OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION
4/5/2022

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session On Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present at the meeting was President Randy Wharton, Commissioner Don Nickerson, Commissioner Zach Abraham, Administrator Randel Russell, Finance Director Rodd Archey and Solicitor Don Tennant.

Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes form the March 22, 2022, Commission meeting. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Grant

Homeland Security Proposal

Emergency Management Director Vargo reported that right now the State of West Virginia Emergency Management Division is accepting proposals for the Homeland Security Grant. This is not an application; all the Counties are submitting proposals. They will decide which ones they will fund and then they will send us an application if our County is chosen. They did the same thing last year. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the proposal. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-Airport Terminal & Tower Project Grant

Administrator Russell reported that he wants to apply for the Airport Terminal & Tower Grant project with a total of $1.7 million dollars through this program if awarded. Funding would be used to replace the terminal tower roofs, and to replace glass in the tower. If selected, we will receive notice in July and the grant requires a 5% match so that would be $85,000.00. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the application for the Airport Terminal & Tower Project Grant. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Appalachian Regional Commission Power Grant Application

Administrator Russell reported that he is seeking approval to participate in a grant application with eighteen other Airports along the Ohio River Corridor to commission a study to determine the suitability and needs for advanced aerial mobility drones. The ultimate objective is to create a link between the airports with AAM capabilities. The grant application will total $1.5million dollars and requires a 36% match which would be shared by the participating airports. We would anticipate our portion to be about $30,000.00. He reported that he added a list of the applicants in each of your packets. Commissioner Abraham reported that it could open up the opportunity for some related activity at the Airport. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the ARC Power Grant Application. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

COMMUNITY GRANT

2022 Scramble for Scouting

Administrator Russell reported that we have a request from 2022 Scramble for Scouting which is a golf scramble that will benefit the Ohio River Council of the Boy Scouts of America. It is scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2022, at Oglebay Park. It does not appear that the Commission has contributed to the past. We recommend the $500.00 level. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve $500 for

the 2022 Scramble for Scouting. Second by Commissioner Nickerson, Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Dallas Pike Community Association

Administrator Russell reported that there is a request from the Dallas Pike Community Association requesting two automated external defibrillators to be placed at the Dallas Pike and Battle Run ball fields. The estimated cost is about $3,400.00. We recommend approval of this request. A discussion began between the Commissioners in reference to possibly researching to see what other ball fields in the area could use these units before we approve these specifically tonight. We would want to make sure the Associations would keep those stored during the off-season months. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to table until next Commission meeting. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Helping Heroes-A Night to Remember

Administrator Russell reported that we received a request for A Night to Remember. This is an event that will benefit the homeless veterans. It will be held May 20, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. We recommend an approval of a $500 donation again this year. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the Helping Heroes Event. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting favor.

OLD BUSINESS

MOU-West Virginia Mass Litigation Panel

Solicitor Tennant reported on the Memorandum of Understanding that has been proposed to all the governments that are being represented against the pharmaceutical supply chain defendants. As he understands it was initially formed at a national level and in other pieces of litigation. It has been revised to apply to West Virginia and local governments that are currently being represented by the Fitzsimmons law firm and other law firms in the State of West Virginia. It is essentially a governed document that all of the various governments are signing, which he understands that all have signed except for Ohio County. It essentially gives the governments an understanding of how any settlement proceeds allocated to the governments are to be utilized under what type of guidance. Solicitor Tennant reported that all the money should be used pursuant to some process of remediating against the addiction problem that we have in our own County. He has reviewed the document and recommends it. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Authorizing to Sign- WV Mass Litigation Panel Interrogatory Answers

Solicitor Tennant reported that next is simply a document that memorializes by the County Commission vote of the authorization of designating President Randy Wharton as the person for the Ohio County Commission in Ohio County who can sign affidavits, verifications, and settlement documents. If in fact, they are proposed and if a settlement is reached. It is giving Mr. Wharton authorization to sign those documents in his official capacity as the President of the Commission. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the authorization to sign. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Airport Advisory Committee-New Appointments

Administrator Russell reported that he is seeking your approval to add two more members to the Airport Advisory Committee. Mr. Joe Eddy and Mr. Pete Holloway, both accomplished local businessmen, local entrepreneurs, pilots, and Airport enthusiasts. Both will add a great deal of value to the committee. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the two new members. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

ADDRESSING

Administrator Russell reported that we have two items for consideration. Mr. Weaver has received a request to name what appears to be a driveway at this time near West Alexander Road. The new owner of the property plans to build cabins and an event barn. We recommend approval of this road name. The residents would like the name of Glorious Day Drive. The next one we have is from Douglas & Lisa Rodgers. They now own all the structures on the road and would like to change the name to William Rodgers Drive in honor of Doug's father. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the road names subject to the homeowner on William Rodgers Drive paying for a new sign to be put up. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Zoning-No Zoning Letters- The Hilltop Lounge/ABCC/Lottery

Administrator Russell reported that we have a request for a no zoning letter for Gokul Inc. of WV. They are requesting a no zoning letter for the ABCA for the lounge inside of the Comfort Inn near Dallas Pike. They also have a request for WV Lottery at the same location. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve both no zoning letters for the Hilltop Lounge located at the Comfort Inn at 675 Fort Henry Drive. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

BUDGET 2022-2023

Administrator Russell reported that the Commissioners have the 2022-2023 Budget before them. He and Finance Director Archey are happy to answer any questions you may have about the budget, otherwise we request your approval. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept the 2022-2023 Budget of Ohio County. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Ohio County Sheriff's office- New Hires

Administrator Russell reported that Sheriff Howard has requested the Commission's advice and consent to hire two new deputies that have retired. After consulting with the Ohio County Board of Education regarding the continuation of the Prevention Resource Officer program in Ohio County schools, we are recommending your approval for the hiring of two deputies. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the hires. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Ohio County Sheriff's Office-Civil Service Test

Administrator Russell reported that this now depletes our Civil Service list for eligible candidates for the Sheriff's office. We are recommending your approval to schedule and conduct a new Civil Service examination to create a new eligibility list. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve scheduling an examination to create an eligibility list. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Circuit Clerk-New Hire

Administrator Russell reported that the Circuit Clerk recently had an employee leave to move up to the US Attorney's office. She is requesting the Commission's advice and consent to fill that vacant position which is already funded in her budget. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve a new hire for the Circuit Clerk's office. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

STAFF/ ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Russell reported that we have a meeting scheduled tomorrow morning with the City Leadership to discuss the HVAC project and several other items and he will provide an update after that meeting. Also, he reported that he has a meeting scheduled with all elected officials next Tuesday, April 12, 2002, at 8:30 a.m. He will send each of you an invite. He has pushed back the meeting of the ARPA Community Input Committee until next week, as we have two or three new requests in, and we will add those to what they're looking at.

He reported that the 16-34 Runway project will start roughly April 18, 2022. EMS Crews are installing the foundations now and as soon as they're complete we will move the mobile home up from Wetzel County.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency management Director Vargo reported that there is only about one COVID case reported daily. The federal government approved the second booster for fifty-year-old's and above. The Health Department is vaccinating Monday-Friday and averaging about forty per day down on the first floor. They will continue to test at the old OVMC Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

He reported that March was the snowiest March in the last twenty-nine years. He reported that last week the Sheriff and all deputies were re certified in CPR, AED's and Stop the Bleed. Our next step is to train all of the security officers at the front door and the security at the AEP building. He hopes to have this complete soon. He reported just an update on our DOH sign project. FEMA has approved a change in scope, and DOH is finalizing the plans and we will be asking for an extension. He attended a meeting with Tunnel Ridge because they have been mining under Interstate 70. On May 5th they will be mining under Bear Rock Lake. They will be monitoring it daily, and by the middle of June will be at Stool Fire Road. The bridge there will be open to local traffic but there will be some traffic changes. He reported that Tunnel Ridge reported that they will be here for another four years.

Sheriff Howard reported that Chief Schultz, and he will be doing ALICE Training, which is an active shooter training, lock downs, evacuating, etc. in the schools. He reported the JAG grant should be out in May or June. There is new grant for body cams. The COPS grant is being renewed, and statewide everyone has finally become JJDP compliant which is the Juvenile Justice Grant. Now everyone is compliant so we should get our full monies back. We will be having our conference in August at the Highlands again, and we already have eighty some registered in law enforcement, so hopefully we will have over two hundred staying at the Highlands. Sheriff Howard reported the re certifications are coming up in May.

FINANCE

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a copy of the bills as they are up to date. He asked if there are any questions. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to pay the bills. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

ASSESSOR

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have one exoneration before them tonight. It is supplemental. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the exoneration. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

ELECTIONS

President Wharton read the Election Calendar dates to the Commission. The most important are the Campaign Finance paperwork is due by April 7, 2022, and the sample ballot will be published by April 20, 2022, for the May 10, 2022, Primary Election.

COMMISSION BOARD REPORTS

Commissioner Abraham reported that we had an Airport Advisory Committee meeting last night and are planning on having other events. We had a not for profit reach out to us to do a fundraiser there. The event we are planning is for September 24, 2022, and is for a vintage airplane vs. automobiles, etc.
Commissioner Nickerson reported that he has been receiving calls about the road out near Kroger, which he thought was the States issue, but the State said it is the City's issue and the City of Wheeling said that they have it on the list.
Commissioner Nickerson and Commissioner Abraham have decided to switch places on the REDP board and the NPWIB board. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the changing of the boards. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to go into executive session under WV code 6-9A-4 in reference to matters involving or affecting the purchase, sale or lease of property. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Commissioner Abraham made a motion to come out of executive session and to go back into the regular meeting. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

President Wharton reported the next meeting will be Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. There will be an Ohio County Development meeting on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Highlands Event Center. Meeting adjourned.

President, Randy Wharton

Administrator, Randel Russell

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