

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFF
MINUTES OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

JUNE 24, 2013

The Council of the Borough of Vandergrift met in the Casino Theater at 7:00 p.m. with President Carricato presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Louis Purificato, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfito, Solicitor	Lucian & Michael Bove, Engineers

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING:

To discuss, with the public, Phase II Sewer Separation Project.

VISITORS:

Approximately nineteen (19) visitors were in attendance.

OPENING STATEMENT:

At this time President Carricato addressed the public with opening statement. (See pages 1-A & 1-B)

ENGINEER'S REVIEW OF PHASE II:

At this time Lucian and Michael Bove provided a general scope of the work to be done regarding the sewer separation in Phase 2A & 2B. Lucian Bove stated that the total project is estimated to cost \$10,880,300. He stated that the Borough has been approve for a PennVest grant in the amount of \$2,648,965 and a 30 year loan of \$8,231,355.

Lucian Bove stated that the project will affect approximately 1214 sewer connections. He stated that bids for this project will be opened at the October 7, 2013 meeting of Council. He stated that the project will take approximately two (2) years to complete and

STATEMENT

A few years ago, I stood on this stage and explained to you that Vandergrift was behind most of the other 13 member communities of the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority in separating our sanitary and storm sewers. As a result of the delays, it has been necessary for Vandergrift to push forward to separate. As you will note from viewing your sewer bills, your rates have risen substantially as a result of the lack of separation by Vandergrift. In fact, you are paying many times more than other municipalities that have completed separation. Our goal is to try to level the playing field through the sewer separation projects.

Some of you have already endured a separation project. We are glad to report that it was not nearly as difficult as it could have been and that was as a result of a well-seasoned, well-trained contractor on the job. Also, you didn't feel the pain of any costs associated with this project because we were able to secure a four million dollar grant to complete the first part of the project. Now we move on to Phase II.

Phase II is a larger portion of the town. This project is valued at over ten and half million dollars. We are fortunate to report that a portion of this money will be grant money. Approximately 2.8 million dollars of grant money will again be coming to the Borough of Vandergrift. This will make our total receipts of grant money for this project to close to seven million dollars. The downside is that there is a portion of this project that must be paid by loan. That amount is approximately eight million dollars. Unfortunately, there is no way around this problem. It is our hope that once this project is completed and once the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority completes new flow testing on the sewers in the Borough of Vandergrift, your rates through the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority will be lowered. That is a promise that Mr. Kossak, Manager of the Authority, made to us when he

~~presented this case to the Borough Council a few years ago~~
PRESENTED THIS CASE TO THE BOROUGH COUNCIL A FEW YEARS AGO

Tonight, we intend to present to you the outline of what is going to occur in Phase II. This is a larger phase, more complex because of its size and it is our hope that this phase will proceed as smoothly as Phase I. There are always challenges when you are working underground. You cannot see underground and you are required to rely on old maps, mapping projects that were completed by the Borough a few years ago and the skill of the contractor. However, we can assure that if we find something underground that is a surprise, we will work through the problem and continue to improve the infrastructure of our Borough.

Vandergrift is a proud older town. Anytime you want to revitalize a town, you must start with the basics, which include the infrastructure. The goal of our Council is to continue to improve the infrastructure of the Borough of Vandergrift, including the sewers and soon, the streets of our town. We thank you for attending tonight and we look forward to your questions and comments on the project.

that work will commence on January of 2014.

SOLICITOR, LARRY LOPERFITO:

Solicitor Loperfito stated that residents may be contacted about a possible right-a-way agreement by the Borough Engineer. He stated this agreement will provide the Borough permission to enter one's property for the purpose of installing a line. He stated that any work on one's property will be properly restored.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Arlene Crossan, West Adams, question whether she should perform work on her lateral at this time.

Lucia Bove stated that she should wait at this time. He stated that he will take a look at her property and advise.

Frances Milie, 100 block of Longfellow Street, questioned whether the work on 2A & 2B will be done simultaneously.

Lucian Bove state that the work will be done simultaneously if two contractors are awarded the project and not if only one contractor receives the bid.

Marie Haluscak, 206 Longfellow St., questioned any of the abandoned building on Longfellow Street will receive a tap.

Lucian Bove stated that they will receive a tap that is capped.

Anthony Ferrante questioned what happens to the old sewer lines.

Lucian Bove stated that they are dug up and removed in most cases.

Bill Spang, Holmes St., questioned whether there will be a tap-in fees.

Lucia Bove stated that there will be no tap-in fees.

Mr. Spang questioned the line that runs through his property.

Michael Bove stated that this is a storm line and will remain as is.

Frances Milie question why the sewer recovery fee will increase to \$18.00 per month.

President Carricato explained that PennVest required the Borough to insure PennVest

that the Borough has provided sufficient funding to pay for the eight million dollar loan.

Marilee Kessler questioned whether the Borough will require dye tests prior to the sale of a property.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that only downspouts are required to be separated at this time and that dye testing will come at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.