Ohio County Commission
March 24, 2025

The Ohio County Commission met in special session, with all Commissioners present, on Tuesday, March 24, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Abraham joined by telephone due to travel. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Randy Wharton. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

The minutes from the March 4, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.

New Business:

- 2025-2026 County Levy Estimate (Budget) – The Ohio County Commission is presenting a balanced budget in the amount of $24,000,000.00. Revenue is down $4,000,000.00 and this is due to a slow down in construction, personal property, used cars, oil and gas, and Tunnel Ridge. This will be a flat budget with no significant changes to line items. Benefits will likely go up more than 20%. Motion to approve the budget made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Nickerson.
- Ohio Valley Drug Task Force Vehicle – In February, the Ohio Valley Drug Task Force's Chevrolet Blazer was totaled. The amount was $20,379.00. The Task Force would like to use the funds to purchase another vehicle. Motion to approve the purchase made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Motorola Proposal for Virtual Prime Sites – This will move the radio system to a prime site at a cost of $242,000.00 which will be shared with Marshall County. The items will no longer be on racks. Motion to approve made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report – Mr. Russell stated the audit will be completed for 2023-2024 tomorrow.
- Facilities – Ms. Marco gave an HVAC update:
    - The south end of the second floor has been vacated. This includes the County Commission, the Tax Office, the County Clerk, and the Assessor's Office. Demolition will begin and the work should be completed by May 28, 2025.
    - The lower roof will start on April 14, 2025.
    - The upper roof will start on April 28, 2025.
    - The emergency grant to fix the damage to the Magistrate Building is delayed while we wait to see if the grant was approved.
    - The unit in the pit that cools 911 radios recently went out. On a emergency basis, a new unit was purchased and will be installed.
    - The Portico Pavers are out to bid.
- Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Croft stated that although the Chevrolet Blazer was totaled, there were no injuries. Deputy Daly and Canine Kronis started their two weeks of training.

- EMA Director – The Governor had proposed that EMA fall under the National Guard. After further consideration, this idea was tabled. House Bill 366 standardizes emergency plans in schools. Several drills are upcoming. At Wheeling Park High School, 1,400 students were taught Stop the Bleed. There was a significant accident in the County where multiple squads responded. Everyone worked excellent together.
- 911 Director – Batteries in the UPS System are working properly. Comcast put in the Fiber circuits for Next Gen 911.

Finance:

- Mr. Russell provided the purchase orders issued since the last meeting. He is asking the Commissioners to review and ratify the orders. Motion made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton to ratify the orders. Motion carried.
- Ms. Coyne presented Budget Revision #2 for the year. There were no questions. Motion to approve made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Ms. Coyne reported the bills are up to date. Motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Unpaid invoices –No further action is required.
- Exonerations – Twenty exonerations were presented. Motion to approve the exonerations made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Nickerson.

Zachary T. Abraham, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator