OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION
9/6/2022

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Delegations

T Lambert Jones-Leopold Lane

Mr. Jones stated that he is a lifelong resident of Ohio County. He reported that he was here to talk about Leopold Lane. Since his last meeting he has had sort of a resolution to the problem. The State Road showed up and took care of the drainage problem on Hughes Street which is above Leopold Lane. He reported that is where the problem began years ago when he first bought the property. He reported the area started out as a development in 1919 as Valley View Addition. Much has changed as many houses have been left with no maintenance plan for the road other than what used to be 3rd Street or Hughes Street, which the State Road will take care of that. The property deteriorated beyond anyone or anybody's capability for maintenance that's in reference to where we started that everyone on the road to chip in something. These people out there cannot even afford to buy groceries, or gasoline, and they have no money, and the road conditions ruin the cars they do have. This problem has not happened overnight. He has spent hours and money with pickup truck loads of gravel just to fill in the potholes on the road to make it possible to ride on. He stated he is seventy-four years old, and he is not able to do that anymore. The truth is that streets above caused landslides onto Leopold Lane. He stated that all he is asking for is grading, drainage and some gravel. That problem could be resolved in about two days. The Gas Company came up and made repairs on their gas lines, which raised the road grade. Nobody likes to drive that road. He has an empty unit up there. The last three people he showed it too said the road is too bad and they could not rent there. He stated that even the ambulances do not want to travel that road anymore. The postal service complains that they may not deliver mail out there due to the conditions also. He is asking the Commission for its contacts, its powers, its assets, connections and favors to rally around their problem.

Commissioner Abraham asked Mr. Jones if Leopold Lane is State owned? Mr. Jones reported that it is not, but Hughes Street above it is. The State did a wonderful job on Hughes Street, but Leopold is so bad now the damage has been done and is still being done. Commissioner Wharton asked what your guess would be to fix the road. He has no idea. Commissioner Wharton stated he could send a contractor there and correct the issue and if the drainage issue from above that the State corrected would start to happen again, what would you expect from us then. Mr. Jones stated that it is really a one lane road. Commissioner Wharton remembered years ago it was fixed and then water came down along the sides of the road and made an unbelievable ditch between the road and the resident's houses to get to their driveway, so he would like to ask Mr. Jones to be around to assist whoever we send. President Wharton stated he is not promising anything, but it will be looked into.

Anthony McDaniel-EMS

Mr. McDaniel reported that he will be brief. He is a paramedic with Ohio County EMS. He is here today to speak about the annual increment raise that the County employees received. He was recently informed that the EMS was not included in the increase passed on November 2, 2021. He stated that all of Ohio County includes EMS because he tries to follow government closely and if you read the minutes from November 2, 20221 and the article written in the Intelligencer on November 3, 2021, it reads all County employees will receive $1,000.00, the first $500 lump sum to be given before Thanksgiving and the last $500.00 would go into effect July 1, 2022. The initial $500.00 he did receive on November 25, 2021. He monitored his pay stubs since then and no additional increase has occurred. He did seek out answers from different levels, and he was told the EMS were not to be included in the raises, and he and the other paramedics would like to request that Ohio County EMS and other Ohio County employees that were not included in the annual raise to be given the same raise offered the other County employees that did. If this is not possible, he would request that the minutes from the November 2021 meeting be

Updated to reflect that the EMS was not included in this raise. Ohio County EMS will be in service for three years in January of 2023, and many of them started in December of 2019, and currently provide 24-hour ambulance care in Ohio County. He stated that they continued to do this during the pandemic. In that same time, he received approximately one raise in the amount fifty-one cents, which is about .068% of a salary per year over three years as of December of this year. He reported that he has seen the vacation time cut in half. They all enjoy the job; they love the communities that they serve and hope to continue in the future.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Nickerson reported that he did not get a chance to review the minutes so he would like to table those until next meeting

COMMUNITY GRANTS

United Way- Centre Market Oktoberfest (Sept 2022)

Administrator Russell asks to table this until next meeting. Ms. Rine was out of town last week and did not get the budget submitted to us.

YWCA-2022-2023 Annual Fund Request

Administrator Russell reported that the YWCA is asking for a general request for their annual fund, and there is no specific ask. He stated that the Commission has contributed to projects at the YWCA in the past but not to the annual fund drive. Administrator Russell stated that perhaps this could go under the ARPA fund request. Commissioner Abraham asked about the application that Administrator Russell is working on. Administrator Russell reported that he has a call in the afternoon and is hoping to finish up some details and make it specific to Ohio County, then they will make it live. Once it is posted then the Commission can advertise for it. He reported that there will be an ad placed in the newspaper. He stated he has a list of applicants who indicated that they would be interested and will reach out to them specifically and let them know it is out there. Then the committee will review all applications. This is through the State site. He told the Commissioners he will send them a link once it is all set up.

Bethlehem Apostolic Temple-Save Our Dream Center

Administrator Russell reported that the next request is from the North Wheeling Community Youth Center. They are looking for funds for roof repair. He states that this would probably fall under the ARPA request, so he will handle that in the same manner.

OLD BUSINESS
Nothing from the board

NEW BUSINESS
Addressing
Dave Weaver from the 911 Addressing Committee reported that there is a request from Lloyd Klages and Michael English who are developing an area off West Alexander Road. They are requesting the road names of Peyton Place and Doves Landing. He reported that they are planning to build about four homes there. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the new road names. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.
OC911 New Hire (Nicole Macri)
Administrator Russell reported that next there is a request from the 911 Director for a new hire, Nicole Macri who will fill an open position in 911. The resume is included in the Commissioners packets. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept the new hire for OC 911. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.
ABCC-Oglebayfest
Administrator Russell reported that there is a request from Oglebay for a no zoning letter for Oglebayfest which is coming up soon. This is for the Hess Shelter, Levenson Shelter, the Mansion Woods and Hilltop areas at Oglebay. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the ABCC letter. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

STAFF/ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS
FACILITIES
Administrator Russell reported that under facilities he is 100% set for the HVAC project in place. He is finishing up the estimate now, and once this is complete, he is hoping to go out to bid with that. Administrator Russell stated that the next project is that AEP needs to replace the transformer here for the Courthouse which is in the pit outside. The concrete where the dumpster sits will need to be torn out and they're going to need to trench down the alley from Eoff Street to that transformer. That will occur sometime this month. It will block off the alley and create an issue with parking, and he is working on that.
Administrator Russell reported that the elevator at the Courthouse Annex is still waiting for parts. As soon as those come in, it will be done.
PUBLIC SAFETY
Emergency Management Director Lou Vargo reported that the Monkey Pox vaccine has arrived. The Health Department has administered about five of those. He (Howard Gamble) is keeping some in store in case of direct exposure. He reported that the new Omicron vaccine has been approved. Howard Gamble has placed orders for that. He reported that he is continuing training for the Volunteer Fire Departments.
Sheriff Tom Howard reported that he just interviewed his last person off the list that he had so he will be giving a new test in October. He stated he had a guy who wanted to come here from the Sothern part of the State, but he would have had to take a $6,000.00 pay cut. He had two but the other wanted to go to the State Police instead. Sheriff Howard reported on I- 70. The speeding issues hopefully will start winding down, and the work should be done soon. Sheriff Howard reported that there is an issue with

their doors not opening if power is out. There are no key doors. He reported they lost one of the ports from their server from the last power outage. Omni came in and fixed it.

AIRPORT

Airport Manager Rusty Escue reported that there is the Wings Over Wheeling event coming up on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at the Airport. There will be a C47, C123, and the C47's will offer aircraft rides. There will be vintage cars, food vendors, and possibly a military aircraft.

FINANCE DIVISION

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a copy of the bills as they are up to date. Commissioner Nickerson asked about $30,000.00 under Community Criminal Justice. Finance Director Archey reported that is our contribution to the Lee Day Report Center which is the alternative sentencing program. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to pay the bills. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

EXONERATIONS

Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have seventeen exonerations, all are credits reducing a tax, and all are approved by the Assessor. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the exonerations. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

ELECTIONS

Drawing of Ballot-Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a copy of the drawing of the ballot. This will be the November 8, 2022, ballot. No action necessary.

Precinct Boundary Adjustments- Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a list of boundary adjustments. West Virginia GIS looked at the mapping verses our Voter Registration and come up with these adjustments which need to be made. These are delegate boundaries. There are a few in Precinct 4, Precinct 20, Precinct 120, Precinct 103A, and Precinct 108A. The total of voters affected are two hundred twenty-four. The secretary of State asked us to correct these. Finance Director Archey reported that he will notify the residents this affects with a new card and a letter with an explanation. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept the delegate district rework from the WV Secretary of State's office. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

COMMISSIONS BOARD REPORTS

Nothing from the Board.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Nothing from the Board.

FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

President Wharton reported that the next Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. for a comment period on the proposed noise ordinance and September 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. meeting adjourned.

President, Randy Wharton

Administrator, Randy Russell