Ohio County Commission
February 18, 2025

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Zachary T. Abraham. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

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

New Business:

- Ohio County Sheriff's Office purchase of new weapons – Sheriff Nelson Croft stated the length of service for the pistols is past its useful life. They have ordered new handguns, paid for with drug seizure funds. There will be no cost to the County. They have ordered 40 pistols.
- WVDEP Right of Entry Agreement – Mr. Russell reported the WVDEP is going to demolish the coal silo in Triadelphia. They need to access our property and have provided a right-of-way agreement. Mr. Tennant has reviewed and deemed it acceptable. Motion to approve the agreement made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion approved.
- Vehicle Use Policy – This agenda item will be moved to the end of the meeting.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report – Mr. Russell presented the Commissioners a list of proposed meeting dates and times. These included Commission meetings as well as budget meetings. Legislative meetings start Sunday in Charleston. The 2024-2025 audit is still in process. Budget reports for 2026 are being prepared.
- Facilities – Ms. Marco gave an HVAC update:
    - The fifth floor will be completed February 28 or March 7, 2025.
    - The fourth floor swing space will be completed February 28 or March 7, 2025.
    - The third floor will move back into their offices tomorrow.
    - The second floor will move on March 10, 2025.
    - The repairs that need made in the Magistrate Building will go out to bid. Ms. Marco is also preparing an emergency grant that will be submitted to the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority.
    - Meetings in March, April, and May will have to be moved from the Commission boardroom due to the HVAC project.
- Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Croft stated he and Chief Deputy Kent Lewis will be attending the Association of Counties meeting in Charleston. They also discussed a grant, from the Small Rural Tribal Authority, that they received for $60,000.00. The grant requires a 100% match, but since they have purchased in car cameras and equipment, they have already met $45,715.00 of the match. They can also use a piece of Major Vaught's salary as part of the grant match. Video will be stored in the cloud, and they will be purchased and owned by the County. Mr. Tennant asked if the cameras have the capability to stay on at all times. Sheriff Croft replied that they did not. They are

requesting $10,000.00 to purchase 30 body cameras. If, after digging further into the grant, they find that $10,000.00 will not cover the purchase, they will report back to the County Commission before applying. Motion to approve the funding pending further information on the $10,000.00 funding made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson.

- EMA Director – At the state level, a Cabinet secretary position is being created to oversee all public safety positions. At this time, the Governor is appointing the General of the National Guard to the post. Mr. Vargo also reported that flu season is rampant and hospitals are full.
- 911 Director – Mr. Pritt reported Comcast was here for access to the 911 Center. Some of the Next Gen 911 equipment will arrive in March.

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 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 – No exonerations were presented.

The Commissioner's, on a motion made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton, entered Executive Session at 6:37 p.m. under Code §6-9A-4.

The Commissioners, on a motion made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton, exited Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Zachary T. Abraham, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator