Ohio County Commission
February 4, 2025

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, February 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:

- Mr. Bo McConnaughy has been running the Beast of the East Tournament since its inception. While some items used to be donated, he now needs funds for fields, baseballs, and umpires. They hope to have 35-50 teams for the tournament, and they are a 501-C3 organization. He thanked the Commissioners for their donations over the past 36 years.

The minutes from the February 4, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.

Grants:

- Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority – Ms. Marco would like to apply for emergency funding under the health and safety provision of the grant. Recently, the Magistrate's Building had a significant water issue causing over $100,000.00 worth of damage. The grant would have a 20% match and have similar reporting requirements to other Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority Grants. Motion to approve applying for the grant made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- West Virginia State Hockey Championships – The tournament will host six teams at WesBanco Areana with three being local. Motion to approve a $4,000.00 community grant made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Youth Services Systems, Celebrate Youth – The event, held in August, has approximately 2,500 children in attendance. Motion to approve a $2,000.00 community grant made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Beast of the East Tournament – In continuing with its long relationship with the event, the Commission agreed to donate $3,000.00 to the event. Motion to approve the donation made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Ohio Valley Trail Partners – The Commissioners agreed to a community grant in the amount of $2,000.00 on a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Moundsville Honor Guard – The Moundsville Honor Guard serves Marshall and Ohio Counties. Post 1 in Ohio County does not have an Honor Guard so the Moundsville Honor Guard did 35 final salutes in Ohio County last year. Motion to approve a $3,000.00 community grant made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Inclusion on Ice – The event, benefitting the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center and Augusta Levy, is being held on February 9, 2025. A motion to approve a community

grant in the amount of $1,000.00 was made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

- At the meeting on January 21, 2025, the Commission agreed to release $25,000.00 from the Opioid Funds for video laryngoscopes. Mr. Vargo, while extremely appreciative of the funds, would like to modify the request to include airway go bags, two video laryngoscopes, two auto pulse machines, and ResQCPR systems. The total for these items is $80,000.00, an increase of $55,000.00. Motion to approve Opioid Funds in the amount of $80,000.00 made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report – Mr. Russell reported on Thursday that he, Mrs. Coyne, and Mrs. Lemley would be attending the State Auditor's workshop held at Oglebay. Mr. Russell also reported Wellness memos have been sent to all employees.
- Facilities – Ms. Marco gave an HVAC update:
    - On the fifth floor, demolition has been completed. Approximately 18 contractors have been moved to afternoons to finish the project a month early.
    - On the fourth floor, the Circuit Clerk's office will return to their space tomorrow. Painting has been completed as well.
    - On the third floor, painting is being completed in every room. The floor has been finished by the contractor and has been turned over to the OCC for final cleaning. The City will move back on February 18, 2025.
    - AEP has finished their work.
    - On the second floor, the project has been delayed one month so the fifth floor can be completed.
    - Other projects: the remediation in the Sheriff's Office has been completed. Ms. Marco has had a plumber, flooring contractor, and a general contractor review the work at the Magistrate Building to be able to gather estimates. Last week, due to the extremely cold temperatures, we had multiple leaks in the Water Department which will need remediated and a large leak in the basement.
- Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Croft asked if the Courthouse Security part time staffing agenda item could be tabled for one month so he could gather more comprehensive information to provide to the Commissioners. There was one bid received for the five new deputy cruisers received from Whiteside's in St. Clairsville. The cruisers are $54,280.00. The cars are also approximately $22,000.00 per car to outfit and $9,000.00 for the camera system. Motion to approve the purchase of five deputy cruisers from Whitesides made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried. Sheriff Croft and Chief Deputy Kent Lewis met with the Wheeling Police Department. They had a great discussion on the Crisis Intervention Team and building partnerships within the two departments. The canine will be transported from Germany next week. The Sheriff's office has chosen Deputy Kyle Daily as the handler for the canine.
- EMA Director – In conjunction with the Wheeling Fire Department, the group held Advanced Cardiac Resuscitation Training. The City, County, and all volunteer organizations will have the same equipment.

- 911 Director – Mr. Pritt reported the dispatchers are doing well at handling multiple incidents and that I-70 east and west will be reduced to one lane for mining under the road.

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.
- Mr. Russell also presented the commitments that are pending or being adjusted: This included the Vertit System which is the UPS system with 24 batteries. These need replaced every five years at a cost of $16,787.10. This is Mr. Vargo's equipment. Motion to approve made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton. 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 – Mr. Wharton made a motion to approve the exonerations, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.

Mr. Frank Rosario, a student at Bethany College, inquired if the current DEI practices being rolled back by President Trump would jeopardize grant allotments. He also wanted to know if the West Virginia State Tuition Assistance Program would be affected. President Abraham stated while they completely understood his concerns, this governing body could not make decisions concerning those two programs. He encouraged Mr. Rosario to speak to his State Representatives.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Zachary T. Abraham, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator