Ohio County Commission
July 23, 2024

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Ted Rouse – Mr. Rouse, a local television producer, spoke about an upcoming documentary series he is working to complete. He has asked the Ohio County Commission to sponsor the closed captioning for the series at a cost of $5,000.00.

The minutes from the June 11, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

The minutes from the July 15, 2024 emergency meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Foundations Baseball, Pinto Challenge 2024 – The event has not provided any financial statements to date.
- Youth Services System, Celebrate Youth 2024 – The upcoming event draws thousands of residents to Wheeling Park. A motion to approve $2,500.00 in funding was approved by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Barnes et al v. Ohio County Commission, Case #24-C-51 – Since Mr. Tennant, the County Solicitor was out of town, no update was provided to the Commissioners.

New Business:

- County Clerk, New Hire, Kimberly Cornell – This position has been empty since October, 2023. Mr. Kelly is seeking the advice and consent of the Commissioners to hire Kimberly Cornell. Motion to approve the hire made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- RT 2 / I-68 Authority Board Appointment, Gabriel R. Rohmann – Motion to approve Gabriel R. Rohmann to the Authority made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- RT 2 / I-68 Authority Member Dues – Motion to approve the dues in the amount of $4,000.00 made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- TIF District (Piper Sandler and Frost Brown Todd) – A ratings presentation was provided to Standard and Poors for the 2,366 acres that will be included in the TIF. The district is the first ever to receive a rating from the company. The district received a BBB- rating that could provide another one million dollars in revenue. An offering document will be posted by Friday.

- Order one, which is to consider and act upon a proposed Order approving and creating a new tax increment financing district in Ohio County, WV to be known as the "Combined Fort Henry Centre Development District No. 1 and No. 2" (the Combined District); approving Combined Project Plan No. 1 (the Combined Project Plan); establishing a Combined Tax Increment Financing Fund; and providing other matters in connection therewith. A motion to approve the Order was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- To consider and act upon a proposed Order authorizing the issuance of Tax Increment Revenue Refunding and Improvement Bonds. A motion to approve the issuance was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report – Mr. Russell introduced Michelle Olejasz, the new Election Assistant. The Commission has purchased eleven laptops for the Ohio County Sheriff's Office. A 20th Anniversary celebrating the opening of the Highlands and Cabela's will be celebrated on August 10, 2024. The event will feature multiple vendors, bands, and fireworks at dusk. The Wheeling-Ohio County Airport will hold an airshow on August 24, 2024. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. A Region 1 opioid meeting will be held in September. The West Virginia Association of Counties meeting will be held August 11-13, 2024.
- Facilities Update – Ms. Marco reported the Portico Project officially began on July 15, 2024. The work will continue for several months. The Ohio County Animal Shelter will be undergoing some work. An isolation room will be constructed, and policies and procedures will be updated. Work will begin in the next month. HVAC commissioning will be held tomorrow for the structural steel, roof, masonry, and windows. The swing spaces are still being constructed. Ms. Marco also provided an update on the Airshow at the Airport. The Court Security Fund we received will cover the cost of additional cameras and an ID printer. Mr. Brian Taylor and Ms. Marco are working to cover the Event Center bookings. Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration was on site at the Ohio County Sheriff's Office gym to remove the padding and make sure it was fully dry underneath. There was no evidence of any mold.
- Airport Chief Development Officer for Aviation Price – Mr. Price noted the completion of the classroom space for West Liberty and Marshall Universities was approaching. An FAA inspection will be held at the end of the month. The Airshow is progressing well. He is actively working on a scheduled charter service program at the Airport.
- EMA Director Vargo – FEMA has been on site for the April floods. There was a Presidential declaration. To date, 191 people in Ohio County have qualified from the April 2 flooding for $852,000.00 in funding. So far, 55 people are eligible from the April 11 flooding for a total of $17,000.00. The FEMA Mitigation Grant provided a bi-directional traffic sign and the project is 95% complete.
- 911 Rickie Pritt – Mr. Pritt stated three employees are completing training. After training is completed, they will be fully staffed.
- Sheriff Howard - The Sheriff thanked the County Commission for the purchase of the laptops and the cleaning in the gym. Tomorrow will be tax sale on the Courthouse steps at 1:00 p.m. They will look to hire a Tax Clerk in the coming weeks. The Courthouse Facilities Improvement Grants should be released soon. On September 19, 2024, the

office will hold a Civil Service Exam. The PRO Conference will be held Sunday-Friday at the Highlands Event Center. There is no cost to the County. The software in the cruisers will be coming to the end of life in February 2027. They are recommending a bundle package, with pricing based on current archival storage.

Finance:

- Mrs. 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 – Some of the invoices were awaiting grant funding. No further action is required.
- Depository Agreements – Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the depository agreements, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Exonerations – Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the exonerations, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

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

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator

*Executive Session for personnel matters or property transactions: West Virginia State Code §6-9A-4