The Board of Commissioners of Ohio County, West Virginia
Minutes of a Regular Session for Tuesday, May 5, 2026

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

Staff Members present:
County Administrator Randel A. Russell
County Solicitor Don Tennant
Director of Emergency Management Louis Vargo
Assistant Director of Emergency Management Anthony Campbell
Chief Deputy Kent Lewis

Elected Officials present:
Sheriff H. Nelson Croft

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

- Commission President Abraham convened the meeting in Room 215 of the City County Building at 8:00 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- President Zach Abraham asked that one change be made to the Special Meeting minutes held on April 21, 2026. The change will be made, and the minutes will be brought back to the meeting on May 19, 2026.

Community Grants

- Opioid Fund, Wheeling Housing Authority – The Wheeling Housing Authority was previously awarded $104,000.00 of Opioid Funds by the Ohio County Commission. Since the award, The Wheeling Housing Authority has decided not to implement the program and hence has withdrawn their request. The funds will be placed back into the Ohio County Commission's Opioid Fund and used to help other organizations throughout the County.
- Opioid Fund, Stone Church VFD, Cot Load System – The request was for $41,000.00. After careful review, the Ohio County Commission remained consistent with their methodology for funding and helped with $21,000.00 of the request. A motion was made by President Abraham to approve $21,000.00, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. Motion carried.
- Opioid Funds, Triadelphia VFD, Cot Load System – This request was also for $41,000.00. Using the same methodology above, President Abraham made a motion to approve $21,000.00 for the request, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. Motion carried.
- Opioid Funds, YSS New Recovery Homes, Phase III – The agency applied to help build a recovery home in the area. The Commission agreed to provide $112,500.00 for the project.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business to discuss.

New Business

- Proclamation, Foster Care Awareness Month in Ohio County – Mr. Randy Russell, County Administrator, read a proclamation in awareness of Foster Care month in Ohio County. The

Commission, on a motion made by President Zach Abraham made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. Motion carried.

- Ohio County Addressing, New Road Names:
  - Brinkmeier Springs Lane – After review, Commissioner Wharton made a motion to approve the new road name, seconded by President Abraham. Motion carried.
  - Freedom Court - After review, Commissioner Wharton made a motion to approve the new road name, seconded by President Abraham. Motion carried.
  - Misfit Lane - After review, Commissioner Wharton made a motion to approve the new road name, seconded by President Abraham. Motion carried.
- Ohio County 911, Advice and Consent for full-time new hire: Morgan Canter – After review, a motion was made by President Abraham to approve the new hire, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. Motion carried.
- Sheriff of Ohio County, Advice and Consent for full time new hire: Eric Griffin - After review, a motion was made by President Abraham to approve the new hire, seconded by Commissioner Whartion. Motion carried.
- Assessor of Ohio County, Advice and Consent for full time new hire: Diane Pokwatka: After review, a motion was made by President Abraham to approve the new hire, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. Motion carried.
- Assessor of Ohio County, Advice and Consent for full time new hire: Wendy Wolfe: After review, a motion was made by President Abraham to approve the new hire, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff and Elected Official Reports

- County Administrator Randy Russell – The new jail bill is out and being reviewed by the City.
- Senior Fiscal Office Rebecca Coyne – Motion to approve the payables made by President Abraham, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. Motion carried.
- Exonerations – Mr. Russell stated the exonerations were reviewed and recommended by the Assessor's Office. President Abraham made a motion to accept the exonerations, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. Motion carried.

There being no further business to address, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Zachary T. Abraham, Commission President

Randel A. Russell, County Administrator