Board of Commissioners of Ohio County
Minutes of a Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 8:00am

County Commission meetings are held in
Room 215 of the City County Building, 1500 Chapline Street, Wheeling, WV 26003
County Commission meetings are open to the public

County Commission Members Present

Commission President Zachary T. Abraham
Commissioner Donald A. Nickerson, Jr.
Commissioner Randy Wharton

Commission Staff Members Present

County Administrator Randy Russell
County Solicitor Donald J. Tennant, Jr.
Director of Emergency Management Tony Campbell
Director of Ohio County E911 Rickie Pritt

Other Elected Officials Present

Sheriff of Ohio County Harry "Nelson" Croft, Jr.
Clerk of Ohio County Michael E. Kelly
Circuit Clerk of Ohio County Brenda Miller

- **Call to Order**

  Commission President Abraham called the meeting to order at 8:00am in Room 215 of the City County Building. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **Delegations**

  Anthony McDaniel, a paramedic with Ohio County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) spoke to Commissioners about pay raises for emergency medical staff. He stated that EMS is taking on greater responsibilities for the region by making blood available where necessary. He also pointed out that the elected officials have just received a pay increase.

  Chad Francis spoke on behalf of Angelina Loughery, a dispatcher with Ohio County 911. Mr. Bowman requested a response to the grievance filed by George "Burnie" Yoho, another dispatcher, regarding additional pay for dispatchers as a result of the courthouse closure caused by the winter weather event on Monday, January 26, 2026.

- **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

  Regular Meeting of July 7, 2026
  Special Meeting of July 28, 2026

  The minutes were reviewed by Commissioners. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commission President Abraham. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the County Commission.

- **Grants**

  None

- **Community Grants**

  None

- **Unfinished Business**

  None

- **New Business**

Sheriff's Department, Taser Purchase
Administrator Russell presented County Commissioners with a purchase order for thirty (30) Axon Tasers with training. He stated that the tasers that deputies are currently carrying, are over ten (10) years old and are obsolete. The total cost to replace the tasers is $159,320.20. The Sheriff's department has worked with the vendor to come up with a payment plan. The vendor will deliver the tasers and the County will make annual payments of $31,684 per year. We seek your ratification of this purchase.

> Commission President Abraham made a motion to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wharton. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the County Commission.

Sheriff's Department, Patrol Vehicle, Lease/Purchase Resolution
Administrator Russell presented County Commissioners with a resolution authorizing the President to enter into a lease/purchase agreement with Wesbanco, to finance the five (5) 2026 Chev Tahoes that we approved last fiscal year. The term will be sixty (60) months with payments at approximately $5,377.36 per month. We seek your approval of the resolution.

> Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the County Commission.

Ohio County Clerk, Advice and Consent for New Hires
Patricia Thomas, Deputy Clerk and Diane Schultz, Deputy Clerk
Administrator Russell advised the County Commissioners that with the retirement of both Pam Obyc and Jeannie Cupp, the County Clerk has two openings in this office that we would like to fill. County Clerk Kelly seeks your advice and consent to hire Patricia Thomas and Diane Schultz as deputy clerks in the Ohio County Clerk's office.

> Commissioner President Abraham made a motion approve both new hires. Commissioner Nickerson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the County Commission.

Ohio County 911 Communications, Advice and Consent for New Hire

Brittany Gentry, E911 Telecommunicator
Administrator Russell advises County Commissioners that we continue to have a number of open positions for 911 Dispatcher/Telecommunication. Director Pritt seeks your advice and consent to hire Brittany Gentry as E911 Dispatcher/Telecommunicator.

Commission President Abrahm made a motion to approve the new hire. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wharton. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the County Commission.

Ohio County Employee Handbook Update
Vacation Leave Policy and Sick Leave Policy
Administrator Russell presented County Commissioners with updated Vacation and Sick Leave policies. The Elected Officers and Department Managers of Ohio County have met on a number of occasions to develop and update to these policies. We recommend your approval of these policies.

Commission President Abraham made a motion to approve the updated policies. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wharton. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the County Commission.

Personnel Matters
Solicitor Tennant advised County Commissioners that there is a personnel matter that needed to be discussed but should be done in Executive Session under The Code of West Virginia §6-9A-4(b)(A): Matters arising from the employment of a public employee.

Commission President Abraham advised that the County Commission would go into Execute Session at the end of the agenda.

- **Staff and Elected Official Reports**

County Administrator Randy Russell

Jail Bill Update
Administrator Russell reported that the City was current on their share of the jail bill.

Finance Director Becky Coyne

Payables
Administrator Russell presented County Commissioners with a list of county payables, and recommended payment of all payables on the list.

Commissioner Wharton made a motion to pay the payables listed. Commissioner Nickerson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the County Commission.

Unpaid Invoices

Administrator Russell presented the County Commission with a list of the county payables that with be open and outstanding after payments have been released. This is for informational purposes no action is required.

Budget Revisions
Administrator Russell advised that there were no budget revisions at this time.

Assessor

Exonerations
Administrator Russell presented the County Commission with a list of forty-eight (48) exonerations that have been recommended by the Assessor, all of which correct incorrect assessments. The administration has reviewed all the exonerations and found them to be reasonable and recommends your approval of the exonerations.

Commissioner Wharton made a motion to approve the exonerations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the County Commission.

Certificates of Re-Entry
Administrator Russell reported that there were no certificates of re-entry at this time.

- **Commission Board Reports**

There were no Commission Board Reports

- **Commissioner Comments**

County Commissioners recognized and thanked Ohio County Circuit Clerk for her many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Ohio County. Ms. Miller reported that she will be retiring at the end of August.

- **Executive Session**

Commission President Abraham made a motion for the County Commission to go into Executive Session pursuant to the Code of West Virginia §6-9A-4(b)(A) to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Randy Wharton seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the County Commission at 8:42 am

Commission President Abraham made a motion to for the County Commission to come out from Executive Session. Commissioner Nickerson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of the County Commission at 9:32 am

Commission President Abraham asked County Solicitor Tennant to make recommendations as to next steps in regard to the personnel matter discussed in Executive Session. No further action was taken.

Commission President Abraham advised those present that the next Regular Meeting of the County Commission would take place on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, in Room 215 of the City-County Building, 1500 Chapline Street, Wheeling, WV 26003, promptly at 8:00 am. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

Following the meeting, County Commissioners participated in the unveiling of Ohio County's America250 Mural, painted by Wheeling artist Vondel Bell.

We do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the minutes of a meeting of the County Commission of Ohio County conducted on Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

Zachary T. Abraham, President

Randel A. Russell, County Administrator