OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION
5/24/2022

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present at the meeting was President Randy Wharton, Commissioner Don Nickerson, Commissioner Zach Abraham, Administrator Randel Russell, Finance Director Archey, and Solicitor Don Tennant.

Delegation

American Legion Post 1

John Powell from American Legion Post 1 reported to the Commissioners that as you well know the American Legion has purchased the old Italian American Club in Wheeling. He spoke about the Legion's history and veterans. With this purchase the Legion will be able to assist veterans. The foundation of the building is solid, but it will need upgrades, so we are here to ask for your help to pay for some of the renovations. The Legion is attempting to raise $400,000.00 for the renovations. He is asking the Ohio County Commission for a grant of $50,000.00. The building has a lot of history, many weddings, steak fry's, and reunions, etc. He would like to make sure that more memories can be made at this location. Additionally, he wants the area veterans to get plenty of use from it as well.
He has a list of renovation plans and he would be glad to answer any questions the Commissioners have. Commissioner Abraham asked if the building is in the flood plain. John Powell answered that it is not. Commissioner Abraham asked about other support you have received. John Powell reported he has asked the City of Wheeling as well. Commissioner Abraham asked if there will there be any counseling services set up there. John Powell reported yes, the back room will be set up as a conference room if a veteran needs counseling. John Powell reported that there is a veterans counseling service in Bethlehem. Commissioner Nickerson asked if they were making any other requests except for us and the city. John responded yes. Solicitor Tennant reported that as there are twenty some veterans groups in Ohio County will you offer them the space to utilize in the building. Solicitor Tennant reported that he is President of the American Legion Athletic Club which you're well aware and it was essentially a spin off of Post 1 back in 1938 and we are homeless. Solicitor Tennant reported that he uses a second floor to house uniforms for every week other than eight weeks out of the year. The point is, he has meetings, and he does not have enough space to properly house the meetings. Our association, including all the ball players has an annual picnic, and we like to have two or three meals a year where we may invite a traveling team from out of town. This would be a perfect opportunity to integrate the minds of these young men with the Veterans that appear there and have them fully understand the commitment that America has made to the Veterans. He sated that from our standpoint we possess a will donation from Bill Wally when he passed, and it was in his will around $3,000.00 that we hold that to be utilized to commemorate and keep the trophies of the club that used to be with your post when it was at the old federal building downstairs. He would or his board would match that up to $5,000.00 to kick start this funding. He feels it is a great opportunity for the Veterans of Ohio County. John Powell stated he has a painter set up, and they're going to tear down the steak fry pit and make a wedding chapel. They plan on making it like it used to be years ago which was a very nice place to go to.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

GRANTS

Circuit Clerk-County Records & Preservation Grant Award

Administrator Russell reported that the County Records & Preservation Grant for the Circuit Clerk's office was approved so that Circuit Clerk Brenda Miller may continue to digitize her records. It is in the amount of $10,000.00. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the grant award. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Airport- AIP 3321 Runway 16-34 Crack & Seal Coat Payment Request

Administrator Russell reported that under the Airport on page three, he has an application for payment from the contractor, Russell Standard in the amount of $329,105.00, and that 100% of this project is funded by the FAA because of the Cares funds. The reimbursement normally only takes a few weeks. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to make the payment. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

HOTEL TAX REQUESTS/COMMUNITY GRANTS

American Legion Post I-Administrator Russell reported that he included the American Legion Post 1 request for $50,000.00. Commissioner Abraham made the motion to move that to the ARPA funds committee. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Pinto Challenge- Administrator Russell reported that he has a request form Doug Costain who is requesting funding for the Pinto Challenge in Bethlehem. It is a baseball tournament held every year for 7—8-year-olds. He is requesting $3,000.00 to help with the costs of the event. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve $2,000.00 for the Pinto Challenge. Second by Commissioner Nickerson, Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Elm Grove Baseball Association Steak Fry.- Administrator Russell reported that the Elm Grove Baseball Association is having a steak fry on June 25, 2022, at the Elm Grove Civics. They are asking for funds to help with the Steak Fry. This event helps to purchase equipment, etc. for the Elm Grove Baseball Association. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve $250.00 for the Elm Grove Baseball Association. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

WV Sheriff's Association Youth Leadership Academy- Administrator Russell reported that he has the request form the Sheriff for the WV Sheriffs Association Youth Leadership Academy to be held July 1015 at West Liberty University. It appears that he has 104 students already signed up. He is requesting $15,000.00 to help with running the academy. Commissioner Nickerson asked the Sheriff if he has a budget. The Sheriff stated $60,000.00. Commissioner Nickerson asked what the expenses are. The Sheriff reported the huge expense is feeding the students for all six days. The costs of deputies are on their own time. They come from all over the State to do it. Some of the housing is donated by the college but not all. He works with the Ohio County Schools, and they take them out to the Wildlife League for range day. He stated they are up to 120 participants, and all are from Ohio County. Commissioner Nickerson asked if the Sheriff was asking others to donate. He responded yes there are. Finance Director Archey asked if there is a separate organization running this or is it the County. The Sheriff stated he is running it; he is the commandant through the Sheriffs Association. Commissioner Abraham asked how it works with the deputies. He stated he uses the PRO's and then they volunteer their time also. Commissioner Abraham asked the Sheriff if he could bring in a budget for him to see. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve $15,000.00 for the WV Sheriffs Association Youth Leadership Academy pending he and the other Commissioners reviewing the budget, Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Bethlehem EMS Agreement- Administrator Russell reported that last year the Comm ission entered into an agreement with the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department to provide EMS coverage throughout the weekdays and on the weekends. This will be the second year of that agreement. Commissioner

Abraham asked if this is the second out of three. Administrator Russell stated yes. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the $26,000.00 payment to Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Ohio County Building Commission-Appointments

Administrator Russell reported as the Commissioners are aware that because of the Courthouse HVAC project that we are working on, the Commission needs to form the Ohio County Building Commission which consists of three members of which will take ownership of the Courthouse for all intents and purposes in order that the Commission can get financing to get this all accomplished. At this point he has one recommendation of Elizabeth "Libby" Slater and with your approval he would like to appoint her to the Ohio County Building Commission. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the appointment. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Administrator Russell reported that he has one other person checking to see if they can take the appointment and he is looking for a third and will hopefully have all three by early June.

Ohio County 911-New Hire

Administrator Randy Russell reported that at the last Commission meeting the County Commission approved 911 Director Russell to hire an additional full-time person. She would like the consent of the commission to hire Jessica Palmer as a full time 911 dispatcher. She is the daughter of a current dispatcher Jerry Kulpa. She understands what it takes to be a 911 dispatcher. Her father is not supervisory, and 911 dispatch has other field trainers that will train her, and she will be on different shifts. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept the new hire for 911. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Ohio County. Circuit Clerk- New Hire

Administrator Russell reported that Circuit Clerk Brenda Miller hired Sarah Kovach. She is a replacement for someone that had left the office. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the new hire in the Circuit Clerk's Office. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Addressing

Administrator Russell reported there are two new road names up for approval. Rodd Franke is asking for the name of Woodridge Drive which comes off Park View Road. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the new road name. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Administrator Russell reported that he has another road name request of Sticker Bush Lane that comes off Carnation Drive in Clinton Hills. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept the new name. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

ABCA No Zoning Letter Request- Sandcrest Conference Center

Administrator Russell reported that he has a request from the Sandcrest Conference Center asking for a no zoning letter so that they may send it along with their application to the WVABCA for a Class A license to be allowed to sell beer, wine and liquor on their premises. Administrator Russell stated they are out in the County. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor,

Wheeling Creek Watershed 0M &_R Agreement 2023

Administrator Russell reported next is the Operation, Maintenance and Repair funding Agreement with Wheeling Creek Watershed. This is the same agreement as last year for two dry dams that are in Pennsylvania. Our contribution is for $3,000.00. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept agreement. Second by Commissioner Nickerson, Motion carried with all voting in favor.

STAFF/ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Administrator/ Facilities-Administrator Russell reported that he is moving forward on all our projects; the elevator project was delayed because of equipment ordering issues. He expects it all to be here by the end of June. He has added one project, the mapping project of the OCPSD. We are going to attempt to map all the utilities in the County. He has Dave Weaver and some of the OCDA staff working with Rich Scott from the OCPSD. Then they will overlay the City of Wheeling utilities.

Public Safety- Emergency Management Director Vargo reported that he has an update from the Health Department. Last week they had forty new COVID cases in Ohio County. The Health Department has been notified by the State Health Department that the free testing they do on Monday, Wednesday and Friday should end at the end of the month. Mr. Gamble will do what they say unless the Governor intervenes. They received 500 rapid tests so in case they need these for summer camps, etc. Mr. Gamble is vaccinating every day at the Health Department. There is no word on the second booster for the 11 years to 50 age group. The 5—11-year-old group has been approved. The Health Department will be doing those vaccinations throughout the summer with the possibility of the schools having clinics as they resume in the fall. He reported that last week was EMS week. Wheeling Hospital honored all the regional EMSs, and they had several awards. Ohio County EMS received a stroke reward. On October 24, 2021, Mike Lobotec and Eric Touvelle treated a gentleman with a deep vein thrombus. The personnel instituted treatment, notified the hospital, and the CAT scan was ready. It was proven that it was a stroke, and the patient was given a clot buster and did very well with it. Mr. Vargo attended the Bethlehem Open House over the weekend. Last Friday Deputy Assistant Tony Campbell and he spoke at a conference at the Highlands called COVID in Review that was put on by Wheeling Hospital. It talked about everything that occurred with COVID. There were Health Department people there, and hospitals from the area. The goal was to identify what went right and what went wrong. One of the things that was represented was the Central Ohio Trauma Services about increasing communications with squads and hospitals throughout this area to hopefully have better communications between the hospitals across state lines,

Sheriff- Sheriff Howard reported that he has some updates. He stated that Pennsylvania DOH is allowing barrels to be placed over the state line into Pennsylvania near Dallas Pike where the fatal accidents have happened recently. He has placed two deputies on each side to keep the speed down. Swank is also trying to place vehicles there to slow motorists down.

Personnel- The Sheriff reported he is nine down right now due to injuries, baby leave, and the new hires are not able to make it into the academy class until January. He only has thirteen people signed up for this new test coming up. He is losing two security guards next Friday due to taking other jobs and one is going into the service, so it will be hard to man the security spots, and he also has issues with overtime. There is a conference going on this week, so our bailiffs had to go to bailiff school at the request of the Judges, which is all paid by the courts. New hires cannot be placed in a cruiser by themselves for one year. He feels out of the thirteen, he may get six that pass all of the tests, including agility tests, and background checks. President Wharton asked if a police officer from anther County moved here and wanted to apply here would they have to retesti The Sheriff reported if it was over two years since he was a police officer, he/she would have to retest, under two years he/she would not, and he/ she would not have to go to the academy. Administrator Russell stated the other issue is that Marshall County is giving the same test on the same dates so the applicant may take the test there also. The Sheriff reported that he hopes he does not lose deputies to Marshall County or Weirton because Marshall County now starts out at $52,000.00, Weirton is $52,000 to $54,000,00 and here were at $44,000.00. Commissioner Abraham asked the Sheriff out of the nine you're down, do you have a few on leave. The Sheriff reported two had babies, and one on is on workers comp, and before the end of summer were losing three security guards, and also possibly three more deputies. Commissioner Abraham asked if the Sheriff does exit interviews to see why they're leaving. The Sheriff reported some is because of pay,

insurance, and we actually lost some from retirement. Commissioner Abraham stated that he would like to see those reasons that they leave. He offered to help the Sheriff with recruitment strategy. He asked if the Sheriff is restricted to doing any educational assistance for remanded period of time if they pass all these things, Maybe a college student that is in criminal justice, we may pay some of your education if you come work with us. Not sure if the State has any programs like that. He asked the Sheriff if he is allowed to do that. The Sheriff stated that the City of Wheeling does a $20,000.00 sign on bonus for certified officers. He stated that a lot of departments don't pay for education. They get bumped for having a degree, which definitely would help. The two we just hired have criminal justice degrees. Commissioner Abraham stated he would be more in favor of them signing an education agreement to stay a certain amount of time. If they left before the time was up, they would have to pay the money back. It is just a thought. Commissioner Abraham asked the Sheriff if he could investigate this across the State. The Sheriff brought up the procurement policy again. He stated that anything he has to buy is always over $500.00, he feels it needs to be changed. It is worded now anything under $500.00 the elected official could approve that. If over $500.00 requires a purchase order. Administrator Russell reported that the Commission should look to update the procurement policy.

The Sheriff stated next, he has some purchase orders that are still not approved. They are for tourniquets, tourniquet holders, and things like that. They are not large purchases. Administrator Russell stated that the Sheriff is over budget on a number of items that he has control over, and he has gone over budget on a number of purchases that he believes are critical, like ammunition for training, computers that crashed over there. We did also, most recently approved bullet proof vests which of course were outside of his budget, and yes, he has the purchase orders that Administrator Russell did not believe are critical unlike bullet proof vests and ammunition. There is $1,249.00 for tourniquets. Commissioner Abraham asked if we have those. The Sheriff stated his deputies saved an arm with . having a tourniquet at a scene. Finance Director Archey interrupted and stated but this all needs to be part of the procurement policy, if you're requesting something that you're not in budget with then what is the next step. He reported the County is at the end of the fiscal year which we're closing in on can we do a budget revision or not. Administrator Russell stated that he says he is the next step and trying to review these as to what he perceives to be critical and the immediate need, so there is $2,330.00 for officer badges, which he was told they were scuffed, and he feels those are not needed if they are over budget. Commissioner Abraham asked how much. The Sheriff reported some are unreadable, some are wearing their wrong rank. He stated that is a discounted price. If he would send the guys out to buy badges it would cost three times that, so that is why he was trying to buy them all at once. The Sheriff stated that there is a grant from the Edward Byrne JAG 2020 that was approved and is a combination with Ohio County and the City of Wheeling and is a trailer that he wanted to get ordered two years ago because this would be perfect to set up on the highway now as an extra warning, for traffic accidents, construction issues, that's what it is for. It is a mobile trailer. He has the grant paperwork, and he would like to get this ordered. The cost is $14,941.00 for the first part of it, there is a second part to it. Administrator Russell reported that the City of Wheeling is the lead agency on what we refer to as the disparity grant, but he sent them our reimbursement request back in September of 2()21 for a little over $15,000.00. He has talked to their finance director, and they have not been reimbursed on their request. They have reached out to find out what is going on and they also have a consultant that does their grant work, and they are not getting good information from them. Finance Director Archey reported that he is not sure if we are getting reimbursed for this. Commissioner Abraham thinks it is a good thing to have. Finance Director Archey stated the Commission would have to figure out funding. The Commissioners agreed to use ARPA funds if it fits within the requirements to purchase the trailer and then still try to get the reimbursement.

Finance Division

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a copy of the bills as they are up to date. Commissioner Abraham asked about a check to the City of Wheeling and seems to be a lot of extra checks written. Mr. Archey responded it is a reimbursement of the Drug Task Force grant. The additional checks were for the poll workers for working Election Day. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to pay the bills. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Finance director Archey explained the budget revisions to the Commissioners. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the budget revisions. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Finance Director Archey reported there are six exonerations for your approval tonight. They are all recommended by the Assessor, and all are credits reducing a tax. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the exonerations. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Election- Certified Election Results

Finance Director Archey presented the certified election results to the Commissioners. He explained there are five signature sheets because the County needs to send a signed copy to the Secretary of State, the Governor, the Village of Bethlehem, the Village of Clearview, and the Commission needs a signed copy for our Election records. The Commissioners reviewed the results. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the certified election results. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

President Wharton reported the next meeting will be Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are subject to change. Meeting adjourned.

President, Randy Wharton

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Administrator, Randel Russell

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