Ohio County Commission
August 15, 2023

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Mr. Vern Anderson, Mr. Gerald McMasters, and Mr. Chuck Ryan spoke on behalf of the VFW Post 442. The VFW currently has 187 members, whose average age is 65. The Post wanted to obtain an AED. After working with Mr. Wharton and Mr. Nickerson, the Post was graciously donated an AED by Wheeling Hospital. Mr. Vargo and Mr. Campbell trained the Post on how to correctly work the equipment. The Post expressed their sincere gratitude to the Ohio County Commission for being an excellent community partner.
- Anthony McDaniel spoke regarding the EMS Salary Enhancement Fund. Returned surveys will determine the use of $10,000,000 in surplus funds, of which $9,000,000 will be used for salary enhancements. Volunteers are eligible to receive funding. All licensed EMS are to be counted and the survey must be returned by August 31, 2023.

The minutes were reviewed. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Grant – The grant, limited to $100,000.00, will be applied for to repair the column covers. Motion to apply and sign a resolution in favor of the grant made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Triadelphia Volunteer Fire Department Steak Fry – Motion to approve a $500.00 donation made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce Steak Fry – Motion to approve a $1,000.00 donation made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Oglebay Foundation – A motion to table the request was made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Travel Policy – Motion to table the policy made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Resolution to Create TIF II – Mr. Lou Vargo and Ms. Melissa Marco visited the home of Ms. Pat Roxby to observe the ditches she dug around her property. The ditches line up with her back downspout. While both agreed she most likely does receive some type of water runoff, the water would be coming from the Ganzer property, not the Highlands development. Mr. Russell asked our Engineers to look at the ponds at the Highlands and

ensure they are functioning properly. Motion to approve the application for TIF II made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

- Resolution to Combine TIF I and TIF II – Mr. Abraham stated the combination of the TIFs is important for continued development. Motion to submit the application to combine TIF I and TIF II made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

New Business:

- County Clerk Project - Mr. Michael Kelly in the County Clerk's office has been renting space for records at a cost of $9,000.00 per year. He has asked that these records be transferred to TIF files for a one-time fee of $7,800.00. Once this is complete, the old files will not need to be in secure storage. Motion to approve the project made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- EMS County Questionnaire – After some discussion, Mr. Abraham asked that a footnote be added to the survey to say Mr. Vargo obtained this information by making calls to the various Counties. Once the footnote has been added, the survey will be returned to the State.
- Ohio County EMS Agreement with Pierpoint Community and Technical College – This agreement allows for students in their paramedic program to complete a ride along with Ohio County EMS. While there are no students requesting a ride along at this time, Mr. Vargo stated the agreement is most likely to maintain their contractual relationships with agencies for future classes. Mr. Tennant will review the agreement and it will be tabled until he has had adequate time to comment.
- Airport T Hangar Lease – The current lease agreement probits tenants from using the hangar for commercial use. We currently have two individuals who have expressed interest in offering flying / pilot lessons. Mr. Russell will send the current lease agreement to Mr. Tennant for review and comments.
- Airport Ground Power Unit – This unit is a power pack to keep larger aircraft energized and helps them start. Our current unit is 50 years old and is experiencing malfunctions. . Motion to approve the purchase of a new ground power unit at a cost of $34,825.00 made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Officials Reports:

- Administrator Russell – Mr. Russell wanted to provide a note of thanks for the hard work of the Airport staff putting on the Steak Fry. He also stated that he and Mr. Abraham had just returned from the State Auditor's training.
- Facilities – Ms. Marco provided the Commissioners with an HVAC update. The contractors and staff of the Ohio County Commission have worked diligently to collapse the phases to get the project back on track. Ms. Marco will review the schedule with Mr. Russell tomorrow. Touch a Truck was held at the Highlands Sports Complex with over 600 children in attendance. Ms. Marco also thanked the Airport staff for their work on the Steak Fry. The animal shelter grant will be submitted by the deadline on Friday, August 18. The elevator in the Annex has passed inspection but we started experiencing some issues with the doors. They will be fixed immediately, and the elevator will be fully operational by the end of the week.

- Emergency Services
    - Mr. Vargo – Mr. Vargo highlighted the great cooperation between all the local agencies during the recent well pad explosion which injured two people. He stated SWN also knew their emergency procedures. Tabletop exercises are being held at local facilities.
    - Sheriff Howard – The Sheriff, nor a representative from the department, attended the meeting.
    - 911 – No report.

Finance:

- Mr. Archey reported the bills are up to date. Motion to approve the bills was made by Mr. Abraham, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried. Mr. Archey also reported the unpaid invoices were not approved at the time of the check run. No further action is needed. Mr. Archey presented the exonerations for consideration. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Mr. Abraham made a request to receive a budget to actual report for all funds.

Mr. Abraham thanked the Airport, the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Bank for a successful Steak Fry. OVRTA will begin construction to enhance their Main Hub on Wheeling Island. The OVRTA bus route to Reynolds Memorial Hospital will continue through the fall. He further stated the State Auditor's training was very educational. He is also excited to announce a position on the newly formed Growth and Retention Team as been posted and interviews will commence soon.

Mr. Russell recognized Mr. Rich Harold, Assistant Chief of the Mozart Volunteer Fire Department.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator