

OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION  
6/1/2021

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

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 May 18, 2021, Commission meeting. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

DELEGATIONS

Doug Patterson from River Hills Association reported that he had sent a letter to all the Commissioners, which he read to the record as follows Commissioners, the citizens of the River Hills Association request \$32,199.00 for paving of our two bad areas in our neighborhood located in Ohio County. They have thirty-one resident developments located adjacent to Clearview Village, water owned by the City of Wheeling, the sewer owned by the Village, and individual access to broadband. This makes River Hills Association not able to receive any America Rescue Funds as per the meeting on May 19, 2021, attended by the West Virginia Auditor and Senator Manchin. They are requesting this money for the following reasons. This forty-two-year development has never received any assistance from the Commission. Number two they are not eligible for any Federal or State grants for any assistance. All our tax dollars for the past have been paid to the County. The traffic in our neighborhood has multiplied threefold with home delivery and two refuge companies. The Commission has contributed monies to entities in the area and many other avenues for Federal, State, Local organizations, some not even paying any taxes to the County. Sincerely, Doug Patterson. Mr. Patterson reported that he had sent the bids to the Commission. They had three bids, they only sent two bids because the other company did not adhere to what they wanted. The two companies that they did get was Semper Fi and Cast & Baker. The company we went with is Cast & Baker. Cast & Baker is going to be doing some work in Clearview and they wanted to piggyback off of them. Mr. Patterson reported the sheet he handed you shows Wheeling Health Right is a nonprofit corporation with six employees in five counties, they receive Federal, State, local grants as well as private donations and the County Commission gave them money. West Liberty is a local municipality with \$232,000.00 budget, a college with a 9-million-dollar budget sitting in the municipality and they receive Federal, State, and local grants and money was received from the County Commission. River Hills Association has thirty-one home residents in Ohio County. A community since 1979 and has paid taxes and have never received any assistance for our infrastructure. Mr. Patterson reported that he writes grants, and they can get nothing. President Wharton asked Mr. Patterson if Clearview is paying for their area to be paved. Mr. Patterson reported yes. Mr. Patterson reported that he talked to one of the gas companies because they have a sub station up there and they're willing to contribute for their half of the road. Commissioner Nickerson asked Mr. Patterson what is meant by their half. Mr. Patterson reported the way it works with the deeds in our neighborhood he owns my property, and he is responsible for half of the road on the frontage of his property, all residents are. The residents are responsible for maintenance of the road. When he started doing research, he wondered what happens if this is not residential but rather commercial, meaning the gas company. So he came down to the city and it is the same. So, he reached out to the gas company, and they would pay their half of the road out of their budget this year. Commissioner Abraham asked Administrator Russell in terms of the Recovery Act monies because there is a section in there of how to spend the money, would this be infrastructure. Mr. Patterson reported no, he was at the meeting and

the Recovery Act is for water, sewer, and broadband only. Administrator Russell reported during the presentation at Oglebay they made it very clear that this tranche of money was not intended to be used for paving but that there was second tranche coming out for infrastructure outside of the 8 million dollars. President Wharton reported to Mr. Patterson that we will get together and talk about this issue. Commissioner Nickerson asked Mr. Patterson if they had any funds in your organization. Mr. Patterson reported yes, about \$2,800.00. We are planning to meet this week to collect more dues, and to talk about this issue and other issues. One of the things was the Village of Clearview and annexation. The City of Wheeling tried to annex us, but we went to court and were not annexed into the City of Wheeling. Commissioner Nickerson asked of the thirty-one houses what is the participation rate in the Association. Mr. Patterson replied 70%. Mr. Patterson indicated there are twelve families that are retired and on a fixed income, four families have children, so they have a school bus that comes through, and the rest of us all work. Mr. Patterson thanked the Commissioners for their time.

## **Grants**

### **PRO Application**

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commission has a copy of the PRO grant for three officers for \$30,000.00, so they are requesting \$84,000.00 for three deputies with a match of \$108,196.00 for a total of \$264,196.00. Commissioner Abraham asked what if the grant would get turned down what happens and when would the Commission know. Finance Director Archey reported that the Commission would have to decide at that time to decide if the Commission would provide the PRO's at their cost. Finance Director Archey reported that the Commission did not budget any funds for the PRO program because at budget time the Sheriff stated that he was not going to have PRO's for next year. Commissioner Abraham recommended that the Sheriff request a budget revision just in case. Finance Director Archey asked the Commission about the PRO contract with the schoolboard. Commissioner Abraham reported that the Ohio County Schools requested, and they have negotiated three deputies, so they have agreed to pay for the bulk of that and the JAG is going to offset that. Commissioner Nickerson asked if they agreed in the contract to pay a fixed amount for each of those deputies. Administrator Russell reported yes at \$60,000.00 each. Solicitor Tennant reported that the contract needs some minor adjustments on the number of officers and the costs. Solicitor Tennant reported that Administrator Russell has spoken to Mr. Jones, and he confirmed three officers are desired by the Board of Education to make sure that everyone is on the same page. Commissioner Abraham asked if we can have this all complete by July 1, 2021. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the PRO Application. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

### **Drug Task Force Application**

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a copy of the application for the Drug Task Force requesting \$25,000.00 for our officers as well as \$25,000.00 for the Wheeling Police Department. Last year Finance Director Archey believes that the Commission only received \$15,000.00. These funds are already in the Sheriff's budget and the City will cover their funds. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the Drug task Force grant application. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

### **Airport Runway16-34 Crack Repair FAA Grant Award**

Administrator Russell reported that the Commissioners have in front of them the grant award from the FAA for the Runway 16-34 Seal Coat & Remarkings project. The grant is in the amount of \$1,270,957.00 which represents 100 % of the project cost including engineering fees. The FAA is covering the local

match with American Rescue funds so there is no local match. On May 6, 2021, we received one bid that we sent to the FAA for review because it was 13% below what we had originally budgeted. The FAA approved our one bid and offered us the award. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept the grant award. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

### **Hotel Tax Requests**

Solicitor Tennant reported that he would like to recuse himself from one of the requests, as he is President of the American Legion Athletic Club which is one of the entities requesting funds. Administrator Russell reported that first the Commission has is Auggies 5K Annual Run/Walk that is held at Warwood Middle School and it benefits the Ohio County Animal Shelter. Commissioner Nickerson asked if we checked to see if the Commission gave funding last year since with COVID most events were cancelled. Administrator Russell reported no the Commission did not. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to give \$500.00. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Administrator Russell reported next we have the 2021 Blues Fest, and they are asking for \$2,500.00. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve \$2,500.00 for the Blues Fest. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Administrator Russell reported next is Wheeling Little Patriots Football and Cheering. Commissioner Abraham reported that he knows a little about this. These are students that sometime cannot afford to play. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to give \$500.00 for these kids. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Administrator Russell reported next is the Ohio County 4H Camp. They are requesting \$4,532.00 for rental of Camp Russell. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the Ohio County 4H camp funding in the amount of \$4,532.00. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Administrator Russell reported that we have a request from Tate Blanchard, Board member for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. This is the first time they have requested funds for this event. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve \$500.00 for the event. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Administrator Russell reported that the Commission has a request from the Wheeling Symphony for the July 4, 2021, event. The Commission has given \$2,500.00 in the past. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve \$2,500.00 for the July 4<sup>th</sup> event. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Administrator Russell reported that the Commission has a request from the WV American Legion Athletic Club in the amount of \$7,500.00 for their Baseball State Championship that is being held here in Wheeling late July. Commissioner Nickerson reported they are estimating needing 100 hotel rooms so with that I make a motion to approve \$7,500.00 for the American Legion Post 1 Baseball State Championship. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Administrator Russell reported that the last request is from the YMCA, and they are looking for assistance with some projects. They did not list a specific amount, but projects are new roof, etc. Commissioner Nickerson reported that when this came, the Commission had just approved \$2,000.00 for the children, and he thinks this may have overlapped related to the building project that they have going on out there. Commissioner Nickerson reported he is on the board, and he was not part of the request. Commissioner Nickerson feels we should table this until speaking with Adam Shinsky. Commissioners agreed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Floodplain Ordinance**

Administrator Russell reported that the Commissioners have the floodplain ordinance before them. This is required by FEMA, and he has added language to comply with WV Code. Solicitor Tennant reported that much to his surprise the State FEMA office announced that they accepted our proposed paragraph, and it was also approved by the FEMA office in Philadelphia. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to

approve the floodplain ordinance with the addition of Section 5.6. Solicitor Tennant reported that what the public needs to know is anytime that you are constructing in Ohio County you must visit Dave Weaver the Floodplain Administrator because he first must decide whether your construction is within this special hazard zone. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Russell reported that the Commission has a copy of the Annual rabies Clinics times and dates that will be held in July. No action needed.

#### STAFF/ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

##### FACILITIES DIVISION

Administrator Russell reported that his report did not get printed out, but he will run through a few things. Comcast is out on Breezy Hill, McCutcheon Road, Union Hill hanging the fiber. They are a little behind. Administrator Russell reported that he is working with Solicitor Tennant on a procedure to get a public notice for MCTV, and the website converting it to a smart site is nearly complete. We should be online next week and have made some changes to the website. The HVAC project is moving forward, and the Portico project will be going out to bid next week and lowering of the ceilings is part of the HVAC project.

##### PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Administrator Russell reported that Mr. Vargo is traveling today so he left me his report. Mr. Vargo reported that there were no deaths reported this week and cases are down to nineteen. They will no longer be testing at Wheeling Island Station Five. Wheeling Hospital, Wheeling Healthright and Urgent Care will continue to test. The 12-15 age groups vaccination clinics went well last week. Also many of the group walked in with their parents at the Highlands Center. COVID 19 school vaccination clinics will be held June 7-10 from 4-7 p.m. each day for children 12 years and older, families and the public. Guardians must be present for children under eighteen. Also, clinics at Michael's at the Highlands will be giving vaccinations from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at the Wheeling Ohio County Health department Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9 a.m. -11 a.m. and 1p.m.-3 p.m.

##### FINANCE DIVISION

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commission has a copy of the bills as they are up to date. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the bills. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Finance Director Archey noted we do not have any unpaid bills tonight.

Finance Director Archey reported that we have budget revision number five which is the final for the fiscal year. The Commission has twenty-one revisions tonight. Two are inter department requests, four contingency requests, and fifteen revenue/ disbursement requests. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the budget revisions. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

##### ASSESSOR

##### Exonerations

Finance Director Archey reported there are two exonerations tonight, both are credits reducing a tax, both are recommended by the Assessor. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the exonerations. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

#### Certificate of Entry

Finance Director Archey reported that we have two Certificate of ReEntry where the properties did not get put back on the books, and I had County Clerk Mike Kelly research and they are good to go. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the Certificate of ReEntry. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

#### COMMISSION BOARD REPORTS

Wheeling Ohio County Health Department- Administrator Russell reported that the Ohio County Health Board would like to reappoint Matthew Wood, DO to the Board of Health. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to appoint Mathew Wood DO to the Board of Health. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

NPWDB Appointments- Administrator Russell reported that there are two appointments needed for the NPWDB board. One is Michele Olejasz who asked to be reappointed to the board, and Steve terry has relocated and that Bengy Swanson is interested in serving on the NPWDB board. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to reappoint Michele Olejasz and appoint Bengy Swanson to the NPWDB board. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Ohio County Fireboard Appointment- Administrator Russell reported that Rich Harrold from Mozart sent a letter stating that he is interested in being placed on the fireboard as the Mozart representative, and Mark Griffith has reported that he would like to be reappointed to the board for another three-year term as a citizen representative. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to appoint Mr. Harrold to be the Mozart representative to the Fire board and reappoint Mark Griffith as a Citizen representative. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Ohio County Development Authority-Administrator Russell reported that there are three board members on the OCDA board that are up for renewal, they are President Randy Wharton, Ray Helbling from Triadelphia, and Mayor Glenn Elliott. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to renew the appointments of those three members for another three-year term which will end July 20, 2024. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

#### COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Administrator Russell reported that there is a Holiday on Monday, June 21, 2021, which is West Virginia Day and all offices will be closed except for those that are required to remain open.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

President Wharton reported the next meeting will be Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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President, Randy Wharton

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Administrator, Randy Russell