Ohio County Commission
December 3, 2024

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Mr. David Bland from the IUPAT and Carpenters Union spoke about several programs such as Helmets to Hardhats. This program helps Veterans one year out of the military train for in demand and high paying jobs. He also discussed a program for troubled youth that helps them get their GED and then move into a direct apprenticeship. They have over 2,000 members and a 96,000 square foot facility in Weston, WV.
- Mr. Chad Francis spoke from the United Mine Workers of America and stated Ohio County 911 has reached out asking for representation. He is asking for a free and fair election to take place with a neutral third party to oversee the process.

The minutes from the November 12, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- State and Local Cybersecurity Grant – Ms. Marco will write a $250,000 request to FEMA for Cybersecurity. The grant has a 20% match. Mr. Abraham asked if this grant was a one time, one year grant. Mr. Russell answered in the affirmative, stating the County would have to endure additional costs. Motion to approve the application made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant, Mt. Zion, Highland Lane, Castlyn Drive, and Hildreth Avenue – An engineering company still needs to review each site. The Commissioners are being asked this evening to approve an application to FEMA that is open-ended, and agreeing to be the sponsor of the grant.

Community Grants:

- Wheeling YMCA – The Wheeling YMCA is in the silent phase of a capital campaign aimed at raising $7,000,000.00 in funding. The Commissioners asked that financials be provided to review the request. Consideration tabled until further information is received.

New Business:

- Annex Bid – The Commission received two bids for the chipping and peeling paint in the stairwell of the Annex. ReClaim Company offered the lowest bid at $30,880.00. Sheriff Howard has stated this needs to be completed on an emergency basis. Motion to approve the bid from ReClaim Company made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- City Net's Request for Letter of Support – City Net is seeking support from the Ohio County Commission to submit an application for the WV BEAD Program. In Ohio

County, 1% of the population is underserved, while 5% are unserved. Motion to approve the letter of support made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

- Request for Proposals – Payroll / Time / HR System – The Commission would like to develop a Request for Proposals for a comprehensive Human Resources system. This system would help to standardize the process and every department under the County umbrella would use it. The system would need to integrate with Sage. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the development of an RFP, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report – Mr. Russell reported the Region 1 Opioid Meeting will be held on September 26, 2024 at the Highlands Event Center.
- Facilities – Ms. Marco reported the bus duct is slated to arrive on October 18. If the date holds, the City will move into their swing space and work will begin on October 21. The Animal Shelter isolation room started construction today and the Meet and Greet room is completed. The porches are progressing. Upgrades are planned for the Magistrate Building including: ceiling tile, carpet cleaning, paint, and a deep cleaning. For the Annex, we will be bidding out the roof, masonry, HVAC, front and back doors, and remediating the paint.
- Sheriff's Department – Chief Deputy Croft stated 37 crashes have occurred in Ohio County recently, which is a huge uptick. The Department is taking a large amount of narcotics off of the highway. Three members of the department attended a conference in Charleston.
- EMA Director – The team responded to an accident on I-70 near Cabelas and activated the mass casualty plan. Mr. Vargo is working on crisis intervention programming as well as holding a stress debriefing as the accident was quite difficult for the team to process. On November 4, 2024, the group will be switching to WesCom from MedCom out of Braxton County.
- 911 Director – Communication from the wreck on I-70 went well overall. For Next Gen 911, Marshall and Wetzel County approved the program today.

Finance:

- Mrs. Coyne reported the bills are up to date. Mr. Abraham questioned the Lashley Tractor invoice. Ms. Coyne stated this was the mower for the Airport that was placed out to bid and approved at a prior meeting. Motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Unpaid invoices –No further action is required.
- Exonerations – Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the exonerations, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments:

- Mr. Wharton stated he went out to look at the Hil-Dar playground. At the current time, 94 households with 117 children use the playground. He asked that the playground be placed on the next agenda.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator