OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION
10/4/2022

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Delegations

Paula Calvert, CEO of the Family Services of the Upper Ohio Valley stood up to speak and wanted the Commission to know she would be applying for ARPA funding. Family Services was established in 1909. She feels they are the best kept secret in the Ohio Valley. They serve the senior population of 60 plus. It does not matter about income; it matters about dignity. She reported the biggest thing they do is the meals on wheels. They serve over 300 meals a day to our seniors and that is Ohio and Marshall Counties. She stated they also do head start meals. The biggest issue is how do you get to your doctor's appointments; and how do you visit your significant other if they are at Good Shepherd or Peterson. She reported that she is looking for help through the ARPA funding because they turn 200 people away monthly, and that would be a gap that they could fill with the additional funds. They have an handicap accessible van so they can assist anyone that needs a ride. The best part about their transportation is that it is donation based. If they can donate that is great but if they cannot it's okay. As she reported the main problem, she is having is turning 200 people away, so that is the main need. The other thing that they do is they have non-medical and home health, background training individuals. They are donation based, and there are a lot of your neighbors that are using these services, so this service maybe needed by a family member in the future. She has a folder with her with thank you notes to share. She would like to invite the County Commission to come down to the building and see their facility. There is so much more we can do for Ohio Valley and for you. There is a commercial kitchen that can be used in case of emergencies. They could be there for the Commission. Commissioner Abraham asked how many trips a month are made. She responded 800 a month, they could do another 200 trips a month, so they are looking for another handicap accessible van. He asked if they have the link to the ARPA application. She stated yes. She stated that they can do more meals and with the housing projects coming in South Wheeling, they will need more support for those areas. They are federally funded for senior services but that does make up the reimbursement rate. Unfortunately, the State reimburses then about $7.00 for a $12.00 meal that they serve. The Commissioners thanked her for coming.

Minutes

Commissioner Abraham asked if they could table the minutes until the next meeting.

Grants

Airport-FAA-3-21 Airport Runway Award

Administrator Russell reported that the Commissioners have the FAA Airport Improvement Program Grant in the amount $1,201,170.00, for the Runway 3-21 Rehab project. Commissioner Nickerson asked if we are good with the covenants and terms and asked if Solicitor Tennant had reviewed the document.

Solicitor Tennant responded yes; he has. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept the FAA Grant award. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Prosecutor: FY 2023 VOCA Award

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have the VOCA State Supplemental Grant Award. This is only for $14,725.00. As you see on the second line on the award, he is asking for an additional $24,490 in State funding. He stated that we are asking for approval of the $14,725 for Victims of Crimes Assistant. There is no required match, and we are not guaranteed that we will get the proposed amount, so there may be some expenditures. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept that grant award. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

EMA: I-70 Message Board

Administrator Russell reported that next is the EMA I 70 Message Board in the amount $251,500,00. Previously the Commission had approved the message board in that amount with the understanding that FEMA was going to cover the entire cost. The agreement technically says that the Commission is to deposit the $251,500.00 before they start construction. He believes that EMA Director Lou Vargo subsequently has found out that we do not have to make the deposit. EMA Director Vargo reported that he spoke with his contacts at the Department of Highways, and they understand the hardship of putting up that much money. The project is ready to go to bid and to have that money out of our budget for nine months is a long time, so she has talked to her superiors and with your permission he will draft a letter from Administrator Russell asking permission to do like other FEMA grants and once the project is completed have the EMA division come up and certify that the project is completed and then ask for reimbursement from FEMA at that time. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the I 70 Message Board Grant. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

OCC-WVCFIA-Courthouse Main Entry

Administrator Russell reported that he would like to apply from the West Virginia Courthouse Improvement Authority for $100,000.00. The project will cost $385,200.00 to redo the front entry of the courthouse. It needs repair. The application is in your packet. He reported that there was an original bid, but the costs were quite a bit higher than we anticipated so we put the project off last year. Subsequently we have looked at this and believe now that we can remove those panels do some repair or modifications rather then put new material throughout. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the application. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Commissioner Abraham asked can we apply for that annually. Finance Director Archey responded yes. Administrator Russell reported that Sheriff Howard is on the board.

HOTEL TAX/COMMUNITY GRANTS

Bethlehem Apostolic Temple- Roofing Project

Administrator Russell reported that the Commissioners have a request from the Bethlehem Apostolic Temple to assist in a roof project at the North Wheeling Community Dream Center. The issue is a roof collapse. The Temple has been able to secure some funding for the project. The shortfall is $87.000.00 In a past meeting this matter was referred to the ARPA committee. It is being brought back because of the time sensitivity of the request. Bishop Cummings has stated that he is fearful that his bids will no longer be valid if the project is delayed. In addition to which, work cannot begin inside until the roof is secure. Commissioner Abraham stated he viewed this as an emergent project and made a motion to approve the request pending information about bidding. He stated that the application process can still be

followed but expedited by the Commissioners. Commissioner Nickerson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Friends of Wheeling-Stone Church Cemetery Preservation & Restoration Workshop

Administrator Russell reported that the Friends of Wheeling are requesting funding for the Stone Church Cemetery Preservation & Restoration Workshop that will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Nickerson asked if there are there any other sponsors for this event. Administrator Russell reported no, only Ohio County. He stated that Stone Church VFD, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other volunteers help with the restoration. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve $1,500.00 for the workshop. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Wheeling Nailers Hockey-Educational/ School Day

Administrator Russell reported that the Wheeling Nailers would like to resurrect the County's sponsorship of the Education/ School Day in the amount of $25,000.00. County Commissioner Nickerson stated he remembers something about this Education/ School Day sponsorship in the past. Finance Director Archey reported that the Ohio County Development Authority has given $20,000.00 to this annually in the past. Commissioner Nickerson stated he knew the Commission had not done this last year. Finance Director Archey reported that he and Administrator Russell have been trying to reach the contact at the Nailers office and have been playing phone tag. Commissioner Abraham asked if the school board helps in anyway. He is pretty sure they help with transportation in getting the children to the WesBanco Arena. He would like to get more information. He has no problem helping the kids, just need more information on how the money would be spent.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator Russell reported that the link for the ARPA funds applications is live and on the website. There are three applications pending out there. He needs to start looking at those and then get the Community Input Committee together. He stated the deadline is October 31, 2022. He will bring the updated budget to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

911 Communications

Administrator Russell reported that 911 Director Russell seeks the advice and consent of the Commission to hire April Barnes as a 911 dispatcher. Her resume is in the packet. She was interviewed and this fills a position that was vacated. Commissioner Abraham asked if they are fully staffed now. Administrator Russell reported no. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the new hire for the 911 Communication Department. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

OCC Project Coordinator

Administrator Russell reported that he would like to offer the position of Project Coordinator to Melissa Marco. Her resume is also in the packet. Commissioner Abraham asked who all was involved in the interviews. Administrator Russell reported there was Cody Koehler, Lou Vargo, Theresa Russell, Brian Taylor and Rusty Escue. They interviewed the applicants, then also had the consultants on the HVAC project interview them. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the hiring of Melissa Marco as the Ohio County Project Coordinator. Second by commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Sheriff: Change in Role for Drage Flick

Administrator Russell reported next, we have the change in role for Drage Flick at the Ohio County Sheriff's Office from law enforcement to administrative. Attached is the engagement letter that we provided. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the change in role for Drage Flick of the Ohio County Sheriff's Office. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Purchasing: Airport: Ventrac Tractor with Accessories

Administrator Russell reported that the Airport received bids on September 15, 2022, for a Ventrac Tractor with Accessories. The low bidder was Middletown Tractor with a bid of $43,591.42. The subsequent bidder was Kennedy Hardware at $46,470.00. He recommends Middle Town Tractor to receive the award. President Wharton asked if he requested a delivery date. He responded yes about fifteen weeks out. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept the bid from Middle Town Tractor. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Sheriff: Cruiser Equipment

Administrator Russell reported that the Sheriff's Department received bids for equipment for the five new cruisers on September 22, 2022. The first one is from Bearcom who is the low bidder at $22,287.00 per vehicle, and then Kerr Industries at $22,865.00. He stated obviously he would accept the low bidder which is Bearcom. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the bid from Bearcom. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Addressing-Ashton Place

Administrator Russell reported that there is a new proposed road name of Ashton Place. It is off of Bethlehem Boulevard off Rolling Ridge Drive. Dave Weaver from the addressing committee reported that is where the townhouses sit next to the Char House. Roger Kent is adding additional townhomes and is asking for the name of Ashton Place. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the road name. second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Urban Three

Administrator Russell reported that next is a request from the City of Wheeling. There is a proposal from a company called Urban Three which does utility and development analysis. They take existing utilities and give an idea or best use of potential property throughout the city; their proposal is for $46,142.00. The city has asked Ohio County to participate in paying half of that in the amount of $23,000.00. Commissioner Nickerson asked if that considers any other municipalities in the County. Administrator Russell reported that he looked at a separate proposal to do the entire County which would add another $60,000.00 to the proposal. He does not feel that we are quite ready to do this countywide yet. Dave Weaver is already working on putting together countywide maps together for us. Commissioner Nickerson prefers that we wait until we are prepared to go County-wide and then the City to share in that whole process if we think it is of value to the other municipalities throughout the County. Administrator Russell stated he does not know if it's of any value to the municipalities at this point. It really depends on what their overall development plans are. Most of the municipalities right now are focused on getting their utilities upgraded with the ARPA funds that are out there. Commissioner Nickerson reported he worries about these studies as something that are just going to be put on a shelf. Commissioner Abraham reported that he talked to them about the action items. He talked with Jerry Sklavounakis from the City, and a few others on that call. Part of this is a financial analysis as well and in the spirit of working with and collaborating with the City we thought it was probably a good idea to do. Commissioner Abraham stated the City is working with us on the building upgrades so he feels that this may produce some value to us. He had some initial reservations about it but once he asked about the

County he thought if we wanted to go in now, and there was some discount to it also if he is not mistaken. Administrator Russell reported that some of it is a cost benefit analysis, like the county farm. We know were going to have to invest a significant amount of money to do infrastructure to do development at the county farm or at the back side of the Airport. Commissioner Abraham reported he thinks some of this is where they should be spending the money. He feels since the City is the largest municipality in the County, he feels it may be worth us partnering with them to see what the survey would do. Administrator Russell reported they would figure out what would it require to put this amount of utilities in this area, and what sort of development could support that cost of utilities. Commissioner Abraham reported that if you want to table this, we could, but he thinks it would also contribute to the remote workforce study through Belomar and the city and the Growth and Retention Team. Commissioner Nickerson stated he is fine with it if you think it has value. Administrator Russell reported that there is clearly a benefit for having this done for the City of Wheeling. Once we get the report back then we could decide if it is a benefit to the remainder of the County. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the Urban Three. Second by Commissioner Nickerson, Motion carried with all voting in favor.

STAFF /ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Facilities

Administrator Russell reported that the elevator repair at the Courthouse Annex will start on October 15, 2022. The chip has still not come in, but they have enough equipment to get started while waiting for the chip. He reported that the HVAC project at the Courthouse should go out to bid at the end of the week.

Public Safety

President Wharton stated at the last Fire Chief's meeting Wednesday night Chief Howard discussed a device called case commander. Administrator Russell reported that it is an accountability system as firefighters arrive on seen they check into an accountability station. There are tags and as a fire fighter goes into a structure fire, they will take their tag and it is marked as being inside on a structure fire or working on the exterior. That way they can maintain accountabilities for all of the personnel that are on the scene of the structure fire. It is really a safety thing for the firefighters. This is the system that the City of Wheeling already uses. He stated that Lou Vargo or Tony Campbell respond to the vast majority of the structure fires in the County and the concept would be that Lou or Tony would carry this in their vehicle and would manage the accountability system when they arrive on seen. President Wharton stated the cost is very minimal around $2,000.00. President Wharton asked if the fireboard would be able to pay for that. Administrator Russell reported yes. President Wharton asked for that to be on the agenda of the next fireboard meeting.

Finance Division

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a copy of 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.

Exonerations

Finance Director Archey reported that there are eighty-nine exonerations before you, and most of those are from a non-profit going back five years. All exonerations are credits reducing a tax, and all are recommended by the Assessor. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the exonerations. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Elections

Finance Director Archey reported that absentee ballots have been going out since Friday, September 23, 2022. The ballot will be published in both newspapers on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, and on Monday November 7, 2022. The election media should be here this Wednesday, and we are waiting for the media for the E pollbooks so that we may start testing on Tuesday, October 11, 2022. The last day to register is Tuesday, October 18, 2022. This is for new registrations or any changes to a voter's record. Early voting begins Wednesday, October 26, 2022. Commissioner Abraham asked if we could take a survey at training, and then after the election when the check is sent out to the poll workers possibly send another survey.

COMMISSION BOARD REPORTS

Commissioner Abraham reported that he attended the REDP and OVRTA meetings recently.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Ken Murphy the Mayor of Triadelphia stated he would like to speak. He asked if there is any way to assist the Town of Triadelphia with their police cruiser. You have given us one, and we are using it now. We purchased a brand new one that costs us $40,000.00. He is asking if there is any way possible that the County can help us equip it. He has a quote from Bearcom and another company. Bearcom was the lowest. It will cost us $16,695.74. He is asking the Commission for help. Commissioner Abraham asked that this be placed on the next agenda so they can officially approve it. Mayor Murphy thanked the Commissioners, and they thanked him for coming. Commissioner Abraham asked Mayor Murphy how the sewer project is coming. He said everyone is working together and they are getting there. They have had meetings about funding and a lot of the problems have been corrected. Administrator Russell reported that one thing he has talked to the Town of Triadelphia about is the requirement now that you must have an on online payment solution. Mayor Murphy stated we are working on that and need to talk to the Administrator more about it. Administrator Russell reported that the County Commission also put in for an earmark for a water tank a few years ago for Triadelphia, so were also working on that. Commissioner Abraham reported that he wanted to recognize Rusty Escue, Airport Manager. He wanted to thank him and his team for a great event up at the Airport. It was a success.

FUTURE MEETINGS

President Wharton reported that the next Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. and Board of Assessment begins at 7:00 p.m. There are three hearings as of now if they all decide to come. Meeting adjourned.

President, Randy Wharton

Administrator, Randel Russell

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