Ohio County Commission
October 25, 2023

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, October 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Laura Wakim-Chapman presented Fred Brunner from The Wheeling Detachment 17711 Marine Corp. League, Inc. with a grant her office worked to receive for the organization.

The minutes from October 3, 2023 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- Victims of Crime Advocate (VOCA) – The grant was approved for $39,215.00. The Crime Victim Witness Coordinator is funded by this grant. An additional $13,000.00 is needed to fully fund the position and it is included in the Prosecutor's budget. A motion to approve the grant was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Document Preservation Grant – The grant, for $10,000.00, with a $1,000.00 match, will be applied for by the Ohio County Commission. This grant will be written to provide shelving for the County Clerk's books.
- The Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) – The application will be written for $4,500.00. Of the $4,500.00, $2,500.00 will be applied for to purchase a laptop for Incident Command, while $1,500.00 will be used to purchase supplies. No match is required. Motion to approve the application made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce Economic Outlook Conference – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to approve $500.00 for the conference.
- Ohio Valley Night to Shine – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to approve $500.00 for the event.
- Oglebay Foundation Access Program – For the past four years, the Ohio County Commission has supported this program. A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to contribute $10,000.00 to the Access to Parks Program.
- Wheeling Nailers Sponsorship – The Wheeling Nailers have requested $25,000.00 for an Education Day. In the past, this donation has been made by the Ohio County Development Authority. The Commission asked that the donation request be sent to the Ohio County Development Authority for consideration.
- Valley Grove Fire Department – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton to approve $500.00 for their annual quarter auction. Motion carried.
- It was also noted Mr. Russell received information from the Super 6 for a contribution. He has requested their financial information, and it was not available by the meeting date.

Old Business:

- Vehicle Policy – Tabled
- Sponsorship Policy – The Commissioners reviewed the policy and noted two changes: instead of a maximum of 10 donations in section one, it should be six. In the section referring to why the Commission would not fund an event, it will be added that the Commission cannot fund more than 30% of the total expenses. Letters will be sent as soon as possible to community organizations.

New Business:

- Contribution – WVU Cancer Center – In 2022, the Ohio County Commission entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Wheeling and West Virginia University Hospitals to contribute $2,000,000.00 for the Cancer Center to be built on the grounds of the former Ohio Valley Medical Center. Mr. Nickerson commented this Center is a "wonderful thing for the community." Motion to approve the donation made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- OVTRA Dues – Motion to approve the dues payment in the amount of $500.00 made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- OC911 Personnel Matters – This matter will be deferred to the end of the meeting.
- Auction – On November 4, the County and the City will be holding an auction for vehicles and equipment at the City Garage in Clator.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Russell stated the Economic Outlook Conference will be held tomorrow. The State Auditor will be hosting a training on Friday. On Friday, November 10, Veteran's Day will be observed and the Courthouse will be closed. The work session with Piper Sandler and Frost Brown Todd has been postponed until November 15.
- Ms. Marco reported the north end building repairs will start on November 6, windows will start on December 12, and the roof is still on track to be completed by the end of the year. The inside of the Animal Shelter will be painted from the grant funds received and work will start in the next three weeks. The painting will take two weeks to complete.
- Emergency Services – Mr. Vargo reported a bomb threat response program was held for WVU and 130 people were in attendance. Exercises will be held at Peterson, Good Shepard, and the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport. On Friday, Mr. Vargo will be at Wheeling Park, Warwood, and Triadelphia schools hosting a Stop the Bleed training session. In Elm Grove, a home exploded due to vapors. Two individuals were sent to the Burn Unit.
- Sheriff – A representative of the Sheriff's Office was not in attendance at the meeting.

Finance:

- Mr. Archey reported the bills are up to date. The invoice for the timekeeping system was questioned by Mr. Wharton. The invoice amount will be split between the Ohio County Development Authority, the Ohio County Commission, and the Public Service District. The invoice for Compiled Technologies was questioned by Mr. Nickerson. Mr. Archey stated this is the software system used in the County Clerk's office. 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.
- Mr. Archey presented the exonerations for consideration. Of the seven exonerations presented, four were for the Scottish Rite. Mr. Wharton stated he felt this was the right course of action to take regarding the building. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Mr. Abraham made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:09 p.m. based on rule §6-9A-4 to discuss OC911 personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Mr. Abraham made a motion to enter back onto the record at 7:31 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator