OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION
4/19/2022

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, April 19, 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 from the Tuesday, April 5, 2022, Commission meeting. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Delegations

State Senator Owens Brown attended the Commission meeting and spoke on legislative issues and tourism in the County.

Community Grants

Administrator Russell reported that there is a request from the Moundsville American Legion Post in the amount of $13, 350.00 to help fund the vans that help transport veterans from Marshall and Ohio Counties to the Veterans Hospital in Pittsburgh. Commissioner Nickerson asked if Marshall and Ohio Counties fund the whole amount. Administrator Russell reported yes. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the veterans van funding. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Administrator Russell reported next we have the Auggies 5K Run & Walk which is to be held Saturday, October 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at Warwood Middle School. Auggies is requesting a community grant in the amount of $500.00 to help fund the event. The proceeds from the event go to Ohio County Animal Shelter. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the amount for the Auggies 5K Run & Walk. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator Russell reported that we have the Memorandum of Agreement for the Ohio County Commission and the Marshall County Commission on the radio system. Ohio County will now fund and manage the radio system known as the Region Three radio system. Ohio County will do this jointly. Solicitor Tennant reported that he has reviewed the agreement. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the radio agreement. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

MOU- Ohio County Commission and Ohio County Public Service District

Administrator Russell reported that the first item is the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ohio County Commission and the Ohio County Public Service District. This allows us to take on some of their accounting duties at the Public Service District with our staff in the office, and in exchange they will reimburse us monthly in the amount of $4,500.00. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve

the MOU between the Ohio County Commission and the Public Service District. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Opioid -Endo/ Par Settlement Agreement

Administrator Russell reported that next is the Opioid -Endo/ Par Settlement Agreement Election and Release form. Solicitor Tennant reported that he did not independently review this for today's meeting. He stated this is a piece of litigation that the State had and is part of the agreement that they joined in that they allocated among the State, Cities and Counties. He believes that this Endo was effectuated prior to that document being allocated and approved. He stated we spoke of this at the last Commission meeting. Solicitor Tennant stated this is a sign off of the release of that agreement. Solicitor Tennant stated that Endo for example who negotiated with the State wants us to sign off on releasing Endo because the Commission did not independently sue them. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the local government election and release form. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

STAFF/ ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Administrator Russell reported that Finance Director Archey and he met with the employee health insurance provider. He will bring back the renewal proposal soon. Administrator Russell reported that tomorrow is the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce Lunch with Leaders, doors open at 11:00 a.m. and the lunch begins at noon. On the ARPA Committee he will try to put together a meeting for early next week. Later this week Finance Director Archey and Assistant Finance Director Koehler have a call with the bond underwriter to discuss the HVAC project here at the building. On the projects the Commissioners each have a list of all the projects. There is one additional project over at the Correctional Complex/ Magistrates building that was attacked relatively quickly which is a plumbing issue and there will have to be some clean up. Administrator Russell reported he is meeting with the City Manager on the HVAC project and how it plays out and how it's going to be bid.

Emergency Management Director Vargo reported on Covid. He reported that the United States has seen a 19% increase in cases, with mostly minor symptoms. West Virginia has seen a small increase. A majority are children that are unvaccinated. The Health Department continues to vaccinate daily. They are going to continue to test throughout May. He reported that he attended response team meetings and they are planning active shooter drills during the summer. He is also working with the Continuous Care Center to do tabletop fire type exercises there. As part of when we agreed to go to 24 Hour EMS, our commitment to the county volunteer fire departments was to provide education. Starting this Saturday there will be a course on swift water awareness and people being trapped in flood waters and then next Tuesday Doctor Martin, who is the medical director for Health Net, will be coming and doing a program on the heart assist device.

Sheriff Howard reported on an update that all the cruisers were recertified today as well as all radars. The Sheriff's office participated with the CASA Race at the Highlands this past Saturday and may change a few things for next year's race. June 1st and June 4th will be the test for new hires. The two new hires have started. The Sheriff stated that he did ALICE training with West Liberty University. The staff, and he had a decent turn out and this will continue.

FINANCE DIVISION

BILLS

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a copy of the bills as they are up to date. Commissioner Abraham asked what Attenti is. Finance Director Archey stated they are home confinement bracelets. Also, he asked about HEAPY. Administrator Russell reported that is the engineering firm for the HVAC, and they are performing design work right now. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the bills. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

FY 2023 Budget-Set Levy Rate-Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a copy of the approval of the levy estimate from the State of West Virginia State Auditor's Office. It is noted that this does not have the salary increases and that will happen later. With the budget estimate, the Commissioners must approve the levy rate tonight. This is the levy rate we reviewed and approved for the budget itself. Currently the County Commission has three different copies of comparisons. The second is the listing of the current rate. Ohio County is third in the State at the current rate and for the total overall rate Ohio County is the second lowest in the State. He is asking the Commission to approve the Class 1 rate at 11.57 and the library at 1.2. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the FY Budget 2023 levy rate. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

EXONERATIONS

Finance Director Archey reported the commission has two exonerations before you. They are both credits, and they involve vehicles. Both are recommended by the Assessor. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the exonerations. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with voting in favor.

ELECTIONS CALENDAR

Finance Director Archey reported that today was the last day to register vote. The Sample Ballot will be published tomorrow. Public Test will be this Friday, April 22, 2022, and Early Voting will begin next Wednesday, April 27, 2022, and run through Saturday, May 7, 2022.

COMMISSION BOARD REPORTS

Commissioner Abraham reported that he wanted to recognize and make comment about the 2nd interchange that Representative McKinley had been helping to work with Governor Justice and his team and Jimmy Wriston for making some effort for our County.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

President Wharton reported the next Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

President, Randy Wharton

Administrator, Randel Russell