

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFF
MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFF COUNCIL

MARCH 4, 2013

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Louis Purificato, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfito, Solicitor	
Michael & Lucien Bove, Engineers	Joseph Caporali, Police Chief

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 4, 2013 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. Rametta, to hear from visitors at this time. Motion carried.

Jim Alera, representing the Vandergriff Meals On Wheels, addressed Council for the purpose of obtaining permission in erecting a structure within the Kennedy Park area to house a kitchen facility and parking area for the Vandergriff Meals On Wheels program.

Mrs. Wilson suggested that Mr. Alera contact someone from the Vandergriff Senior Citizen Center about using their facility, of which, has a new stainless steel kitchen.

Mr. Alera stated that would contact someone from the Center.

Mr. Collini stated that the upper floor of the Senior Citizen Center may also be a possibility for the meals on wheels.

Mr. Rametta stated that the upper floor of the building will require extensive work.

Mr. Alera stated that his organization could provide financial assistance.

President Carricato suggested that Mr. Rametta and Mr. Alera meet to discuss the aforementioned suggestions.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Purificato stated that he received a letter from Ted Kopas, Westmoreland County Commissioner, requesting the Borough Council to adopt a resolution in support of Governor Corbet's proposed initiatives to increase funding for transportation.

Solicitor Loperfito presented for Council's adoption Resolution No. 2-2013 regarding the above matter. (See page 2-A)

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No Report

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

No Report

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Exhibit 1-A: Bert Getto, Westmoreland County Planning Department.

Subject: Letter informing the Borough that the planned street construction project planned for 2013 has been will not be funded with CDBG funds.

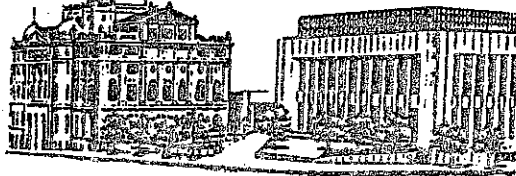
R. Tyler Courtney
Commissioner

Charles W. Anderson
Chairman

Exhibit 1-A

Ted Kopas
Commissioner

Westmoreland County Pennsylvania



DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
A DIVISION OF THE
WESTMORELAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
FIFTH FLOOR, SUITE 520
40 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
GREENSBURG PA 15601

Telephone:
(724) 830-3600
FAX: (724) 830-3611
TDD: (724) 830-3802

February 5, 2013

VANDERGRIFT BOROUGH
Attn: Municipal Officials
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

RE: 2013 Westmoreland County
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Dear Municipal Officials:

As you may be aware, the 2011 and 2012 federal budgets reduced the CDBG Program by approximately 33%. At the local level, this has resulted in funding cuts of nearly \$1.5 million. As these funds continue to diminish, it will be more important than ever for Westmoreland County to maximize its CDBG investment by reviewing each project application for cost effectiveness and the ratio of other funds committed to the project.

All 2013 CDBG applications for eligible projects, meeting a national objective and containing the required supporting documentation were considered for funding. Due to the number of projects submitted for funding consideration, combined with the anticipated reduction in CDBG funding for 2013, all projects could not be funded. In the cases of multiple priorities, the top priorities were considered. The following project(s) will not be funded:

Street Reconstruction: Cooper, Poplar, 22nd, Irving and Walnut Streets; Grant Avenue

If you would like the project(s) to be considered for 2014 funding or possibly in a future program amendment, a new application must be submitted by October 31, 2013 that includes an updated cost estimate and any additional information required for the application such as maps, income surveys, etc. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Thank you for your continued interest and participation in the CDBG Program. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bert Getto".

Bert Getto
Assistant Deputy Director

BG

**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

www.dot.pa.gov

February 4, 2013

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER

Vandergrift Borough, Westmoreland County

State Route 56

SR 56 Vandergrift Concrete PM Project

Parcel #: 37-01-02-00-0101; 0004; 0160; 0005; 0033; 0035; 0006; 0022; 0284; 0353; 37-01-05-00-0002; 0001

Vandergrift Boro

151 Lincoln Avenue

Vandergrift, PA 15690

Dear Property Owner:

In line with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT's) responsibility to develop plans for highway improvements in your area, PennDOT employees or consultants or contractors may need to enter your land in order to conduct surveys, engineering studies, soil exploration, tests, and/or soundings to gather information. This entry is authorized by the Pennsylvania Eminent Domain Code and may include the use of core drilling rigs and/or other equipment.

