.27
TOTAL			\$6,718,194.97	\$318,781.72	\$6,399,408.25

Stephen Jurovic <quanti@comcast.net>

Wed 1/17/2024 3:54 PM

Exhibit 1-A

ATT. "VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL"

To the Vandergrift council

As a taxpayer of Vandergrift I would propose the Vandergrift council consider a similar tax program for Vandergrift volunteer fire fighters. I would be more than willing to bear a tax increase to maintain our volunteer fire department. Should council consider this please contact me for any assistance I might provide.

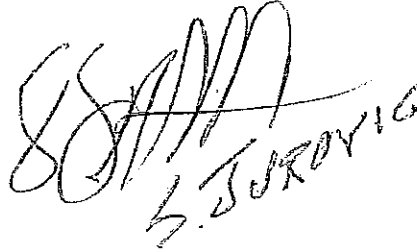
Thank you

Steve jurovic

135 Farragut ave Vandergrift PA

724.571.7907 phone

412.610.5133 text



<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/education/2024/01/16/volunteer-firefighters-east-allegheeny-school-district-property-tax-relief/stories/202401160144#:~:text=Firefighters%20in%20the%20East%20Allegheny,tax%20relief%20up%20to%20%243%2C000.>

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

507.1072

6. 3rd Annual Vandergrift Oktoberfest: Saturday, Sept 28th 8am to 9.pm.
7. Vandergrift Improvement Program: Artfest June 28th Downtown area.

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

A motion was made by Mr.Sarno, second by Mrs.Wilson, to pay all stated and approved bills. Motion carried.

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

No Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove presented and reviewed his Engineering Report. (See page 4-A)

Engineer Bove, Item #2-stated that there is a question in regards to the legal in-kind services can be eligible in the Olmsted Commons Grant from DCNR. He stated that the Solicitor is working on this matter.

As to Item #4, A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Ms. Clayton, to authorize the Engineer to move forward with preparation of plans and bidding documents for this project.

In regards to Items #7 & 8, no action was taken to approve these proposals.

A motion was made by Ms. Clayton, second by Mrs. Kessler, to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Clayton presented copies of the General Budget, Park & Pool Budget and the Special Aid Budget indicated activity for the month of January, 2024.

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

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Kessler presented the name of Zachary Byers to be employed as a part-time police officer of the Borough.

A motion was made by Ms. Kessler, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to hire Zachary Byers as a 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.

4- A

boveengineering@comcast.net

1/31/2024 11:56 AM

RE: Engineer report and agenda items

To Stephen DelleDonne <vgborosec@comcast.net> • Tom Holmes <tomholmes@vandergriftborough.com> Copy
Larry Loperfido <ldl@gllawyers.com> • Shea M Kraft Esquire <smk@gllawyers.com> •
Christine Wilson <christinewilson1782@gmail.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 my requested agenda items below for the Monday, February 5, 2024 Council meeting:

1. 2024 CDBG Application - Since we have not received new income surveys as we requested, we will use the previous surveys.
2. Olmsted Park Development – On behalf of the Borough, we uploaded the required responses regarding the legal services as an in-kind cost and we have submitted the questions as to where these costs may be eligible so the Budget can be revised accordingly.
3. Columbia Avenue Parking Lot Rain Gardens & Tree Pits - We completed the 3rd batch of revisions required by DEP we are happy to report that the NPDES Permit has been approved by DEP. Please note that WCD reimburses the Borough for the engineering costs as approved by the Borough Resolution 7 of 2022 and the agreement with PennDOT and the WCD.
4. Vandergrift Casino Theater and Library Building Improvement Project - Phase 2 – With authorization granted at the December 2023 Council meeting, we are proceeding with the preparation of plans and bidding documents required for this project. As stated previously, the Engineering costs are included in the Grant. Please advise if our office is to prepare the reimbursement requests for the Borough.
5. PNG Line replacements – Please note that the Street Excavation Permits are being approved with the conditions identified in the permit packages and the permit fees to be paid to the Borough for the Sherman Avenue Project Phase 2 and the Washington Avenue Project. Please advise if Council has any concerns.
6. MAAT Upper West Vandergrift Sanitary Sewer Connection – We have reviewed the proposed plans and agreement and have provided our report to the Borough. A copy will be sent to MAAT's Engineer upon Council authorization. Note that reimbursement of Engineering cost is part of the resolution 4 of 2023.
7. Allegheny Township Sanitary Sewer Customers – Please advise if Council would like us to assist in the verification of the total number of customers in the Vandergrift Sewer System.
8. Upper West Vandergrift Sewer Inspection – Please advise if Council would like us to assist in the inspection of the sewers and manholes in this branch of the sewer system and what level of inspections are required (i.e. visual manhole inspections or internal). Note that internal inspections may require quotations, due to the amount of cost.

Items requiring board action are shown in **Bold** print. If anyone has any questions, or If any additional items are required, please let me know as soon as possible. I plan to attend the meeting and will be available to answer any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lucien Bove, PE
Bove Engineering Company
8201 Route 819
Greensburg, PA 15601

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Sarno reported on the following issues:

1. Leak repairs were performed on the roof of the Municipal Building.
 2. The entrance door to the Police Station will be replaced.
 3. Approximately 40 light bulbs were replaced by Glen Rupert & the Borough Crew.
- He also thanked Victor Capretto for donating 2-light ballasts.

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

LIGHT & TREE REPORT:

No Report

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Bruner stated that she will not discuss the issues regarding the policy of using public property until changes to this policy is put into place.

Ms. Clayton that the Borough has been a grant from the Pa. Downtown Center in the amount of \$3,000. She stated that an outreach program is scheduled by March with Officer Gray.

Mrs. Kessler stated she working with the Eagle Scout to do a project for the community garden.

Mrs. Kessler informed Council that the Blight Inventory Data Verification was completed by the County.

Mrs. Kessler informed Council that current Librarian has resigned.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

