OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION
5/3/2022

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present at the meeting was President Randy Wharton, Commissioner Don Nickerson, Commissioner Zach Abraham, Administrator Randy Russell, Solicitor Don Tennant, and Finance Director Rodd Archey.

Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2022, Commission meeting. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Grants

Homeland Security Award

Administrator Russell reported at the meeting on April 5, 2022, we submitted for approval the proposal for the application of the Homeland Security Grant. The State found money very quickly and came back with funding in the amount of $16,733.00. The use of the funds will be for ballistic vests, stop the bleed kits and some trauma kits. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the grant award. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

JAG-Letter of Intent

Finance Director Archey reported that the State has done this differently, and they asked that if the Commission wanted to do an application. The State would like a letter of intent as to what we plan to do. On the second page we are estimating a request for the PRO in the amount $84,000.00 and the Drug Task Force grant of $56,000.00. He will put this in a letter format as they request and have the President sign off on this. This needs to be back to the State by Friday, May 13, 2022. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

AEDs for Ballfields

Administrator Russell reported that at one of our past meetings the Commissioners had talked about getting AEDs for all of the ballfields. Emergency Management Director Vargo called the Mountaineer League to identify which ballfields did not have AEDs located at them. He has identified fourteen, and he would like to invest $23,700.00 to purchase the fourteen AEDs. Nine of them will be VIZIO, five of them will be ZOLL. Commissioner Nickerson asked if they would be taken down in the off season. Administrator Russell stated yes. Solicitor Tennant asked how many are allotted to Dimmeydale. There was a discussion as to maybe getting additional if needed. There are two fields out there so would they not need two AEDs. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the AEDs for the ballfields. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

American Legion-Purchase of IAC Building

Administrator Russell reported that the American Legion Post 1 is raising money to renovate the Italian American Club in the amount of $420,000.00. The American Legion is asking for a community grant in the amount of $50,000.00 to assist them with the renovations. President Wharton asked if this could this be deferred to the ARPA committee for approval. Administrator Russell reported that the ARPA money could not be used for this. Commissioner Nickerson asked if we have any idea what other

entities are being asked to donate. Solicitor Tennant stated that there are twenty some Veteran's organizations within Ohio County, and he believes that this is a place so that they may also have meetings there. The Commissioners would like to table this and get more information as to who else they are asking to donate money. Administrator Russell stated that he will reach out to Mr. Powell for more information.

Wheeling Firefighter's Local 12 Annual Golf Scramble

Administrator Russell reported that the Wheeling Firefighters have a golf scramble, and the proceeds go to cancer screenings for women, to install smoke detectors, and scholarships for children and community-based projects. This is a first-time request. Commissioner Abraham made a motion for $100.00 for the Wheeling Firefighter's Golf Scramble. Second by commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Bethlehem Fire Department

Administrator Russell reported that the Bethlehem Fire department is requesting a community grant in the amount of $7,945.00 to wire in their cascade system that was donated to the department. Commissioner Abraham asked how that transpired. Administrator Russell stated that Belmont County purchased a new one. Commissioner Abraham made a motion approve $7,945.00 to the Bethlehem Fire Department. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. President Wharton would like to see if ARP funds could be used for this request.

Village of Clearview-Zoo Program

Administrator Russell reported that the Village of Clearview would like to have Oglebay come to the Village and do a Zoo to You event. This is where the zoo brings animals for the children to see. The request they are making is for $180.25 which is the cost for Oglebay to bring the animals, plus staff. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the request for the Zoo to You event. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator Russell reported that there is no old business tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

ABCA-No Zoning Letter Request (Sweet Treats & Sounds)

Administrator Russell reported that the Commission has a request from Faith in Action Caregivers for a no- zoning letter for their Sweets Treats and Sounds event held at the Sonneborn Shelter. They are requesting a wine permit from the WVABCA. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the request for a no zoning letter. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

ARPA Request-OCPSD Tank Renovation Project

Administrator Russell reported that the OCPSD bid out a water tank renovation project. They received one bid back in the amount of $752,500.00. The budget was originally $910,000.00 so they are happy with that bid. In addition, there will be some engineering costs and inspection costs. The total project will be $869,500,00. The OCPSD requests your approval to use ARPA funds to help pay for this. Commissioner Nickerson asked if the committee that was established will have the final say on this. Administrator Russell said he will get a meeting set up. Commissioner Abraham had said he thought we had talked about allocating a certain portion to the PSD. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to

approve the funding for the OCPSD. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Piper Sandler Letter of Engagement

Administrator Russell reported that as you know with the HVAC project here at the Courthouse, we will have to borrow some funds to make it happen. This will have to be a lease revenue bond issue and will have a bond underwriter. This is where Piper Sandler comes into play. Solicitor Tennant has reviewed the document along with bond counsel. Commissioner Abraham asked about the rate from the bond counsel. Administrator Russell stated we will investigate those. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the agreement pending that we understand the fee structure for the work to be done. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

OCC 911-New Hire

Administrator Russell reported that Director Russell has a personnel matter that she would like to discuss in executive session. President Wharton stated we will do that at the end of the agenda if that works for everyone.

OC Sheriff-Budget Revisions

Administrator Russell reported he does not have any budget revisions for the Sheriff at this time.

OC Sheriff-Promotions

Administrator Russell reported that the Commissioners have some letters from the Sheriff with Deputies that have been promoted. Rod Vaught has been promoted to Major to replace Nelson Croft who has retired and is now the Manager at the Ohio County Animal Shelter.

Sergeant Kittle is being promoted to Lieutenant to take Major Vaught's place in the Sheriff's Department. Corporal Clatterbuck is being promoted to Sergeant to take Lieutenant Kittles place. Deputy Costello is being promoted to Corporal to replace Sergeant Clutterbuck and then we have Deputy Weisal who has been promoted to Corporal due to Deputy Roger Bise retiring. Commissioner Abraham asked Sheriff Howard if he has an organizational chart that shows what it takes to get to a certain rank, etc. The Sheriff explained some of the criteria to the Commissioners.

STAFF/ ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Administrator Russell reported that he has nothing new to report on the facilities. All the projects are moving forward. He meets weekly on the Airport projects. He met with the Assistant City Manager Bill Lanham last week about the HVAC just to update them.

Emergency Management Director Vargo reported regarding COVID that the State numbers are increasing with the variant but has not really affected Ohio County. There are three long term care units in the area where there are spikes.

Emergency Management Director Vargo reported that the Health Department has continued to vaccinate everyday downstairs and will continue testing for a while. Mr. Gamble reported to him that there is talk of reducing the eligibility of below 50. It is still 50 and over but maybe in the future it will be lowered. Emergency Management Director Vargo reported on the continuing education for the volunteer fire department. He conducted the first two. In May he has a program coming in called man verses machine, which is people trapped in different types of machinery and how to extricate them. In June he will have a professor from Akron will talk about all the hybrid vehicles, etc. Commissioner Wharton stated that he is familiar with hybrid vehicles, they are extremely dangerous. You can be

severely injured if you do not know how to handle them. He hopes that the Sheriff department also has some training on that issue.

Emergency Management Director Vargo stated that he recognizes all of the first responders but especially the dedication of the volunteer fire departments and what they do for this County. Just to give the Commissioners perspective on Sunday in Braxton County they had some flash flooding issues, and a woman and her daughter ended up in the Elk River. The volunteer fire department responded with swift water rescue which is a very technical rescue. A young volunteer fire fighter attempted to rescue them, and it ended up that all three did not make it. So, he just wanted to mention this because the volunteers are very important to each County.

Sheriff Howard reported on an accident today at the Stateline. Four vehicles were involved, two tractor trailers and two cars, with two people losing their lives. So, the interstate is shut down due to that and then they must clean up the road due to a spill from one of the trucks. The Sheriff requested to talk to the Commissioners after the regular meeting about some personnel issues. Since the Sheriff was not on the agenda for the personnel issues, he gave each of the Commissioners a packet to look through.

Sheriff Howard stated he has several matters that need discussed. President Wharton asked if anyone had issues with the Commission listening to this tonight. Commissioner Abraham stated yes, he does. This needed to be on the agenda by the Friday before the meeting. The Sheriff stated he asked Toni to place it on the meeting yesterday. The Commissioners decided to call a special meeting on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a copy of all the bills as they are up to date. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to pay the bills. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

ELECTION

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have an election calendar in their packet. May 4, 2022 is the last day to accept an absentee application. Friday, May 6, 2022, we will be locking up all of the supplies to be used on Election Day. Saturday, May 7, 2022, is last day of Early Voting, and then Election Day is Tuesday, May 10, 2022. The Canvass is on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 9:00 p.m. The results will be certified at the meeting on May 24, 2022.

Commissioner Abraham reported he had an OVRTA meeting there was some discussion around kind of rebranding, or marketing OVRTA. He said they may get some grant money for that.

Administrator Russell reported there was an Airport Advisory meeting last week. They have two events planned. One is for the Holy family childcare. It will be a touch a truck event on August 13, 2022. The other one is a community involvement event on September 24, 2022. It will be vintage transportation, including cars, aircraft, and anything we can get there. There will be food, games, etc. He stated they had a lengthy conversation about the West Virginia Development office in helping to attract visitors to the airport also.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS
Tuesday, May 10, 2022, is a holiday. All offices will be closed except for those that have to remain open.

FUTURE MEETINGS
President Wharton stated the next meeting will be Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are subject to change. President Wharton asked if there are any questions.
Neil Patterson asked about the ARP money. He asked if the money the Commission was discussing is money already received. The Commissioners stated yes, some of that is for specific projects. Mr. Patterson asked if the Commissioners had received any money for the roads, bridges, or infrastructure money. Commissioner Abraham reported that is held up procedurally at the federal level.

Commissioner Abraham made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to WV Code 69 A- 4 (b) (A) for the 911 personnel issue. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.
Commissioner Abraham made a motion to go back into regular session. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.
Commissioner Abraham reported that based upon the conversation, in order to help, it was decided to make the part time new hire a full-time position and in addition to that to approve another full-time position for the 911 Department. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.
Administrator Russell reported that he just spoke with the Sheriff and there is no need for a special meeting this Friday.

President Wharton adjourned the meeting.

President, Randy Wharton

Administrator, Randel Russell