PennDOT will notify you personally, if possible, prior to any entry. Please be assured that our entry to conduct these studies DOES NOT MEAN that your property has been selected for transportation improvements. In the event that a transportation improvement does affect your property, you will be contacted personally by a PennDOT representative.

Our studies will be performed as courteously and quickly as possible. Our employees or agents will correct any disturbances to your property upon completion of their work.

Should you have any concerns about workers' entry, please notify, Chad Mosco, Project Manager, at 724-357-2080 or feel free to discuss any concerns with on-site personnel.

We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in our task of planning and designing better transportation facilities for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Chelednik, P.E.
Plans & Services Engineer
Engineering District 10-0

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

Station 51

Thomas M. Schaeffer, Chief
Michael J. Reilly, President
724-567-7171
www.vfr51.com

March 2, 2013

Vandergrift Council,

The Vandergrift No.1 and No.2 Fire Departments are once again planning a joint fund raising effort consisting of the annual carnival and an Ethnic Day celebration to be held Tuesday; May 28 thru Saturday; June 1, 2013. We are, as a result, requesting the use of Kennedy Park from Walnut Street north to the middle sidewalk and from Jackson Avenue west to Kennedy Drive. Please accept this request to include the gazebo and all associated utilities (i.e. water and electric).

The events will operate on May 28th - 30th (Tues, Wed, & Thur) from 5:00PM To 10:00PM; on Friday, May 31st from 5:00PM to 12:00AM and on Saturday, June 1st from Noon to 12AM. Activities being planned include carnival rides and the associated games and food concessions, as well as a variety of local food and craft vendors and various types of live entertainment/bands. We are also attempting to schedule public interest and safety events during the week. The departments will ensure that all the proper permits and licenses are in place for the operation of this event.

This event has the potential to provide one of our largest sources of local fund raising and public relations for the year. We would like to thank you in advance for your ongoing support and co-operation.

Please feel free to contact any of the following individuals for any further information.

Michael Reilly
President
Vandergrift No.1
(412) 558-5673

Albert Wells
President
Vandergrift No.2
(724) 594-6781

Mark Fairman
Secretary
Vandergrift No.1
(724) 994-0909

Jennifer Potoka
Secretary
Vandergrift No.2
(724) 6811995

Exhibit 2-A: Craig Chelednik, PennDot engineer.

Subject: Notice of planned highway improvements through the Borough.

Exhibit 3-A: Michael Reilly, President of Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department.

Subject: Request for use of Kennedy Park facilities the annual carnival and Ethnic Day celebration to be held from May 28th thru June 1st. The events are sponsored by both Vandergrift fire departments.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciullo, second y Mr. Collini, to approve the aforementioned events at Kennedy Park, contingent upon the fire departments working with the Recreation Committee and providing the proper certificates of insurance during the event period. Motion carried..

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

The Secretary presented an invoice in the amount of \$11,122.60 from R.A.Monzon Contruction regarding the emergency sewer line repair on the 200 block of Lowell Street. He stated that this payment represents 80% of the total project cost of \$14,635.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciullo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to approve payment of the aforementioned invoice as presented. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

The Secretary presented a request from Bove Engineering Company to approve the submission of a PennVest Request Payment No. 11 in the amount\$158,799.58. He stated that this amount reflects engineering fees of \$15,167.50 and construction cost of \$143,632.08.

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

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Sciullo reported that the Borough has reached its 60% quota of salt to be purchase for this year, and therefore, eliminating the salt problem that he faced last year. Mr. Sciullo also stated that he has reduced the amount of salt for the 2013-2014 season from 850 tons to 750 tons.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Rametta, to accept the Streets & Sanitation Report. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Michael Bove reported on the following:

1. Phase I Sewer Separation Project is proceeding well.
2. Will be attempting to set up a meeting with the officials of Allegheny Ludlum regarding a number of issues.
3. After the completion of Phase I, he will be checking the removal of downspouts of the residents in Phase I.

Engineer Lucian Bove reported on the following:

1. Received approval from PennDot on the Traffic Control Plan for the detour of Holland Street. He stated that they had to prepare a Winter Event Plan which was also accepted.
2. The application to PennVest for Phase 2-A & B has been successfully submitted.
3. He stated a concurrence letter from the Vandergrift Planning Commission is needed as soon as possible.
4. He stated that a Request for Categorical Excursion letter to DEP is also needed. (See page 4-A)
5. He stated that information from Allegheny Ludlum regarding employment and investments at the site for the Impact Section, as the DCED has asked for a clarification and additional information regarding the Phase II Project. He stated that he has been asked to inquire if Allegheny Ludlum will agree to create at least one job and/or provide any company investments for this project within the next three years.

Mr. Moliterno stated that the streets in the area of the sewer separation project are in horrible condition, especially along the area of Walnut and Oak Streets. He questioned if the streets are going to be resurfaced. He also stated that something needs to be done.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the PennVest will only fund the resurfacing of the areas disturbed in installing the new sewer lines.

Mr. Moliterno questioned why the streets in Apollo were resurfaced from their separation project.

Mr. Collini questioned the status of the proposed rain garden requirement for Phase II.

BRIAN CARRICATO
PRESIDENT BOROUGH COUNCIL

4-11
LOUIS PURIFICATO
MAYOR

Borough of Vandergrift

Larry D. Loperfito
Solicitor

Office of the Secretary
Stephen J. DelleDonne
Phone: 724-567-7818
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Joseph M. Caporali
Chief of Police

February 26, 2013

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest Regional Office
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-4745

Attention: Dale M. Mills, Project Manager
Clean Water Program

Reference: Request for Categorical Exclusion
Combined Sewerline Separation Project - Phase 2(A&B)
Vandergrift Borough, Westmoreland County, PA

Dear Mr. Mills:

At this time, Vandergrift Borough is hereby requesting a Categorical Exclusion from the State Environmental Review Process for the planning and design phases of the above referenced project. This project involves replacement/rehabilitation of existing sewers, and construction will occur in and around existing streets and sidewalks as well as in the same trench area of the existing sewers. The proposed project will not have any adverse environmental impacts. A Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan has been prepared which will be incorporated with the project work requiring the implementation of soil erosion and sediment pollution prevention Best Management Practices (BMP's).

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully yours,


Brian Carricato, President

Engineer Michael Bove stated that the rain garden concept will be replaced with a drainage system along the Jackson Avenue sidewalk paralleling the park. In addition, he stated that a portion of the sidewalk will consist of porous material to absorb water runoff.

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

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson referred members of Council to budget reports provided by the Secretary.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

President Carricato stated that the Committee met regarding a request to sponsor a 5K walk/run race on July 17, 2013 by Kristi Garrone & Francine Garrone. He stated that the Committee is recommending that this race be approved with the new route prepared. He stated that they will obtain the use of the fire police and provide the proper certificates of insurance to cover this event. (See page 50A)

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Collini, to approve the aforementioned matter regarding the 5K race to be held on July 17, 2013. Motion carried.

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

No Report

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

No Report

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Collini reported that the Vandergrift Library will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, 2013. He requested the help of the Borough to clean up the park area prior to this event.

5-A

Directions / Notes

0 mi	Head northeast on Jackson Ave/Wallace St toward W Monroe Ave	edit
0.18 mi	Head northeast on Jackson Ave/Wallace St toward 24th St	edit
0.18 mi	Turn left onto 24th St	edit
0.27 mi	Turn right onto Linden St	edit
0.27 mi	Head southwest on Linden St toward 24th St	edit
0.47 mi	Head southwest on Linden St toward Walnut St	edit
0.47 mi	Turn right onto Walnut St	edit
0.61 mi	Turn left onto Irving St	edit
0.62 mi	Head southwest on Irving St toward 26th St	edit
0.68 mi	Head southwest on Irving St toward Longfellow St	edit
0.68 mi	Turn left onto Longfellow St	edit
0.88 mi	Head northeast on Wallace St toward 26th St/26th Alley	edit
0.96 mi	Head northeast on Jackson Ave/Wallace St toward Walnut St	edit
0.96 mi	Turn right onto Walnut St	edit
1.08 mi	Head east on Walnut St toward Franklin Ave	edit
1.08 mi	Walnut St turns left and becomes Franklin Ave	edit
1.62 mi	Turn right onto Hamilton Ave	edit
1.62 mi	Head northwest on Hamilton Ave toward Franklin Ave	edit
1.64 mi	Turn right to stay on Hamilton Ave	edit
1.79 mi	Head southeast on Sherman Ave toward 7th St	edit
1.99 mi	Head south on Sherman Ave toward Franklin Ave	edit
2 mi	Turn right onto Franklin Ave	edit
2.8 mi	Franklin Ave turns right and becomes Walnut St	edit
2.8 mi	Head northwest on Walnut St toward 22nd St	edit
2.98 mi	Turn right onto Kennedy Dr	edit
2.98 mi	Head northeast on Kennedy Dr toward 24th St	edit
3.1 mi	Destination	

Mr. Collini stated he will having park clean-up sometime in early May, and is hoping to get volunteers to help with this effort. He also stated that he will need volunteers to help with the painting of the Gazebo, tennis courts and the playground structures.

Mr. Collini invited the public to attend a Recreation Committee meeting on March 20th, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building, for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the parks.

Mr. Collini requested help from the Borough Crew to help secure the placement of the bleachers at the baseball fields.

Mr. Sciullo requested that this work be done when the crew is not collecting recycling materials.

Mr. Collini stated that he is looking for activities in the park for this summer, such as concerts in the park and the showing of movies.

Mr. Collini stated that he will begin the getting the pool ready for this season. He stated that the rates will remain the same as last year. He also stated that the Pool Committee is seeking applications for the positions of Pool Manager, Assistant Manager, and lifeguards.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Loperfito turned the matter regarding the proposed ordinance of residential rental properties over to Mr. Rametta.

Mr. Rametta stated that there are 876 rental properties in the Borough, of which, are owned by 554 landlords from the reside in other towns, counties, and states.

Mr. Rametta stated that under the current ordinance the rental properties are inspected only when they became vacant and prior to be re-rented. He stated that his ordinance requires rental properties to be performed on an annual basis, not when they became vacant or re-rented. He stated that this will better maintain the integrity and quality of the properties.

Mr. Rametta stated that the Borough is going down hill because of the numer of bad residents and slum landlords. In order for the properties to be properly maintained, he stated that this ordinance will require the landlord to designate a property manager to be responsible for maintaining the property, if the landlord lives beyond 15 miles from the Borough, not 25 miles.

Mrs. Chvala stated that this ordinance is similar to one used in Berwick Borough. She stated that she talked to someone from Berwick Borough and stated that they only have an inspector to enforce their ordinance and that no officer accompanies the inspector. She also stated that the inspector will back off if the tenant does not permit entrance. She concluded by saying that she has a number of concerns about this new ordinance.

Mrs. Wilson questioned how the enforcement of the new ordinance will be funded.

Mr. Rametta stated that the enforcement of the ordinance will be off-set by charge an annual inspection fee of \$50.00, of which \$40.00 will go to the inspector and \$10.00 to be retained by the Borough. He stated that based on the number of rental properties and the fees assessed, the Borough can afford to hire someone to work 16 hrs per week at a rate of \$10.00 per hour to perform this work. He stated that this will pay for itself and Code sys. Consulting may be able to perform this service.

President Carricato questioned whether the anticipated revenues will truly off-set the inspections, re-inspections, court appearance, etc that would entail the enforcement of this ordinance. He also questioned whether there would be enough time in a week to perform the inspections of the 876 rentals, which would be a minimum of 17 inspections per week.

Solicitor Loperfido questioned whether Code.sys Consulting would be capable of performing these inspection each day.

Mayor Purificato stated that the appeal process in this ordinance is wrong because it goes back to Council, of whom, adopted the ordinance. He stated that appeal process, according to Berwick Borough, should be heard by a board consisting of individuals qualified by experience set up by Council. He also stated that any fines assessed go to the magistrate and possibly the Court of Common Pleas.

Solicitor Loperfido suggested that Council could use the existing appeal board established under the Uniform Construction Code.

Mayor Purificato stated that this ordinance seems to be an invasion of ones privacy. He stated that there is a difference in entering a vacant house to perform an inspection as opposed to house being occupied.

Mr. Rametta stated that is the obligation of the landlord to enter the property on a regular basis to insure the property is properly maintained in order for said property to be permitted to be occupied. He stated that this ordinance will help the Borough rebuild the community.

President Carricato stated that he is in agreement with the intent of this ordinance. However, he stated that there are also slum homeowners as well as slum landlords and this ordinance may appear to be discriminatory.

Mr. Collini recommended that this matter be turned over to a committee for the purpose of finding a resolution to these issues.

President Carricato turned this matter over to the Building & Grounds Committee for further study. He also suggested that the Community engage the input of the V.I.P., the community and Ms. Holmes.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Wilson requested that the Secretary write a letter to PennDot about the condition of Hancock Avenue and as to when this street will be resurfaced.

Mr. Collini informed Council the members of the local business community will be putting together a Merchants Organization and the Council should get involved.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

