

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT  
MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL

JULY 6, 2015

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Louis Purificato, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfido, Solicitor	Theresa Geltz, Asst. Secretary
Lucien Bove, Engineers	Joseph Caporali, Police Chief

MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 1, 2015 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala. Motion carried

VISITORS:

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

Bill Galo, Avonmore, addressed Council as the Union President of 1138. He stated that the union is an impasse of contract negotiations with ATI. He requested that the Union be

permitted to place an informational shed along the cobble stone area going towards Spaniel's Beer Distributor.

Solicitor Loperfito requested Mr. Galo to submit a letter to the Borough Secretary regarding this request and that he would respond as soon as possible.

Lana & Bill Thompson, 922 Howell St., addressed Council in regards to damages incurred as result of the sewer backup to their property at 305 Longfellow and the Hair Factor store, causing about \$6,000.00. Mr. Thompson requested reimbursement.

The following individuals also addressed Council in regards to damages incurred in their basements as a result of sewer backups:

1. Bill Spang, 219 Holmes Street.
2. Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street.
3. Vera Spina, 303 Longfellow Street.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that the estimates of damages received to date have been turned over to the Borough's insurance carrier. He also stated that various insurance companies have coverage for these type of occurrences as a rider to the insurance policy. He stated that those individuals with this type of rider should submit their claim to the insurance company.

Sandra Toy, 110 Farragut Avenue, requested Council to look into the situation in the rear of her property, (3<sup>rd</sup> St.) whereby she has difficulty pulling her car out on to the alley due the car parked across the alley in front of his garage.

President Carricato requested the Police & Public Safety Committee look into this matter.

Jim Held, 211 Holmes Street, stated that the something needs to be done about the fire damaged house at 212 Holmes Street. He stated nothing has been to the structure since the fire.

The Secretary stated that he is holding fire escrow monies regarding this property.

Solicitor Loperfito requested this information to contact the owner about this matter.

Bill Kvortek, 210 Emerson Street, questioned whether the Borough has on file the plans and specifications regarding the current sewer separation project. He also stated that the project would not of been approved without PennVest review and approval of the plans.

Dustin Hall, 540 Walnut Street, addressed Council in regards to a water leak causing flooding to his basement. He stated that the water company tested this and found that the water is coming from Beaver Run Water and is flowing through an old abandoned gas line.

Solicitor Loperfito requested Mr. Hall to provide him with a time line of events and that he would then contact the solicitor for the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mrs. Wilson, to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary requested Council to take action regarding the purchase of utility billing software system from Software Systems for the billing of the refuse and sewer recovery bills at a cost of \$9,910.00 plus training & conversion services. (See page 3-A)

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to approve the purchase of the aforementioned software. Motion carried.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary presented and reviewed the following correspondence received:

Exhibit 1-A: Dante Cellitti, 126 East Adams Avenue.

Subject: Request for restitution for repairs to correct water problem as a result of the sewer project.

Exhibit 2-A: Michael Cominos, President of the Kiski Valley Youth Football.

Subject: Request to use the Kennedy Park area for their practice sessions beginning July 27<sup>th</sup> through the month of October.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second Mr. Rametta, to approve the aforementioned request, subject to the rules and requirements set forth by the Recreation Committee. Motion carried.

Cost Estimate – ASP Installation of Ubility for Vandergrift Borough

<b>Vandergrift Borough Ubility Billing System Investment Summary</b>				
<i>Software</i>	<i>License Fee</i>	<i>Training</i>	<i>Value Added Services</i>	<i>Annual Support</i>
Ubility Primary Billing System	\$7,500.	\$125. / hour		\$1,200.
<b>Added Services</b>				
Project Management			\$1,000.	-
Installation and Configuration Services			\$1,000.	-
Data Conversion Services			\$125. / hour	-
Forms Development			\$750.	-
ASP Annual Service Fee				-
Bill Run and Delinquent Processing Services				\$960.
<i>Vandergrift Borough Discounts</i>	\$1,500.	-	\$1,000.	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$6,000.</b>	<b>\$125. / hour</b>	<b>\$1,750.</b>	<b>\$2,160.</b>
<b>Total Investment – First Year \$ 9,910.00 plus Training &amp; Conversion Services</b>				

Notes:

1. This Cost Estimate is for a two-user Ubility system for Vandergrift Borough completely set up on our ASP environment.
2. This bid includes quarterly operational services for billing and delinquency runs (\$960.00 per year).
3. Print and Mail services for post card bills are priced at \$.40 per bill. This includes the post card, printing, stamps, and mailing in the US Mail. Assuming 2,300 bills per quarter, this cost is \$920.00 per quarter.
4. This bid does NOT include the paper stock for the delinquency notice, or the stamps needed to mail them.
5. Forms Development includes a regular bill form, a Final bill form, and a Delinquent letter form.
6. Vandergrift personnel are responsible for all operational tasks except for quarterly regular bill runs and quarterly delinquent runs.
7. Data Conversion will be from two separate current systems – trash and sewer recovery.
8. Training and Data Conversion Services will be billed to the Borough on an hourly basis.
9. This bid assumes a three-year contract with the Borough.
10. Any travel expenses incurred will be billed back to the Borough at cost.

June 10, 2015

VANDERGRIFT BOROUGH COUNCIL  
109 GRANT AVENUE  
VANDERGIFT, PA 15690

ATTN: Borough Council Members

Dear Council Members;

I live at 126 East Adams Avenue. The contractor who installed the new sanitary sewer lines completed their work with the sidewalk and drainage pipes which provided a curb cut for roof leader connections in October 2014. I personally trenched on both sides of my house and installed a 4 inch corrugated plastic pipe with assorted fittings for my downspout connections into the pipe that was provided to me (please see the enclosed pictures during this work). I notified Bove Engineers after I made my connection when I realized the pipe installed by the contractor would not promote proper storm water runoff conveyance (see enclosed email). The drainage pipes were constructed to a slope pitched back towards my house (see enclosed picture with about an inch of standing water in pipe that was installed by contractors completing sidewalk work). Since the contractor installed drainage pipes in a manner that will not promote proper discharge, generated runoff water will be trapped at the low point where my connection ties in. Hydraulically there is not enough head pressure to force water through a backward sloped pipe onto the street. Based on the construction performed I believe this caused a chain event of issues with my house this winter.

The first issue is when the weather turns cold. Any water trapped within the low point of the drainage pipe will freeze and plug the pipe. The other issue arises when the streets are plowed in the winter time. Ice will form at the end of the pipes which will block any water from discharging properly. That compounds the drainage discharge concern with multiple issues.

On March 3rd and March 4th of 2015, we received a large amount of rainfall during that period of time. Compounding the issue further, this occurred immediately after a period of deep freeze. I attempted to unclog my drains at the curb cuts, but the ice was too thick. A hammer and a pick would not dislodge the ice (see enclosed pictures).

Unfortunately for me, the extreme change in weather set off a chain of events that subsequently came to fruition based on my concerns conveyed to Bove Engineering's Representative. All of the rain entering my downspouts and connecting pipes to the street had nowhere to discharge to. As stated previously, I used 4 inch corrugated plastic pipe to run my downspouts. The fittings used with this type of pipe did not create a water tight seal. With my connections to the street plugged, this forced all of the rain from my gutters out of the fittings and over saturated my yard and subgrade around my foundation. My basement began to take in water over night and I spent the entire night pumping water out from my basement. I estimate

approximately 420 gallons had to be pumped out of my basement. I am still in the process of cleaning all of the water damage in my basement from this.

As a note, last winter when my downspouts were still connected to the combined sanitary system (the contractors had not started the sewer project in my section yet at that point), even with the spring thaw I had no traces of any water in my basement. Therefore, I believe this was a result of the blockages in the system from the ice.

I am looking to the Borough for assistance to resolve this issue. I will make the repairs necessary to my basement from the water damage. To prevent this from happening again, I want to replace the 4 inch corrugated pipe system with PVC pipe so I do not have leaks at the joints, and I want to install an overflow system in the event that the connection points to the road are plugged the water will still have a place to discharge to. I have already done this work and paid for all of the materials once. I think it would be fair to request material reimbursement for the components to complete this work so the system will function whether the pipes are blocked up water freezing in the low point of the lines or not. Ideally, I would like to correct the drainage pipe constructed by the contractor under my sidewalk but that was part of the contract with Vandergrift.

I work at an engineering firm and design work similarly to the construction performed for Vandergrift Borough. I have a full understanding of the work performed. However, no contract is perfect and there are always modifications required to be performed. I know I am not the only resident that had a personal conflict with the project regarding issues similar to this. Not knowing what quality control/inspection protocols were in place at the time, this issue was clearly evident enough to me that something needed to be done thus my meeting with Bove Engineering. Unfortunately my concerns expressed to them did indeed transpire.

There is always retainage withheld on Public Contracts such as this to take care of corrective measures after construction and none of those measure were applied to address my concern. I don't believe that I should be bear the responsibility of incurring such remediation costs for an issue I did not create.

Please see my enclosed estimate for materials that I will need to replace my current downspout conveyance system. If I cannot be reimbursed for these materials, I hope this letter will at least serve as a notification that someone needs to pay closer attention to how these pipes are being installed. I understand there are elevation and site limitations and restrictions, but if the limitations require these pipes to be installed sloping in the wrong direction, this method should not even be an option to consider. It will be sure to cause issues in the future.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 412-612-8447. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Dante Cellitti



Cost Estimate for PVC Piping and Fittings(From Lowes)

100 LF 4" PVC Pipe.....	\$8.99 per 10 feet.....	\$89.90
3 tee fittings.....	\$3.86 each.....	\$11.58
3 Downspout connectors.....	\$2.99 each.....	\$8.97
3 Wye Connectors.....	\$5.86 each.....	\$17.58
3 Plugs for Wye Connectors.....	\$2.11 each.....	\$6.33
3 female adapters for wye plugs...	\$3.61 each.....	\$10.83
2 Shielded Fernco fittings.....	\$8.98 each.....	\$17.96
2 overflow devices.....	\$6.00 each.....	\$12.00
6-4 inch couplers.....	\$1.82 each.....	\$10.92
4-45 bend fitting.....	\$2.77 each.....	\$11.08
4-22.5 bend fitting.....	\$2.43 each.....	\$9.72
<u>6-90 bend fittings.....</u>	<u>\$3.37 each.....</u>	<u>\$20.22</u>
Total		\$227.09
Tax		\$15.89
Grand Total.....		\$242.98

## Dante C. Cellitti

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**From:** Dante C. Cellitti  
**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2014 12:08 PM  
**To:** 'Lucien Bove, PE'  
**Subject:** RE: Vandergrift Sewer Separation Question

Hi Lucien,

I doubt anything can be done at this point, but I wanted to bring it to someone's attention.

I started connecting my roof drains to the stubs provided in front of my house on East Adams. When I tested them, I ran a hose in the lines I installed for almost a minute and no water came out onto the street. It appears the lines that were installed by the contractors under the new sidewalk slope upwards to the street. I am using corrugated plastic pipe and fittings to connect to the smooth line pipe the contractors installed. The water flows backwards out of the pipe in the sidewalk and when it runs backwards of the fittings, it leaks and fills the trench with water. If I start over and use smooth walled pipe it would eliminate the leak, but the pipe would still be full of water for some duration and I worry about freezing and cracking. I took some pictures of my installation and the water leaking.

Dante C. Cellitti, RLA, CPESC  
Project Manager



Morris Knowles & Associates, Inc.  
*(A Hammontree Company)*  
*Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors*  
443 Athena Drive  
Delmont, PA 15626  
Phone: 724-468-4622  
Fax: 724-468-8940  
Weirton WV Branch office: 304-794-4133  
Email:  
Web: [www.mornsknowles.com](http://www.mornsknowles.com)

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**From:** Lucien Bove, PE [mailto:[boveengineering@comcast.net](mailto:boveengineering@comcast.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2014 1:57 PM  
**To:** Dante C. Cellitti  
**Subject:** Re: Vandergrift Sewer Separation Question

That may be possible. You may need to cut the curbs which I believe may be stone.

----- Original Message -----  
**From:** [Dante C. Cellitti](mailto:Dante.C.Cellitti)  
**To:** [Lucien Bove, PE](mailto:Lucien.Bove.PE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2014 12:06 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Vandergrift Sewer Separation Question



Kiski Valley Youth Football  
632 2nd Street  
Leechburg, PA 15656

June 29, 2015

As we begin our 50th season of serving the youth of Vandergrift, as well as from the entire Kiski Valley we are again in position of coming to you in order to ask permission to continue to utilize Kennedy Park for the purpose of our cheerleading and football practices.

Over the years, I feel as though we have made great strides in working together to use our park to give our children the skills of cooperation, teamwork, and sportsmanship through sports. We appreciate the facility that you have provided to us in the past. We continue to strive to keep our park clean and keep people coming into the community.

By the league rules in which we participate, we will begin practice on July 27th and continue through the month of October. Very early in the season we will be practicing 5 days per week starting around 6:00 and ending at approximately 8:00. As the season moves forward and darkness falls on an earlier hour, we reduce the number of practices and begin to move practice to 5:30 and end around 7:30. In addition, we will continue to work with you around the various festivals and activities you have in the park throughout this time frame.

If there are any items in which you feel we need to discuss I would be glad to sit with you in order to make that happen. I look forward to hearing from you and hope that we can continue this tradition of Kiski Valley Youth Football in the Vandergrift community.

Sincerely,

Michael Cominos  
President

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

Subject: Request to use the concession stand at Kennedy Park for the purpose of operating an ice cream shop titled "32 Below".

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

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

The Secretary presented a request from Bove Engineering Company to approve the submission of a PennVest Request Payment No. 17 in the amount of \$502,263.19. He stated that this amount reflects the reimbursement of interest estimate No. 14 in the amount of \$1,057.14; 2A Construction Estimate No. 16 (Monzo) in the amount of \$204,034.21; 2B Construction Estimate No. 16 (Johnston) in the amount of \$249,746.84; and Engineering Estimate No. 18 in the amount of \$47,425.00.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Sciallo, to approve the aforementioned matter. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

No Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Lucian Bove stated that it is unfortunate in regards to water/sewer damage to the basements of homes following the recent rainstorm. He stated that this rain event was one that produced 4.75 inches of water in a short period of time, and with many of the residents still have their downspouts tied into the sewer system, contributed to this problem. He stated that the 8" sewer line install, at a .5% slope, was designed to handle approximately 600 homes. He also stated that since this occurrence, letters have been sent to those residents who have not taken their downspouts out of the sewer system. He stated that of the 216 homes, there remains 162 homes that have not complied.

Mr. Collini questioned why the area of Longfellow and Wallace has been dug-up 4-5 times.

Mr. Bove stated that the lines were repaired by the water and gas company.

# Vandergrift Fire Department No. 2

229 Emerson Street  
Vandergrift, PA 15690  
724-567-7211

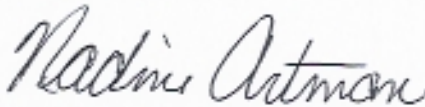
July 5, 2015

Dear Vandergrift Council,

Members of Vandergrift Fire Department No. 2 have been brainstorming ideas to help improve the town of Vandergrift and provide our community with not only fire service but numerous ways for families to enjoy fun and entertainment within the town.

Vandergrift Fire Department No. 2 is asking your permission to utilize the concession stand behind the stage on Jackson Avenue to open an ice cream shop. This shop will be titled "32 Below". We are looking to open this year in August and run until November. Hours of operation will be 4:00p.m. to 10:00p.m. Vandergrift Fire Department No. 2 will provide equipment, supplies, and employees to run operations. The operations committee will consist of Steve Potoka, Jim Caporali, and Nadine Artman. We would like to hear your thoughts and opinions and finalize details at your convenience if this is something the borough would like to support. Our goal is to provide families of Vandergrift with a safe and fun atmosphere. Any questions please contact Steve Potoka (724-882-3765).

Thank you,



Nadine Artman  
Secretary

Lucien stated Monzo Construction & Glenn Johnston, Inc. have both requested an time extension for the sewer separation project until October 31, 2015.

Following a discussion of this request, a motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, grant a 30 day extension to August 31, 2015, and that this will be readdressed at the September meeting. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

Solicitor Loperfito requested Engineer Bove to provide Officer Rigatti with a list of residents who have not removed their downspouts.

Engineer Bove stated that the Westmoreland County Planning Department has approved the awarding of the CD Street Construction Project to Tresco Paving Corp., the low bidder at \$301,470.00. He stated that Council will need to formally award the bid at this time.

A motion was made Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Rametta, to approve the aforementioned bid contract to Tresco Paving Corp. Motion carried.

At this time Council acted on the bid submitted for the resurfacing Delaware Avenue from J. M. Paving, Inc. at a cost of \$41,144.20. The following action was taken on this matter:

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to direct the Solicitor to prepare an ordinance setting forth a weight restriction of ten (10) ton on Delaware Avenue. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to transfer the rotomill part of bid of \$ 8,459.20 to be used to repair the soft area of Delaware. Motion carried with Mr. Rametta opposing and Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to award the resurfacing of Delaware Avenue at the price of \$41,144.20. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Collini, to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

No Report

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

The following action was taken by Council:

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Rametta, to hire William W. Weber 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. Rametta, second by Mr. Sciallo, to grant Timothy Foeks, 501 Lowell St., a disability parking space. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Collini, to grant Fred Carricato, 541 Walnut St., a disability parking space. Motion carried with President Carricato abstaining.

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

No Report

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson stated that M & M Tree Service has been delayed in starting to trim and/or remove trees due his truck being down for repairs. She stated that work should begin with a couple days.

Mrs. Wilson stated that she received a call from Jeff Cox of East Vandergrift regarding a tree along the hillside of High Street following on to house in East Vandergrift. She requested the Solicitor to determine who owns the property that falls within the Vandergrift Borough.

Mr. Sciallo stated that the responsibility regarding this incident should fall on to the owner of this property, not the Borough.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Collini stated that Street a Week organization has performed a clean-up at Kennedy Park.

Mr. Collini stated that on July 10<sup>th</sup>, the Vandergrift Library will be holding a "Summer Fest" at Kennedy Park, with games and food. He also stated that there will be a "movie in the park".

Mr. Collini stated that there was an accident incident at the pool fence. He questioned who owns the fence.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Rametta questioned whether anything has been done regarding structures with disrepair.

President Carricato stated that Vince Marsili has been cited for failure to make the necessary repairs to the roof of his building at the corner of Walnut & Poplar Streets.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that he had written a letter to the owner of the former Anchor Building on Washington Avenue to take the necessary steps to bring the structure up to code. He stated that he has not received a response to date.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the water company has replaced the bricks on Linden Street, but the gas company has yet to replace the bricks at the intersection of Linden & Sycamore Streets.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that he would contact the gas company about this matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Wilson informed Council that the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority has purchase a Jet Vac Truck at a price of \$340,00.00. She stated that they raised the rate for the use of this machine to \$175.00 per hour, plus the rate of two men.

Mrs. Wilson reported that the clean fill deposited behind the property of Thomas Holmes, Bryant Street, has slide due to the rainfall. She stated that she is concerned as to whether the dirt slide may have covered up a man-hole and catch basin and should be addressed.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that he would contact Mr. Holmes about this matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Rametta, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

## NOTICE OF ABSTENTION

I, Christine A. Wilson, Councilperson for the Borough of Vandergrift located in the County of Westmoreland and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby set forth this affirmative declaration of abstention regarding any matter involving Bove Engineering. I am employed by Bove Engineering and as such, under the Ethics Act, I shall not engage in any restricted activities as is set forth under Section 1103 of the State Ethics Act. Pursuant to said section of the Ethics Act, I set forth this written memorandum, filed with the Borough Secretary of the Borough of Vandergrift advising that I am unable to take any action on a matter involving Bove Engineering. I acknowledge that I have a conflict regarding matters that would financially impact Bove Engineering and cannot participate and must comply with the disclosure requirements of Section 1103(j) of the State Ethics Act. I acknowledge that my conflict in this matter, includes making motions and voting, and also includes actions such as lobbying other members, speaking as to motions or advocating for a certain result.

I do hereby execute this document in accordance with the requirements of the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission disclosure requirements and apply the same to all actions, on behalf of Bove Engineering which may arise before the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift as of the date, time and meeting identified in the minutes of the Borough meeting.

*Christine A. Wilson*  
CHRISTINE A. WILSON

July 6, 2015