The Board of Commissioners of Ohio County, West Virginia
Minutes of a Regular Session for Tuesday, July 7, 2026

County Commission members present:
Commission President Zachary T. Abraham
Commissioner Randy Wharton
Commissioner Donald A. Nickerson, Jr.

Staff Members present:
County Administrator Randel A. Russell
County Solicitor Don Tennant
Director of Emergency Management Tony Campbell
911 Director Rickie Pritt
Senior Fiscal Advisor Becky Coyne

Elected Officials present:
Sheriff Nelson Croft
Circuit Clerk Brenda Miller
County Clerk Michael Kelly

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

- Commission President Abraham convened the meeting in Room 215 of the City County Building at approx.8:00am. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

II. Delegations

- None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- The minutes for the regular meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, were presented to the Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Nickerson made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Grants

- None

V. Community Grants

- Opioid Funds, Village of Bethlehem Police Department – Administrator Randy Russell reported that the Village of Bethlehem Police Department wanted $5,000 in Opioid money for new radar equipment. Administrator Randy Russell stated that radar equipment is not in the criteria for Opioid money. This request was denied.

VI. Unfinished Business

- Opioid Funds, Youth Service System – Administrator Randy Russell reported that Youth Service System submitted a letter for Opioid funds and stated that no action is necessary at this time.

- County Property, Casualty, Liability, Insurance – after review of the proposal, the Commissioners were concerned about some of the language and had County Solicitor Tennant resolve these issues. Administrator Randy Russell stated that switching to this insurance will provide us with savings. County Solicitor Tennant talked about the risk pool and stated that he is okay with changing to this. He also stated that they have made changes to the way the risk pool is done now and it is better than it had been in prior years. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to switch to this insurance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wharton. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VII. New Business

- Resolution, Ohio County Goes Purple Initiative - Administrator Russell stated that the Ohio County Goes Purple Initiative resolution is to designate the month of September as recovery month. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve this resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- Letter of Support, West Liberty University. Administrator Russell presented a Letter of Support for West Liberty University's Hilltopper Generational Prevention and Recovery Network. President Abraham made a motion to approve the Letter of Support, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. The motion passed unanimously.

- Letter of Support, Youth Service System. Administrator Randy Russell presented the Letter of Support for Youth Service System's Community-based Assessment and Treatment for Adolescents and Families to Launch Interventions for Substances and Trauma (CATALIST) program. President Abraham made a motion to approve the Letter of Support, seconded by Commissioner Wharton. The motion passed unanimously.

- Letter of Support, Scottish Right Historic Preservation Society. Administrator Russell presented a Letter of Support for the Scottish Right's application for a 2026 AMLER grant. Commissioner Wharton made the motion to approve the letter, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. The motion passed unanimously.

- Board of Appointments, RT2/I68 Authority. Administrator Russell presented a letter from RT2/I68 Executive Director Bob Miller requesting that Matthew G. Chapman be reappointed to that board. President Abraham made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. The motion passed unanimously.

- Compensation of Elected County Officials. Administrator Russell reported that during 2026, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 587 stating that Elected County Officials would receive an increase in pay starting July 1, 2026. As per the State, it was advised to have the new salary

amounts included in the FY 2027 budget. President Abraham asked if the increase could be declined as the Commissioners said they would like to decline their increase. Commissioner Nickerson asked Solicitor Tennant if this increase is mandated. Solicitor Tennant said that he would look into this matter and advise Commissioners. President Abraham stated that he would like to reach out to all elected officials to see how they would like to handle this increase. President Abraham stated that there would be a Special Meeting held after he had all answers. Sheriff Croft stated that it has been many years since they received an increase. County Clerk Kelly stated that he wants his increase in salary. Circuit Clerk Miller stated that the State does not give raises often. This was tabled by the Commissioners.

VIII. Staff and Elected Official Reports

- Administrator Randy Russell reported on the following:
  - Jail Bill. Administrator Russell stated that June's invoice of $5,400 is outstanding.

- EMA/EMS Director Tony Campbell reported the following:
  - They received $30,000 for a blood grant.
  - There will be around $772,000 coming in as a grant that could be used to help tear down old properties and help clean up old properties.
  - Looking to have mental health meetings and support for those that were affected by the flooding.

- 911 Director Ricky Pritt reported the following:
  - NextGen is on schedule and they are working on the admin lines.

- Sheriff Nelson Croft reported the following:
  - The 5 new deputy vehicles are in.
  - There are 3 new speed detectors they received through a grant that they did not know about.
  - There is a new deputy starting.

- Circuit Clerk Brenda Miller reported the following:
  - Due to the judges wanting special mailings sent out, her postage budget line is over. She has made it aware to the judges of this matter. She stated that once this is all done, they may be able to recoup the overage in postage. Solicitor Tennant requested that the Circuit Clerk try and get the money for this. Solicitor Tennant briefly talked about one of the cases that is going on.

- County Clerk Michael Kelly reported the following:
  - Through the month of June, it was noted that there were over 1,900 usages of the website. This is the highest they have seen.
  - Over 10,000 copies were made from the website in the past 6 months. Of these copies, this was all done online and no staffing was needed.

- Senior Fiscal Advisor Becky Coyne reported the following:
  - Payables- The list was presented to the Commissioners. There were no questions. President Abraham made the motion to approve the payables, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson, the motion passed unanimously.

- Unpaid invoices- The list was presented to the Commissioners. No questions/inquiries. No action required.
- Finance Director Becky Coyne advised that there were no budget revisions.

- Assessor
  - No Exonerations
  - No Certificates of Re-Entry

IX. Commission Board Reports

- None

X. Commissioner Comments

- None

XI. Executive Session

- County Commissioners went into Executive Session with County Solicitor Tenant to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken was taken out of Executive Session.

XII. Future Meetings and Important Dates

- **Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
- *Monday, September 7, 2026 – Labor Day (Holiday)*
- **Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
- **Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
- **Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
- *Monday, October 12, 2026 – Columbus Day (Holiday)*
- **Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
- *Tuesday, November 3, 2026 – General Election Day (Holiday)*
- **Monday, November 9, 2026, at 9:00am Board of Canvassers**
- **Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 8:00am Regular Meeting**
- *Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – Veterans Day (Holiday)*
- **Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
- *Thursday, November 26, 2026 – Thanksgiving Day (Holiday)*
- *Friday, November 27, 2026 – Lincoln's Day (Holiday)*
- **Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
- **Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 8:00am, Regular Meeting**
- *Thursday, December 24, 2026 – Christmas Eve (4-hour Holiday)*
- *Friday, December 25, 2026 – Christmas Day (Holiday)*

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09am.

I, Zachary T. Abraham, President of the County Commission of Ohio County do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the minutes of a special meeting of County Commission of Ohio County held via teleconference on July 7, 2026, and that the meeting was duly called and held in all respects

in accordance with the laws of the State of West Virginia and the bylaws of the County Commission and that a quorum was present.

Zachary T. Abraham, Commission President — Date: 7/14/2026

Attest: Randel A. Russell, County Administrator — Date: 7.14.2026