Ohio County Commission
March 4, 2025

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Zachary T. Abraham. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- John Powell, American Legion Wheeling Post 1 – Mr. Powell stated the American Legion kicked off their fundraising campaign for 2025. They have three primary needs at this time: 1. Sending youth to Boys and Girl's State. The cost is $350.00 per boy and $300.00 per girl. They hope to send 15 individuals. 2. Color Guard Uniforms for 10 individuals at a cost of $3,000.00. 3. E-Gaming System for younger veterans. This system will cost approximately $20,000.00.
- The delegations for Wendy Neubauer, Alivia Brown, and Madeline Bird will be moved to the end of the meeting as it deals with a personnel issue.

The minutes from the February 18, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.

Grants:

- Justice Assistance Grant Fund Resolution – The award is for $20,000.00. This grant helps to fund a Deputy Sheriff in the Task Force.

Community Grants:

- Odgen Newspapers Wellness Weekend – The Commissioners agreed to provide a donation to the event in the amount of $3,000.00. Motion made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.
- Wheeling Park High School Hockey – Mr. Abraham left the room for this discussion as he has a child that plays on the team. On a motion made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson, the Commissioners will make a $2,000.00 donation to the team. Mr. Abraham abstained from the vote.
- Fort Henry Days – The Commissioners, on a motion made by Mr. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Nickerson, made a $1,500.00 to the event. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Charles Cunningham – In 2016, Mr. Cunningham purchased a property next door to his house and the deed was not properly transferred. His name appeared in the newspaper as a delinquent taxpayer. He has since redeemed the property but is seeking the fees associated with his name being printed in the newspaper and the interest. A refund will be made to Mr. Cunningham in the amount of $398.00.
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Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report – Mr. Russell reported that he and Mr. Abraham attended the County Commission Legislative Session in Charleston. They had a good meeting with

the new transportation secretary concerning the Highlands Interchange. This week in Charleston, the Association of Counties will meet. The Ohio County Commission offered Oglebay Institute $20,000.00 as last money in for their roof replacement. They have now secured the funds needed and are awaiting the Commission's donation. The 2023-2024 audit is in progress. Budgets will be presented this Tuesday to the Commissioners. A ribbon cutting was held for Guntry.

- Facilities – Ms. Marco gave an HVAC update:
  - The fifth floor will be completed on Friday.
  - The fourth floor will be completed on Friday as well.
  - On Thursday, the Commission office will move to the former Wheeling Police Department. On Friday, the County Clerk's office will be relocated to the former Wheeling Police Department as well. On Monday, the Sheriff's Tax Office will be moved to the fourth floor Law Library, and on Tuesday, the Assessor's office will be moved to the fourth floor Law Library. Demolition will start on the second floor on Wednesday. These offices will be in the swing spaces approximately three months. The Prosecutor's Office and the Second Floor Courtroom will remain open.
  - The upper roof is scheduled to begin on March 24, 2025.
  - The Prosecutor's build out is with the Architect.
  - The repairs to the Magistrate Building will be placed out to bid.
  - The HVAC unit at the Annex will also go out to bid as it has failed and is 37 years old.
- Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Croft stated the canine that was ordered is in the Country. It was flown over from Germany. They are now in decoy school. The Sheriff's pension and pay scale is being discussed in Charleston.
- EMA Director – The equipment ordered from the opioid funding has arrived. Every unit in the City and County will be the same. Mr. Vargo thanked the Commissioners for their support.
- 911 Director – Mr. Pritt reported selector routers for the Next Gen 911 System will be installed April 2.

Finance:

- Mr. Russell provided the purchase orders issued since the last meeting. He is asking the Commissioners to review and ratify the orders. Motion made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton to ratify the orders. Motion carried.
- Ms. Coyne reported the bills are up to date. Motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Unpaid invoices –No further action is required.
- Exonerations – Seventeen exonerations were presented. All are corrections.

The Commissioner's, on a motion made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton, entered Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. under Code §6-9A-4.

The Commissioners, on a motion made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton, exited Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Zachary T. Abraham, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator