Ohio County Commission
April 2, 2024

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Kieran Moses spoke about his Eagle Scout Project. He would like to build covered dugouts and renovate the Dimmeydale ballfields owned by the Dimmeydale Association and Pike Cubs Baseball / Softball organizations. He needs to raise approximately $15,000.00 to complete this project and is seeking the support of the Ohio County Commission. After some discussion, the Commission agreed to review the documentation provided by Mr. Moses.
- Stephanie Hockenberry stated a Workforce Roundtable is being planned by West Liberty University and West Virginia Northern Community College. This will connect young people to the community to help retain them in the County. A County wide campaign will drop in April / May. She also discussed the idea of incentive packages for businesses and individuals to relocate to the area.

The minutes from March 19, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

The minutes from March 28, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- JAG 2021 – These grant funds already obtained will be used to purchase communication headsets, helmet lights, and thermal imagers for the Ohio County Sheriff's office. The total award of $16,582.00 will be used to purchase equipment after a thorough bidding process. A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to purchase the equipment. Motion carried.
- JAG 2022 – These grant funds already obtained will be used to purchase Halligan style breaching tools, sledgehammers, jersey tactical JTC claws, and a jersey tactical PPW purchase point wedges for the Ohio County Sheriff's office. The total award of $11,700.00 will be used to purchase equipment after a thorough bidding process. A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to purchase the equipment. Motion carried.
- Letter of Intent for the Stop Violence Against Woman Grant – The letter of intent to apply for the grant is due by April 22, 2024. Mr. Abraham made a motion to submit the letter of intent, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce Lunch with Leaders – After consideration, Mr. Abraham made a motion to become a silver sponsor at a $1,500.00 contribution level. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- American Red Cross – The American Red Cross has asked for a $5,000.00 donation. Consideration will be tabled, and Ms. Marco will reach out to obtain a financial statement.

Old Business:

- EMS Salary Enhancement – This temporarily based funding from the state of West Virginia was provided throughout the state. A base year was chosen, and 14 employees would qualify. The temporary funding for a full-time employee will be an extra $164.00 per week, while a part-time employee will receive $100.00 per week. The County would be responsible for the pension contribution.
- ARPA Update – After reviewing the spreadsheet completed by Ms. Marco, Mr. Abraham asked that she include the four criteria and if any of the remaining unfunded projects met the criteria set forth. The Commissioners would like to know if any organization is not providing their monthly reports. Mr. Wharton asked that this topic be left on the agenda.
- Community Grants – After reviewing the spreadsheet completed by Ms. Marco, the Commissioners would like to see the date of each event added to the worksheet. They also asked for an explanation of how each community grant met the criteria set forth by the Commission in January.
- Energy Efficiency Program Memorandum of Agreement – This grant would be a collaborative effort between Ohio and Marshall Counties, the City of Wheeling, and the City of Moundsville. The Memorandum of Agreement was due on Monday, April 1, 2024. Mr. Randy Russell asked the Commissioners to ratify the agreement. Mr. Abraham made a motion to ratify the agreement, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Ohio County Prosecutor, New Part Time Hire – Jerry Sklavounakis – The Ohio County Prosecutor's Office is seeking the advice and consent of the Commissioners to hire Mr. Jerry Sklavounakis for a minimum of twenty hours per week. His time will be reported on a monthly basis, and he will be a permanent part-time employee. He will receive all benefits except for vacation and sick time. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the hire, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Jacobs Engineering Task Order – Wheeling-Ohio County Airport – Mr. Russell presented the Commissioners with Task Order #9 for the architectural and engineering work to begin the classroom design at the Airport for the flight school partnership between West Liberty and Marshall Universities. The cost of the work is $308,000.00. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the Task Order, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Village of Valley Grove – Up for discussion tonight was the new water booster station which will require a permanent utility easement, a temporary construction easement, and the transfer of 0.032 acres. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the permanent and temporary easement, as well as the transfer of land. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Elections:

- An election calendar was presented. No further action is required.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report - Mr. Russell did not have anything further to report.
- Facilities Update - Ms. Marco stated the flooring at the Animal Shelter has been completed, items have been placed in proper storage containers, and new ceiling tiles were installed in the Main Lobby. The final signage will be installed next week. The Tower Renovation at the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport will be completed by April 30, 2024. The HVAC project update is as follows: the windows on 16th and Chapline Street are completed. The steel beams on the fifth floor have been set. The Judge's chamber received major upgrades with new lighting and ceiling tiles. The pipe chases have been mapped out and will be drilled over the next two weeks. The work on the north end of the building has been delayed slightly due to the weather. Ms. Marco also contacted Angelina Stone and Marble concerning the porch renovations. Work will likely begin in June / July and be completed by the end of the year.
- EMA – Mr. Vargo – Mr. Vargo was not present at the meeting.
- Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Tom Howard is reporting two slips due to the heavy rain and flooding. On July 29-August 2, a large conference with representatives from throughout the state will be held at the Highlands Event Center. A DARE conference is also being considered for the County, which will bring 14-25 attendees. Sheriff Howard also reported $4,000.00 worth of work was recently completed on a Deputy's cruiser.

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.
- Budget Revisions – Mr. Archey presented budget revision number three for review. A motion to approve the budget revision was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Exonerations –Mr. Archey turned the Commissioners attention to exoneration 194 which pertained to the building purchased by Helping Heroes. They paid all the back taxes on the property. He also highlighted exoneration 195, which assessed the wrong property. Corrections will be made. 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 agreed to enter Executive Session according to West Virginia State Code §6-9A-4 to discuss a storage facility and the 911 Dispatchers v. The Ohio County Commission, CC-35-2024-C-51 at 6:45 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Commissioners entered back onto the record at 8:17 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator