Ohio County Commission
May 6, 2025

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Zach Abraham with all Commissioners present. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Kyle Dailey and canine Kronos were introduced. Kronos is certified in drug detection, apprehension, narcotic sniffs, and building searches. Currently, they are still attending two training days a month.

The minutes from the April 15, 2025 meeting were approved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- SVAW Grant – The Stop Violence Against Women Grant helps to fund personnel in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Department, and through the Victim's Assistance Program. The Ohio County Commission has been receiving this grant for 26 years. This year, we applied for $96,608.00 and were awarded $79,275.00.

Community Grants:

- YMCA Capital Campaign – This request will be tabled until financial information can be acquired.

Unfinished Business:

- Sheriff's Department Request for True Narc System (Portable Drug Analyzer) – Chief Deputy Kent Lewis requested information pertaining to the warranty, as requested by the Commissioners. He stated purchasing a one-year warranty is consistent with other departments who are using this technology. Mr. Wharton would like to see a five-year warranty purchased for the machine. Motion to approve the True Narc System and a five-year warranty using opioid funds made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.
- Sheriff's Department Request for Body Cameras – The cloud storage for the body cameras was included in Sheriff Croft's budget to the Commissioners. This storage costs $12,000.00. A policy will need to be implemented and reviewed by the County Solicitor, Don Tennant. Sheriff Croft is to obtain a purchase order for the equipment from the County Commission.
- City of Wheeling Share of NRJ Incarcerations – Mr. Russell reported the first two quarters have been reconciled and paid by the City of Wheeling. They have had the third quarter data since March 10, 2025.

New Business:

- Advice and Consent for New Hires:
    - Animal Shelter – David Campbell, full time manager in training

- Animal Shelter – Emmalye Cole, temporary Animal Care Tech
- Animal Shelter – Sarah Potter, temporary Animal Care Tech
- Airport – Shay Davis, temporary Groundskeeper / Service Line Tech
- Airport – Jeremiah Ratcliffe, temporary Groundskeeper / Service Line Tech
- Commission / WVU Extension – Julianne Latynski, full time Urban Ecosystem Director
- Assessor's Office – Jennifer Means, Clerk
- Assessor's Office – Matthew Davis, Real Estate PVC
- Assessor's Office – Robert Winters, Real Estate PVC
- The temporary positions have a fixed expiration date while the PVC replacements have been approved by the state. Motion to approve all of the new hires made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

- Officer and Employee Compensation:
  - Employee Classification and Compensation Analysis – Mr. Abraham stated we are in decent shape and are looking at possibly creating a classification system. This will be discussed further in Executive Session.
  - Officer and Employee Health Insurance Renewal – The health insurance rose over 52% which is an increase of $2,100,000.00. Significant changes may have to be made to cover these costs. Ms. Hoffman, the Ohio County Assessor, asked that the Commissioners provide employees with more notice so they can budget for any changes. Mr. Wharton stated there is a significant downturn in revenue and it may not be business as usual going forward. We will have to get creative to make up for these large hits to the budget.
- Resolution To Appoint Dog Wardens As Humane Officers – This resolution would appoint Wendy Neubauer and Eric Murphy as Humane Officers for Ohio County. Motion to approve the appointment made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.
- Courthouse Capital Improvements:
  - New flooring in various offices $91,747.50
  - Replace gallery seating (Circuit Court) $23,609.00
  - Replace office furniture (Prosecuting Attorney) $33,851.60
  - Office Build Out (Prosecuting Attorney) $554,761.00
- Judicial Annex:
  - Replace entrance door $19,140.00
  - Replace lentils $87,000
- Magistrate Annex:
  - General construction $67,576.00
  - New flooring $33,721.18
  - Plumbing $2,115.00
- Correctional Complex:
  - Dishwasher $15,514.11
- Motion to approve the above improvements made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Ohio County Sheriff's Office
  - Car equipment fit out – two bids were received; one from Bearcom and one from NRS. After review, NRS did not include freight, had the wrong cargo lights, and

did not include mounting the running boards on the inside. Major Rod Vaught recommended the five vehicles be fit out by Bearcom at a cost of $123,555.88. Mr. Abraham did ask Major Vaught to send Mr. Russell a list of the above reasoning for accepting Bearcom's bid.

- Jacobs Engineering Group Task Order Number 11 – The Wheeling-Ohio County Airport has the opportunity to obtain a $1,600,000.00 grant with no match but the design must be completed first with no guarantee of funds. The task order for the design is $417,761.00. The decision was tabled and will be placed on the next agenda.

Staff and Elected Official Reports:

- County Administrator – No report
- Facilities – Ms. Marco reported the second floor roof has been completed. Kalkreuth will now move to the penthouse roof. The second floor is progressing ahead of schedule but the official move back date is May 28, 2025. The Portico Paver project will start in June. All of the projects approved above will be awarded immediately and work will start.
- Law Enforcement – Five deputies attended the Wheeling Police Department's Crisis Intervention Training. Sheriff Croft thought the training was so beneficial that he intends to send all of his deputies to the course. It focuses on mental heath issues and de-escalation. They are also utilizing their peer support personnel. The Commissioners applauded Sheriff Croft on working to form a partnership with the Wheeling Police Department.
- Emergency Management – Last week, 986 students at Wheeling Park High School were trained on Stop the Bleed. Several table-top exercises are planned in the coming weeks.
- 911 Communications – Mr. Pritt reported that some of his dispatchers have also attended the Crisis Intervention Training put on by the Wheeling Police Department.
- Finance
    - Financial Commitments – Mr. Russell presented the purchase orders. Motion to approve the purchase orders made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
    - Payables – Mr. Nickerson made a motion to approve the invoices to be paid, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
    - Exonerations – Mr. Wharton made a motion to approve the exonerations, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.

Delegations:

- Ms. Carla Vessels of Fairmont Avenue reported the house adjacent to her home is dilapidated. Mr. Abraham stated the Commission is looking to adopt a Dilapidated Building Ordiance and asked that it be placed on the next agenda.

On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Nickerson, the Commissioners entered Executive Session based on West Virginia State Code §6-9A-4 at 6:12 p.m. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Nickerson, the Commissioners voted to exit Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Commissioner's Comments - None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Zachary T. Abraham, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator