Ohio County Commission
February 6, 2024

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

Delegations:

- Jody Miller spoke concerning her daughter Heather Miller, who was tragically killed 18 years ago in a car accident. Heather was an organ donor who saved countless lives. Mrs. Miller stated on Friday, March 15, 2024, a docuseries will be released highlighting not only the selfless gift of Heather, but other people in the area. The County Commission proclaimed March 15, 2024 "Gifted Day" on a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

The minutes from January 16, 2024, were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- Runway 16-34 Project Amendment – The FAA, in a letter received February 5, 2024, will cover $65,000.00 of the project amendment, while the Ohio County Commission will be responsible for $7,000.00. These funds will be taken from the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport budget.
- West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History – The Records Management and Preservation Board has awarded the Ohio County Commission $9,090.00 for shelving to store books that have been digitized. Mr. Abraham made a motion to accept the grant, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants

- REC Signature Grant – For the Ohio County Schools Robotics' Event held at the Highlands Sports Complex, a proposal was made to waive the cost of the curtaining at the center. This would be an in-kind donation in the amount of $4,500.00. Mr. Abraham made a motion to improve the in-kind donation, while Mr. Wharton seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Inclusion on Ice – This event, held by the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center and Augusta Levy, is held in February. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve $1,000.00 for the event, while Mr. Wharton seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Bethlehem Fire Department – The Bethlehem Fire Department recently acquired a second ambulance. They are asking for $1,488.42 to purchase a radio system for the ambulance. Motion to approve the grant made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- ARPA Payment – The MOU was received from West Liberty Elementary School. The initial payment will be made. No action needed.

- 911 Deputy Director Appointment – The job was posted on December 13, 2023. It was emailed to each dispatcher. Resumes were to be received by January 2, 2024, and an interview panel was formed. Ricki Pritt was chosen for the position by the committee. Mrs. Theresa Russell asked for the advice and consent to appoint Ricki Pritt to the position. Mr. Abraham made the motion to accept the appointment, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Wheeling-Ohio County Airport Airshow – In August, the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport can host an airshow for the Ohio Valley. A committee will be formed, including individuals from the Airport Advisory Committee, to host the event. Mr. Kevin Price will work out the details of the event, but a deposit must be made for the air boss fees. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the initial fee, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Prosecutor's Office – New Hire Attorney – The Prosecutor's Office asked for the advice and consent to hire an Attorney for the office. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the hire, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Prosecutor's Office – New Hire Lauren White – The Prosecutor's Office asked for the advice and consent to hire Ms. Lauren White as a Legal Secretary. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the hire, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Animal Shelter Renovations – Ms. Marco received quotes for two projects at the Ohio County Animal Shelter:
    - Vinyl hardwood floors – These floors would cover all areas except the kennels, isolation, and the electrical room. The funds for the project would come from an endowment received. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the purchase of the floors, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
    - Beds – Ms. Marco asked that endowment funds also be used to purchase 20 chew proof dog beds for the Shelter. Motion to approve the purchase made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Elections:

- Poll Worker Compensation Comparison – Ms. Jessica Klinger, the Election Coordinator, completed a poll worker compensation comparison. She would like to lower the cost to complete the required training to $20.00 and increase the base pay to work the election to $220.00. If 252 poll workers are utilized, this would increase costs by approximately $14,000.00. The last time a pay raise was provided was during the general election in 2020. Mr. Abraham made a motion to accept the pay rate changes, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- City of Wheeling OVRTA – Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the Levy wording for the ballot pending the City of Wheeling does not suggest any changes. Motion seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Ballot Drawing – The ballot drawing will be held on February 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report - Mr. Russell – No report.

- Facilities Update - Ms. Marco – The painting has been completed at the Ohio County Animal Shelter. The grooming sink has also arrived and been installed. The Christmas lights on the Annex have been removed. The Tower Renovations at the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport are in progress and should be completed by April / May. HVAC: Two new storage containers have arrived for the project that will house the windows. The roof work continues and should be completed within the next two weeks, weather permitting. The new piping continues to be installed in the penthouse. The duct chases were approved by the State Fire Marshal's office.
- EMA – Mr. Vargo – Alice training was recently held. Fire extinguisher training will be held for the Valley Grove Fire Department and their families. Mr. Vargo and Mr. Campbell are hoping to expand this training to all departments. Fourteen Stop the Bleed Kits were recently received.
- Sheriff's Department – A request for bids was placed in the local newspaper. Major Vaught is requesting permission to advertise the bid once 2025 pricing becomes available. Major Vaught also provided the cost to outfit each vehicle as requested by Mr. Abraham.

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. This funding has now been received and the invoices will be paid by the next meeting. No further action is required.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator