Board of Commissioners of Ohio County
Minutes of a Special Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 5:00pm

This meeting was held via teleconference.
Members of the public may listen in by dialing
Telephone: 13052241968
Meeting ID: 3628896548#
Passcode: 123456#

- **County Commission members present**
  Commission President Zach Abraham (via teleconference)
  Commissioner Don Nickerson (via teleconference)
  Commissioner Randy Wharton (via teleconference)

- **Staff members present:**
  County Administrator Randy Russell
  County Solicitor Don Tennant (via teleconference)

- **Other public officials present:**
  None

- **Call to Order**

  Commission President Abraham called the teleconference meeting to order at 5:00pm.

- **New Business**

  - **Pay Raises for Elected Officials**
    During the 2026 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 587 to amend §7-7-1 and §7-7-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, to increase salaries of county elected officials effective July 1, 2026. These increases do not appear to be optional, nor do the increases require County Commission approval. However, it is necessary for the County Commission to approve the increase in budgets for each elected officials' department. Prior to this increase, salaries for elected officials was last increased effective July 1, 2022. This increase amounts to five percent (5%). Effective July 1, new salaries for Class I Counties are: County Commissioner $47,812; Sheriff $59,633; County Clerk $71,717; Circuit Clerk $71,717; Assessor $59,633; and Prosecuting Attorney $124,962. In addition, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 701 to amend and reenact §11A-1-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, to increase the Sheriff's tax commission and establish a tiered system for the Sheriff's commission for the property tax collection. Effective June 12, 2026: if the Sheriff collects eighty-five percent (85%) but less than ninety percent (90%) of the total taxes levied, the Sheriff shall receive a commission of $20,000; if the Sheriff collections at least ninety percent (90%) but less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the total taxes levied, the Sheriff shall received a commission in the amount of $25,000; if the Sheriff collects ninety-five percent (95%) or more of the total taxes levied, the Sheriff shall receive a commission in the amount of $30,000; the commission so allowed shall be charged against various funds for which the taxes are

collected and become a regular part of the budgeted and annual compensation of the sheriff and paid in accordance with provisions of §7-7-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931.

Commissioner Wharton made a motion to budget for the Pay Raises for Elected Officials. Commissioner Nickerson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

- **Coal Severance Fund, FY2026-27, Budget Revision 1**
  Budget Revision #1 to the Coal Severance Fund is due to the State Auditor's office by July 15, 2026, to reconcile fund balances with any end of year increase or decrease. The carried over amounts to $2,050,865. The is an accumulation of many years of receipts as we currently receiving $39,000 annually in coal severance. The administration is recommending increasing expenditure account 431 Economic Development to $385,575, which is amount necessary to pay the balance to the contractor for the Cedar Rocks and Shawnee Hills Vacuum Stations project(s) for the Ohio County Public Service District and increasing account 436 Rehabilitation of Property to pay for renovations necessary for the Courthouse Judicial Annex.

  Commission President Abraham made the motion to approve the Budget Revision #1 to the Coal Severance Fund. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

- **Commissioner Comments**

Commission President Abraham reminded those in attendance that the next meeting would also be a teleconference meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 5:00pm and that there would be no County Commission meeting on August 4, 2026, due to scheduling conflicts with the County Commissioner's schedules. County Administrator Russell stated that he would make the change.

- **Future Meetings and Important Dates**
  - **Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5:00pm, Special Meeting, Teleconference**
  - **Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
  - *Monday, September 7, 2026 – Labor Day (Holiday)*
  - **Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
  - **Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
  - **Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
  - *Monday, October 12, 2026 – Columbus Day (Holiday)*
  - **Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
  - *Tuesday, November 3, 2026 – General Election Day (Holiday)*
  - **Monday, November 9, 2026, at 9:00am Board of Canvassers**
  - **Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 8:00am Regular Meeting**
  - *Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – Veterans Day (Holiday)*
  - **Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
  - *Thursday, November 26, 2026 – Thanksgiving Day (Holiday)*
  - *Friday, November 27, 2026 – Lincoln's Day (Holiday)*
  - **Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
  - **Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
  - *Thursday, December 24, 2026 – Christmas Eve (4 hour Holiday)*
  - *Friday, December 25, 2026 – Christmas Day (Holiday)*

- Adjournment
  There being no future business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

I, Zachary T. Abraham, President of the County Commission of Ohio County do hereby certify the the above is a true and correct transcript of the minutes of a special meeting of County Commission of Ohio County held via teleconference on June 14, 2026, and that the meeting was duly called and held in all respects in accordance with the laws of the State of West Virginia and the bylaws of the County Commission and that a quorum was present.

Zachary T. Abraham, President

Attest:

Randel A. Russell, County Administrator