

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT  
MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL

OCTOBER 5, 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 Sciuillo
Brian Carricato	Frank Moliterno
James Rametta	Lenny Collini
Christine Wilson	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

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

MINUTES:

The minutes of the August 3, 2015 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

Karen Cramer, 910 Holland Street, questioned how many bags of trash can be placed out for collection by residents. She stated that it is unfair for someone with only one bag to pay the same as someone setting out several, and to also include sofas etc.

President Carricato stated that there is no limit. He stated that this is why the Borough offers a great service for its residents. He also stated that because the Borough does not have a clean-up day, this allows the residents an opportunity to dispose of discarded items.

Bill Spang, 219 Holmes, informed Council that his claim to the insurance company in the amount of \$200.00 due to flooding, has been denied. He did commend the Borough for corrected the problems.

Mary Domiano, 410 Lowell Street, addressed Council in regards to there being no curbing in front of her house, and thereby allows drainage water to flow on to her property.

Mrs. Wilson stated that curb has deteriorated and should be replaced.

President Carricato requested that the Engineer look into this problem and bring back a recommendation and costs.

James Held, 201 Holmes Street, requested that something be done about the structure located at 212 Holmes Street. He stated that the owner started the demolition but has failed to complete it.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that this matter will be turned over to the Code Officer.

Mr. Held questioned whether it is legal for a resident to paint the curb in front of his residence.

Tammy Domiano, 109 Lowell Street, requested that her concrete driveway be sealed.

Mrs. Wilson stated that this matter would be taken care of.

Mrs. Domiano requested that action be taken to prohibit her neighbor from parking on her street because this makes it impossible for her to move her vehicle.

Mrs. Domiano also requested that something be done about the high grass located at 107 Lowell Street. She also stated that there is no water at this residence.

Stephanie Schwenning, 159 Columbia Ave., informed Council that she pricked her finger on a syringe needle found in her yard. She stated that she tried to contact an officer about this matter.

Jim Williams, 126 Oregon Avenue, questioned when the work will commence on Delaware Avenue.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the work has been awarded and should start within two weeks.

Mr. Williams stated that something needs to be done about the structure located at 123 Oregon Avenue. He stated that the owner is currently trying to rebuild and questioned whether this is legal.

Lydia Bertelle, 929 Cooper Street, questioned whether someone is permitted to reside in a camper that is located at 927 Cooper St.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary informed Council that he received an e-mail from Ron Rowe, in which he states that he is resigning his position as the Director of Emergency Management as of September 13, 2015.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Collini, to accept Mr. Rowe's resignation. Motion carried.

The Secretary question whether the Engineer was going to submit a Community Development Block Grant application for the October 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Engineer Lucien Bove stated that Borough has already used up its 3 year allocation. However, he stated that there may be funds available to perform work on streets affected by the sewer separation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciuillo, second by Mr. Collini, to authorize the Engineer to submit an application for a 2016 Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried.

The Secretary stated that the Borough's workmen compensation insurance company is strongly recommending that Council adopt a "Back to Work Police". He stated that failure to do so may jeopardize the renewal of this coverage.

*policy*

Following a discussion of this matter, President Carricato recommended that any action of this matter be postponed until the November meeting.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Exhibit 1-A: Jean Holmes, 113 East Adams Avenue.

Subject: Request to have tree removed in front of her house at her expense.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the policy of the Borough is to not remove any trees unless they are deceased.

President Carricato stated that he would talk to Ms. Holmes about this request.

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

The Secretary presented a request from Bove Engineering Company to approve the submission of a Pennvest Payment Request No. 20 in the amount of \$334,984.66. (See page 4-A)

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to approve the aforementioned request to submit PennVest Payment No. 20. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

Engineer Lucien Bove stated that he is also requesting approval of Change Order 2 (Phase 2a No.1: \$215,556.75 and Change Order 3 (Phase 2B No. 2: \$215,624.08.

Mr. Bove explained that the two change orders must first be approved by Council and forwarded to DEP before any requests for payments can be made by PennVest.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Moliterno, to approve the aforementioned change orders. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

Lucien Bove stated that it will cost approximately an additional \$200,000 to complete the sewer separation project. He stated that he has spoken to Larry Gasparato, PennVest, regarding the funding of this additional amount in the form of grant, or most likely, a loan. He stated that he felt confident that additional monies will be approved.

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Sciallo stated that the Borough Crew will be going back to its regular work schedule of 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Exh. b. f 1-4

113 East Adams Avenue  
Vandergrift PA 15690  
October 5, 2015

Vandergrift Borough Council  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift PA 15690

Gentlemen/Ladies:

I am a property owner at 113 East Adams Avenue, and have a sunburst locust tree in my front yard, which I had planted nineteen years ago. The tree sheds small leaves and thin twigs from July through October, and is becoming increasingly difficult and toilsome to maintain so as to be an asset to the neighborhood.

I am respectfully requesting your permission to have the tree removed. This would be at my expense.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter; I await your prompt reply.

Sincerely

*Jean Holmes*

724/567-5580

4-A

Theresa Geltz

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**From:** Lucien Bove, PE <boveengineering@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2015 12:03 PM  
**To:** Stephen DelleDonne  
**Cc:** Brian Carricato; Mike Bove  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Sewer Separation

Hi Steve,

For Tonight's meeting, we will be submitting the following PennVest Change Orders, Payment Estimates and Payment Request for Council's approval (Note: the Payment Request form cannot be generated and no funds can be requested until Change Orders No.s 2 and 3 are approved by the Borough):

Phase 2 Change Orders

- Change Order 2 (Phase 2A No.1): \$215,556.75 ... (Includes 2A Estimate 19)
- Change Order 3 (Phase 2B No.2): \$215,624.08 ... (Includes 2B Estimate 19)

Phase 2 Payment Estimates

- Interest During Construction (Apollo Trust) Estimate No. 17 in the amount of \$1,057.15
- Engineering Estimate No. 21 in the amount of \$1,920.00
- Phase 2A Construction Estimate No. 19 in the amount of \$144,272.41
- Phase 2B Construction Estimate No. 19 in the amount of \$187,735.10

Phase 2 Payment Request

- (once the above change orders are approved the system will allow us to generate the Payment Request form)
- PennVest Payment Request No. 20 in the amount of \$334,984.66 corresponding to the above Estimates

We will bring the hard copies of the Estimates to the meeting. The Request will not be ready for your E-Signature until after you receive an email notice from PennVest to do so. The signed hard copies will be for our records and Borough records.

Please note that we anticipate that this request will begin the "holdback" since we have reached 95% of the PennVest funds. In the interim, while we request additional funds from PennVest, we have been advised by PennVest that the Borough needs to cover the costs over and above the 95% funding until the additional funds are approved by DEP. This can be paid using the interim funds. The Borough will need to cover the 5% holdback of the construction contracts (\$9,236,405.95) which equals \$461,820.30 plus the final costs of construction. The 5% holdback plus the final adjusted change orders will not exceed the \$800,000 interim financing amount established for this project.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Lucien Bove, PE  
Bove Engineering Company  
8201 Route 819  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
Phone: 724-925-9269

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

#### ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Lucien Bove reported that the CD Street Reconstruction is almost complete. He stated that there are some risers to be installed, sealing of pavement, and installation of traffic sensors.

Michael Bove reported that the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority will be notified that two (2) diversion chambers will be closed.

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

#### BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Chvala stated that all budget requests for 2016 have been received. She stated that she will be calling a Budget Meeting some time next <sup>w e e k</sup> to begin work on the proposed 2016 budget of the Vandergrift Borough.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Moliterno, to accept the Budget & Finance Report. Motion carried.

#### POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Moliterno stated that Judy Holt has resigned her position as a full-time crossing guard.

A motion was made by Mr. Moliterno, second by Mr. Rametta, to accept Ms. Holt's resignation. Motion carried.

Mr. Moliterno stated that the Committee is recommending the hiring of Melanie Sader to fill the vacant full-time school crossing guard position.

A motion was made Mr. Moliterno, second by Mr. Rametta, to hire Melanie Sader as a full-time school crossing guard position effective November 2, 2015. Motion carried.

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

#### BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Rametta reported that the project at the Columbia Parking Lot has been completed except for the installation of the new lighting.

Mrs. Wilson recommended the railings along the steps from Lowell St. to Cooper be addressed. She stated that they are rusting and deteriorating. She also stated that the flag pole on Cooper St. is in need of repairs.

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

#### TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson stated that she has completed the removal and trimming of trees throughout the Borough for this year, and that she has gone over her budget.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the Sycamore trees on Washington Avenue are in bad shape and should be addressed, of which, the cost will be great.

Solicitor Loperfido recommended that the work on this tress be only done be spot trimming only.

Mr. Rametta stated that the trees in Franklin Avenue Park also need trimmed.

Mrs. Wilson stated that these are on her list for next year.

Mrs. Chvala stated that Ronald Romagni would like permission to plant a tree in the "Cut" in memory of his father, and at a later date, install a bench with a memorial plaque. She stated that he would like to plant a Golden Beech. She stated that Mr. Romagni would assume the cost of the tree, but has asked if the Borough would assist with the planting.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Rametta, to approve the aforementioned request, with the location of the tree be approved by the Recreation Committee. Motion carried.

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

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

President Carricato stated that he met with the superintendent of the Kiski Area School District in regards to having a tribute to Davis Field on October 23, 2015, with an invitation to all alumni of the school to attend. He stated that this will be the last home game this year.

President Carricato stated the event will stated with a parade that will start on Grant Avenue to Franklin Avenue to Jackson Avenue, where a cookout is planned at the Gazebo.



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

#### RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Collini expresses appreciation to Julie Martine and the V.I.P. for hosting the Arts & Crafts event this year.

Mr. Collini stated that the No. 2 Fire Dept. will be holding Octoberfest on October 24<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that this year's Halloween Trick or Treat will be held on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, and a Truck or Treat to be held at Kennedy Park on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

In regards to the Vandergrift Pool, Mr. Collini stated that the winterization will be started and that within a week a leak detection company will be here to located additional leaks.

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

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Loperfito stated that he will need an executive session of Council for the purpose of discussing a negotiation and litigation matter.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that the Borough Engineer has supplied a list of property owners who have not complied with the removal of downspouts from the new sewer system. Of the 31 properties, He stated that 11 have complied and 4 working on this. With the remaining 16 not in compliance, he recommended the filing of citations and will provide list to Chief Caporali.

Solicitor Loperfito presented for adoption Ordinance No. 6-2015, which amends the Borough's tapping fee to include a Tapping Fee-Capacity Portion Fee of \$510.00 which was established by the K.V.W.P.C.A.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Rametta, to adopt Ordinance No. 6-2015. Motion carried.

In regards to the weight restriction limit on Delaware Avenue, Solicitor Loperfito stated he will advertise two notices: October 9<sup>th</sup> & October 13<sup>th</sup>, following which the proper signs can be installed on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Rametta stated that the old Koontz Building on Washington Avenue needs attention. He stated that there is a crack on the wall of the rear of the building from the top to bottom.

Mr. Rametta stated that Ernie Sipilino, 146 Washington Avenue, should be cited for failure to either restore or remove the building following the fire damage.

Mr. Rametta questioned what has been done to the structure at the corner of Walnut & Poplar Streets, owned by Vince Marsili.

Chief Caporali stated that citations have been filed regarding this structure.

In regards to the former 5 & 10 Building on Grant Avenue, Mr. Rametta stated that this matter needs to be addressed.

President Carricato stated that April Kopas, of the County Landbank Program, was interested in this building, but was unable to move forward due to the school board not on board with project.

Mr. Rametta recommended that Council approve the advertisement for the auction of the former Vandergrift Senior Citizen Building on Spruce Street.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to direct the Solicitor to move forward on this matter. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Wilson stated that Todd Fasano purchased the property at 130 Alabama Avenue, and is having certain drainage problems where the outfall pipe extends into the creek. She stated that he would like to have this pipe extended out further.

President Carricato turned this matter over to the Engineer and to bring back a report and cost figures.

At 8:48 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Sciuolo, second by Mr. Rametta, to call an executive session of Council for the purpose of discussing a negotiation and litigation matter. Motion carried.

At 9:02 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Sciuolo, second by Mr. Rametta, to return to the regular order of business, and to state that no action of Council was taken during the executive session. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.