Ohio County Commission
April 18, 2023

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:04 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

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

The minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

Grants:
VOCA – The grant was presented to the Commission in September. The state of West Virginia will provide $24,000 under the grant, while the Ohio County Commission will provide $14,000. If approved, the funding will provide staffing for the Prosecutor's Office. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

HAVA – The grant, due May 9, would aid in updating our election equipment. The grant request is for $133,000, while our share would be $32,000. If this grant is not approved, we may need to come up with funding for 80 poll books (two per precinct.) By June, we will know if the grant has been approved. Motion to approve made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Rotary Club of Wheeling – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to contribute $250.00 to the event. Motion carried.
- Heather Miller Memorial Golf Classic – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to contribute $100.00 to the event. Motion carried.
- Helping Heroes a Night to Remember – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to contribute $500.00 to the event.
- Family Service of the Upper Ohio Valley – A motion was made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham, to donate $25,000.00 for transportation. The Ohio County Commission will provide the funds once other funding sources have been secured for the van. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Life Hub – A motion was made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham, to donate $25,000.00 for the purchase of the building for a low barrier shelter. The funds will be awarded at closing. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Levy Rate – The Commissioners were presented with a letter from the State Auditor's office. The rate was set at 12.77%, of which 1.2% or approximately $900,000 annually

goes to the Ohio County Public Library. The rate for Ohio County is only behind Marshall County (11.43%) in the state. Motion to accept made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

- Welty Village, LC Project Series 2015 Revenue Bonds – Commissioners were presented with information to modify the bonds at Welty, which were issues in June, 2015. The Ohio County Commission issued bonds to help construct the facility. Truist will determine the new index. The verbiage was reviewed by Bond Counsel. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Oglebay Backyard BBQ ABCA Request – Motion to approve the request made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Northern Panhandle Home Consortium Resolution – Motion to approve the resolution made by Mr. Abraham, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Health Insurance Renewal – This year, there is a 5% increase, although it is recommended to keep employee contributions the same. At the current time, there is a 90% loss ratio. In the future, there may be a need to take the premiums out of 24 pays instead of 26 but more information will be forthcoming. Motion to approve the renewal agreement made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Officials Reports:

- Administrator – Mr. Russell brought two new hire requests before the Commission for advice and consent: Erin Whichey, Accounts Payable for the Ohio County Commission and Alicia Snyder, Deputy Clerk for the Circuit Clerk's office. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Facilities – Ms. Marco reported work will begin on the Ohio County Animal Shelter roof on April 24. Work on the HVAC project will begin shortly. Mr. Russell reported in the meantime, Conex boxes will be delivered to the back parking lot for storage. American Electric Power will be upgrading their services and will run the building off the main circuit. This will include trenching the alley. Further updates will be provided.
- Emergency Services – No report.
- Payables – The Commissioners were provided with up-to-date bills. Motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Unpaid Invoices – The invoices for the Sherriff's office did not get approved in his absence last week. The invoices have now been approved and will appear on the report for the next meeting.
- Budget Revisions – None at this time.
- Exonerations – After review, Mr. Wharton made a motion to approve the exonerations with a second by Mr. Abraham. Motion approved.

Commissioner's Reports: Mr. Abraham said the Ohio Valley Robotics Team extended a thank you for the donation, while Mr. Nickerson stated the golf team at Central also expressed their sincere gratitude.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Donald A Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator