Ohio County Commission
November 1, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Randy Wharton, President. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Delegations:
Mr. Wayne Birkett addressed the Commission and spoke about Girty's Point Road. The road was not designed for the increase in traffic or large tractor trailer use and speeding has dramatically increased. He respectfully asked the County Commission to contact the State Road to discuss the road conditions. Mr. Wharton asked Mr. Russell to reach out to the County's contact and begin discussions on how this issue could be remedied.

Mr. Scott Sonda also addressed the Commission concerning the noise ordinance. He spoke to the group in July when there were loud parties and multiple four wheelers in the area. He was pleased to report that the noise has subsided quite a bit and respectfully asked that the County Commission set aside the noise ordinance at this time. He would like the opportunity to come back to the Commission, if needed, at a future date.

Approval of Minutes:
President Wharton asked if there were any corrections to the minutes dated October 18, 2022. There being none, Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Grants:
Administrator Russell presented the Commissioners with the BIL Tower Renovation Grant totaling $1.1 million. After review, a motion was made to accept the grant proposal by Commissioner Abraham and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Community Grants:
Administrator Russell presented five community grants for consideration:

1. Marine Corps League 771 – Gold Star Family Memorial Podium. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to donate $1,000, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.
2. Triadelphia Police Department Cruiser Equipment – The ask is for $16,140 to equip a police car. Commissioner Abraham asked if the Police Department would be providing any matching funds. Administrator Russell stated at this time, they were not. Commissioner Abraham also stated the Commission needed to expect that other departments would be asking for funds for this purpose. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to accept the purchase as long as Administrator Russell reaches out to Bear-Com to ensure we are receiving the best price and to look at ARPA funds. Seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.
3. Greater Wheeling Chamber of Commerce Fantasy in Lights Parade – A motion was made by Commissioner Abraham to donate $2,500 for the parade, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor

4. Super Six Committee Football Championship – A motion was made by Commissioner Abraham and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson to approve $20,000.00 for the Super Six. Commissioner Abraham stated many of the teams stay in hotels at the Highlands and eat in local restaurants. Motion carried with all voting in favor.
5. Community Basketball Event – North Wheeling Youth Center – A motion was made by Commissioner Abraham to approve a donation in the amount of $1,250.00, seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Old Business: ARPA

Administrator Russell stated that 30 applications were received. He is working closely with the Community Foundation and will call a meeting of the Community Input Committee to develop a budget and make determinations on awards.

New Business:

Airport – Administrator Russell presented an agreement from Russell Standard to complete work on runway 3/21 at the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport. Commissioner Abraham approved the agreement with a second from Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Building Commission:

The Commission welcomed Carrie Cecil from Frost, Brown, Todd and Joseph Nasiff from Piper Sandler to discuss the issuance of bonds. After their detailed conversation, Administrator Russell read the Bond Ordinance. The Commission, with a motion from Commissioner Abraham, and a second by Commissioner Nickerson, agreed to authorize the issuance of the bonds. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Sheriff:

Sheriff Howard would like to extend an offer to hire a former deputy who is nearing the two-year mark on November 7. A motion was made by Commissioner Abraham to rehire the deputy since he was in good standing when he left the department and seconded by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried to offer the deputy a position with a start date of November 7, 2022.

Staff / Elected Officials Report:

Administrator: Administrator Russell – no report.

Facilities:

Administrator Russell asked Ms. Marco to present an update. Project Manager Marco reported a pre-bid meeting was held on November 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. for the HVAC project. She reported that they have several interested parties. The elevator parts have also arrived, and the project should be completed in three weeks.

Public Safety:

Sheriff Howard presented the report. At the current time, a scam involving the Sheriff's department is circulating around town. The scammers identify themselves as Sheriff's Deputies and ask for money. Sheriff Howard also reported an uptick in tickets along I-70 where the speed limit is still 45 mph. During this time of year, they are likely to see an uptick in breaking and entering, theft, and speeding.

Finance Division:
Finance Director Archey stated the Commissioners have a copy of the bills as there up to date. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the bills with a second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Finance Director Archey stated the Commission did not receive HAVA funds and can reapply in September 2023. If approved, it will be very hard to receive the equipment in time for the 2024 election. Finance Director Archey reported there are two exonerations for the Commissioners consideration tonight and one certificate of re-entry. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to accept the exonerations. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Finance Director Archey reported that the sample ballot will be in the local paper on November 7, 2022, supplies for the election will be dropped on November 4, 2022, and early voting will continue through November 5, 2022.

President Wharton reported the next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Randy Wharton
President, Randy Wharton

Randy Russell
Administrator, Randy Russell