Ohio County Commission
May 7, 2024

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

The minutes from the April 16, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- Court Security Fund – The Ohio County Commission has applied for $84,365.00 through the Court Security Fund. This grant has no match. Motion to approve the application made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Homeland Security Grant – Through this grant, cameras, computers, modems, and a flood gauge was applied for. This grant also has no match. Motion to approve the application made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- West Virginia Circuit Clerk's Association Spring Conference – The conference will be held June 24-27 and bring Circuit Clerk's from across the state to Ohio County. On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Commission agreed to sponsor the event in the amount of $4,000.00. Motion carried.
- Boy Scouts of America Scramble for Scouting – On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Commission agreed to donate $500.00 to the event. Motion carried.
- Patriot Statue / Monument – A group is working to place veteran's names on the Eagle Statue at Wheeling Park High School. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve $500.00 to engrave five names on the monument, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Wheeling Firefighters Local 12 Golf Scramble – Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve $500.00 for the event, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- DAV Van Request – This request will be addressed under community grants in old business.

Old Business:

- Community Grants – The Commissioners reviewed the Community Grants in detail. They agreed to fund the requests which provided the proper documentation and details with the provision not to exceed the prior year's donation amount. If no specific ask was made, or the details were not provided, Mr. Abraham asked Ms. Marco to make further recommendations and present them at a later meeting.
- Village of Valley Grove – Mr. Russell presented the Commissioners with a deed for one third of an acre that will be conveyed to the Village of Valley Grove. Final approval is needed. On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Commission agreed to convey one third of an acre. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Wheeling Ohio County Health Department Fee Schedule – Mr. Howard Gamble stated the fee structure had moved from the state to the county. The state does not set fees for services now. The process has went through the Wheeling Ohio County Health Board, Public Comment, to the City, and now the County. Some fees will be increasing by 20%. The state set fees cannot be adjusted. Most of the fees have not increased in 20 years. Although this will represent about $200,000.00 of their budget, the state cut the Health Department's budget by $70,000.00. Motion to approve the new fee structure made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- County Jail Bill Reimbursement – Mr. Russell is working closely with Ms. Rosemary Humway through the City. The City does receive their own jail bill. Mr. Russell will continue to work through the process with the City but it will take some time.
- 911 Dispatch to EMS RS – Senate Bill 439 established an Emergency Medical Services Retirement Plan. By vote, 75% state wide must opt in to participate in the program. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Circuit Clerk New Hire – The Circuit Clerk's office is seeking advice and consent to hire Holly Daub-Pramik for a Deputy Clerk position. Motion to approve the hire made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Wheeling-Ohio County Airport Potential PFC Contamination – The Commission has agreed to consult with, and hire, Mr. Bob Fitzsimmons of Fitzsimmons Law Firm to represent the Airport in this matter.

Elections:

- Early Voting – To date, 1,008 early votes have been cast.
- Primary Election – The primary election will be held on May 14, 2024.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report - Mr. Russell did not have anything further to report.
- Facilities Update – Ms. Marco presented the Commissioners with photos of the new windows installed throughout the building as part of the HVAC project. The windows will be completed in approximately two weeks. The second-floor structural steel will be delivered on May 15. The temporary chiller has been installed and started. The masonry work on the north end continues and should be wrapped up within a week. Double doors will be cut into the penthouse on Saturday. The wiring has been run in the swing spaces. For the porch project, the material has been identified. We are currently waiting on the State Historical Preservation Office's approval to continue. Ms. Marco also provided the Commissioners with renovation photos from the Ohio County Animal Shelter. We have completed the floors, roof, painted, power washed, painted the outside doors, updated the signage, ceiling tiles, and added a grooming sink. Currently we need to remove a tree on the property and paint the back of the facility. A community calendar was also provided to the Commissioners.
- EMA – Mr. Vargo – Mr. Vargo reported a full scale exercise will be conducted where forty student 'victims' will work with EMS, EMA, Police and the Sheriff's Department. FEMA was in town to complete a damage assessment. They have sent their findings to Philadelphia Region Three and there should be a Presidential Declaration within a month.

From there, a disaster recovery center would be sent up. Next Thursday, a site assessment with FEMA will be conducted.

- Sheriff's Department – A representative from the Sheriff's Department was not in attendance at the meeting.

Finance:

- Mr. Archey 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.
- Exonerations – Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the exonerations, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. based on West Virginia State Code §6-9A-4 to discuss 911Dispatchers v. The Ohio County Commission. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Commissioners entered back onto the record at 8:05 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 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