

BOROUGH OF VANDERGIFT
MINUTES OF THE VANDERGIFT COUNCIL

JANUARY 4, 2016

The Council of the Borough of Vandergrift held their Reorganizational Meeting in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., with Mayor Louis Purificato presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathleen Chvala	Vernon Sciallo
Brian Carricato	Frank Moliterno
James Rametta	Lenny Collini
Christine Wilson	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Louis Purificato, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfido, Solicitor	Theresa Gelts, Asst. Secretary
Joseph Caporali, Police Chief	

Mayor Purificato administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected members of Council: James Rametta, Kathleen Chvala, and Vernon Sciallo.

At this time, Mayor Purificato proceeded with election of officers of the Vandergrift Borough Council. He opened the floor for nominations for President of Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Moliterno, to nominate Brian Carricato to the position of President of Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to close nominations.

Mayor Purificato declared Brian Carricato as President of the Vandergrift Borough Council.

Mayor Purificato opened the floor for nominations for Vice President of Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Carricato, second by Mrs. Chvala, to nominate Vernon Sciuillo to the position of Vice President of Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Wilson, to close nominations.

Mayor Purificato declared Vernon Sciuillo as Vice President of Council.

With the conclusion of the election of officers, Mayor Purificato turned the chair over to Brian Carricato.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 7, 2015 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Collini. Motion carried

VISITORS:

A motion was made by Mr. Sciuillo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to hear from visitors at this time. Motion carried.

Duane Prusia, president of the Kiski Area Youth Network, spoke on behalf of this organization to purchase the former Senior Citizen Center Building at 306 Spruce Street. He reviewed the purpose of this organization and the long term benefits to the community. He concluded with presenting a purchase proposal of \$22,000 for said building. (See page 2-A)

R. J. Hesketh, Jessie Ledbetter, and Jared Kerr spoke in support of the aforementioned matter.

Wayne Hamilton, 209 Lowell Street, questioned if anything has been done about getting the sidewalk restored in front of 211 Lowell Street.

Chief Caporali stated that the owner has been cited.

John Smoyer, president of the Apollo-Kiski Little League, questioned if an agreement could be reached on the use of the Vandergrift Little Field.

President Carricato stated that arrangements will be made by the Recreation Committee to meet with Mr. Smoyer regarding the use of the Little League Field.

Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Porter, 106 Hamilton Ave., questioned if anything was done regarding the abandoned house at 104 Hamilton Ave. Mr. Jacob stated that it has lately been determined that Richard Greece doesn't own the property, but is owned by Gene Iagnemma.

Kiski Area Youth Network
PO Box 326
Vandergrift PA, 15690

Vandergrift Borough
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift PA, 15690



Re: The Senior Center at 306 Spruce Street, Vandergrift PA, 15690

To the Vandergrift Borough Council,

This letter has been prepared by the Kiski Area Youth Network (KAYN) with intent of expressing our conditional purchase offer of the property at 306 Spruce Street, Vandergrift PA, 15690. KAYN is a 501c3 organization with the intent of helping the students of Kiski Area High School to connect to Christ, Church and Community. KAYN was founded after the death of KAHS student Jenna Prusia, by her family and with her life of faith as an inspiration.

In 2015, our first year of operation, we have worked in concert with the Vandergrift library to form a monthly teen outreach, have worked with various council members to coordinate community service projects, have worked with the local magistrate to find community service hours for students - while simultaneously providing mentorship to those students during those times, become a "Character Coach" on the Kiski basketball and football teams, started a weekly outreach to teens providing Christ focused training, and partnered with 17 local churches to coordinate youth outreach in the community. While there is much left to do, we feel that we are laying the foundation for years of service in this community. In the coming years we plan to launch a summer sports camp in Vandergrift, continue our mission trip opportunities for students to serve abroad and bring those lessons home, and use a youth center facility as a base of operations where teens can come to a fun and safe environment with screened adult mentors who can assist in their journey to being adults in the community.

We view our offer as not merely a onetime financial transaction, but rather a long term beneficial contribution to the community of Vandergrift and the surrounding area, and ask you to take into consideration these non-tangible benefits and community goodwill as you review our offer. Our offer of \$22,000.00 is conditional upon the zoning committee providing provisional approval for use of the property as a youth center. We hope the council will understand that any buyer interested in this property, under its current zoning, would need to have certain assurances.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane Prusia".

Duane Prusia
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Fisher".

Brian Fisher
Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Evans".

Andrew Evans
Treasurer

724-244-7271

Chief Caporali stated that he will contact Mr. Iagnemma about boarding up the windows and doors, and if he does not comply, a citation will be issued.

Barbara Humbert stated that vehicles are turned the wrong way when exiting 9th street on to Franklin Avenue and are causing damage to her property.

Mrs. Wilson stated that a "No Left Turn" sign should be posted.

Kim Williams, West Madison Avenue, stated that she is concerned about the burglaries of cars and homes. She stated that her area needs a better police presence.

Julie Martin, representing the V.I.P, informed Council that the paper dumpsters should be moved back to the end of the Columbia Parking Lot as soon as possible. In regards to the new lights for the Columbia Parking Lot, she stated that she is waiting for Vic Capretto to order them.

Ms. Martin stated that Mary Jo Riddle is exploring the possible uses for the former J. C. Penny's building.

James Held, 211 Holmes St., spoke about the break-ins in town.

Chief Caporali stated that the majority of the break-ins occur by friends and/or family members.

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:

At this time Council acted on the following matters:

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Rametta, to set the 2016 regular montly meetings of the Vandergrift Borough Council for the First Monday of Each Month, beginning at 7:00 p.m., with the following exceptions: July meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 5th, and September meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 6th. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to reappoint the First Commonwealth Bank as the Borough's Treasurer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Sciallo, to reappoint Jerry Little as the Borough's Solicitor to the Vandergrift Zoning & Hearing Board. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Collini, to reappoint Larry Loperfido as the Solicitor for the Vandergrift Borough Council. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to reappoint the Bove Engineering Company as the Borough Engineer. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to reappoint Emil Bove as the Borough's Sewage Enforcement Officer. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Rametta, to reappoint Bureau Veritas as the Borough's Code Official.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Collini, to reappoint Randy Klick to a three (3) year term to the Vandergrift Zoning & Hearing Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mrs. Chvala, to reappoint Thomas Holmes to a six (6) year term to the Vandergrift Civil Service Commission. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Rametta, to reappoint Vince Domiano to a three (3) year term to the International Property Maintenance Code Appeals. Motion carried.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Loperfido informed Council that the owner of the lot located at 221 Longfellow Street wishes to donate said property to the Borough.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that he has advertised the regular scheduled monthly meetings of the Vandergrift Council for the year 2016.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that he will be working on a proposed lease purchase regarding the purchase of a new refuse truck and packer.

Solicitor Loperfido presented for adoption Resolution No. 1-2016 accepting the recommendation of the Vandergrift Planning Commission to approve the subdivision request for Christine M. DeMenno. (See page 4-A)

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Rametta, to adopt Resolution No. 1-2016. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 1 OF 2016

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGIFT, COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE DIMENNO SUBDIVISION PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Vandergrift Planning Commission met on December 14, 2015, for the purpose of viewing the final plan of the subdivision request for Christine M. DiMenno; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of said hearing, the Commission provided final approval of the DiMenno Subdivision Plan and has directed the same to be provided to the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift for final approval;

NOW THEREFORE, does hereby resolve as follows: BE IT RESOLVED, that on the 4th day of January, 2016, the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift does accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission evidencing that the DiMenno Subdivision Plan, is now in varied compliance of the terms of the Planning Commission of the Borough of Vandergrift and does hereby resolve that the final plan is accepted by the Borough of Vandergrift. IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all uses of the properties in question must comply with all other ordinances and codes of the Borough of Vandergrift, as well with the restrictions on the Plan as required by the Planning Commission of the Borough of Vandergrift.

BOROUGH OF VANDERGIFT

BY: 
BRIAN J. CARRICATO,
Council President

ATTEST:


STEPHEN J. DELLEDONNE, (SEAL)
Borough Secretary

APPROVED:


LOUIS PURIFICATO, Mayor

Solicitor Loperfido stated that he has prepared a draft lease for the Kiski Valley YMCA for Council's review.

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The Secretary presented the following correspondence and distributed to members of Council:

Exhibit 1-A: Thomas A. Schaeffer, Chief of Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department.

Subject: Request permission to sale the 1988 Pirsch Ladder Truck.

President Carricato recommended that this matter be tabled until the February meeting.

REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

In regards to the proposal received from the Kiski Area Youth Network to purchase the former Senior Citizens Building, President Carricato suggested that Council consider leasing the building to said organization for a \$1.00 per year, as opposed to selling. He therefore suggested that the officers of the Kiski Area Youth Network consider a lease rather than a purchase.

Mr. Fisher, Vice President of KATN, stated that this will be discussed at their Tuesday night meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mrs. Chvala, to hire Justine Reed as an extra police officer service on a part-time basis for the Borough of Vandergrift from time to time on an hourly or daily basis as needed. Motion carried.

5-A

Vandergrift Fire Dept. No. 1
278 Franklin Ave., P.O. Box 6
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Station 51

Thomas M. Schaeffer, Chief
724-567-7171

January 4, 2016

Public Safety Committee
Vandergrift Borough Council
109 Grant Ave.
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you know, our 1988 Peter Pirsch ladder truck has been out of service for some time. The aerial ladder failed to pass inspection last year resulting in us removing the truck from service.

Since that time, we did apply for a federal Assistance to Firefighters grant to fund the replacement of the truck. We learned recently that our application for the new truck was turned down for funding. This has left us with very few options as repairs to the truck are not practical from a financial point of view. Estimated costs to remove and disassemble the ladder are \$15,000. This would just be a starting point to get to the root of the problem. Even after the ladder is disassembled, there is no guarantee that parts would be available to correct the issue, which is worn sliders. The other factor is that the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) places the useful life of such trucks at 25 years. This truck is approaching 28 years of age.

After much consideration, the department voted to attempt to sell the truck. Any funds generated from the sale of the truck would be used to make needed repairs to our other apparatus.

The ladder truck is actually titled to the Borough. Therefore, we would need your approval before we can proceed with the sale of the truck. If you would like to discuss this situation further, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached by cell at 724-980-7627.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Schaeffer
Chief

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

Mr. Rametta questioned if any action will be taken on his landlord ordinance.

President Carricato stated that the Borough has enough ordinances on the books to enforce these matters.

Mr. Sciallo stated that these matters are covered within the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.