Ohio County Commission
December 17, 2024

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Mr. Michael Kelly, County Clerk, swore in Mr. Donald A. Nickerson for a six-year term on the Ohio County Commission.

Delegations:

- Ms. Paula Smith spoke concerning an accident she had coming from Route 2 South merging on I-70 West. She understands that the County Commission cannot fix the issue alone, but she is seeking organizations to come together to install road barriers that will not allow cars to merge out of turn.

The minutes from the November 12, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- Airport, Terminal Apron Improvement Project - The Airport was awarded $2,100,000.00 from the Airport Improvement Grant process. This will be task order 10 for Jacobs Engineering. The Ohio County Commission will owe $104,000.00 as the match for this grant. The design work for Jacobs Engineering is $347,016.00. Motion to approve the grant award made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Wheeling Park High School FFA Chapter – The Ohio County Commission agreed to send the FFA Chapter to Wayne County, Ohio for their next competition with a donation of $1,000.00. Motion to approve the donation made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Hoorah to Heroes – Deputy Musty has asked the County Commission to sponsor Hoorah to Heroes which will benefit the Augusta Levy Learning Center. He is asking for a donation of $5,100.00 as compared to last year's donation of $4,000.00. Mr. Wharton made a motion to table the request, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

- Wheeling Health Right Mobile Health Unit – The Mobile Health Unit goes out on Thursdays. It is in Ohio County on the first Thursday of the month. After the first of the month, they will stay in Ohio County two different Thursdays visiting the Hil-Dar neighborhood on the third Thursday of the month. The Wheeling Health would like to have the unit out three days a week. It costs approximately $1,523.00 a day to operate. The Ohio County Commission agreed to sponsor the Mobile Health Unit two days a month at a cost of $36,552.00. Ms. Brown, the Wheeling Health Right's Executive Director, will call Mr. Russell to set up the details. Mr. Abraham also asked that Ms.

Brown come to a Commission meeting on a quarterly basis to let the Commissioners know how the program is progressing. Motion to approve the funding made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Election of Officers for 2025 CY – Mr. Don Nickerson nominated Mr. Zach Abraham for the position of President. Motion to approve made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Mr. Abraham abstained from the vote. Motion carried. Mr. Zach Abraham nominated Mr. Randy Wharton for Vice President. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Nickerson with Mr. Wharton abstaining. Motion carried.
- CY 2025 County Employee Holiday Schedule – Mr. Russell presented the holiday schedule for 2025. Motion to approve the schedule made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- CY 2025 County Employee Pay Dates and Pay Periods – Mr. Russell presented the pay dates for 2025. Motion to approve the dates made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- County Audit 2023 – 2024
    - Koziki, Hughes, Tickerhoof, PLLC Engagement Letter – Mr. Russell sought ratification for the engagement letter from the commissioners. Motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
    - Audit Extension to January 31, 2025 – Mr. Russell sought ratification to extend the date to January 31, 2025. Motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Animal Shelter New Hire, Madeline Bird – Ms. Bird was hired as a temporary employee thirty days ago. The Ohio County Animal Shelter would like to move her to a full time, permanent employee which will fill the staffing roster. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Airport T-Hanger Lease, Z. Kureishy – Dr. Kureishy would like to move hangers at The Wheeling Ohio County Airport. Motion to approve the lease agreement made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Addressing / Road Names – Chickadee Lane – This road is located in the Dallas Pike area where Mr. Lloyd Klages is building new homes. Mr. Abraham wanted to stress this will be a private road and the owner is to care for it. Motion to approve the road name made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Community Grant Process – The Commissioners were presented with a draft letter for the Grant Process. Mr. Abraham proposed some minor changes. They would like to identify if the organization is for profit or non-profit and the Commission will not fund more than 20% of the total budget of the event.
- Wheeling-Ohio County Airshow
    - 2024 Wings Over Wheeling Wrap Up – The event had over 7,500 people in attendance. The sponsors were a large part of the success of the event. While the Commission had hoped that the event would be paid for largely with sponsorship monies, the total cost to the Commission was $107,924.00.
    - 2026 Wings Over Wheeling – For the next event, the Commissioners would like to see a military group. If a group can be obtained for 2026, Mr. Abraham made a motion to have an airshow, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

- Mt. Zion Petition – The Mt. Zion cemetery will take approximately $7 to $8 million dollars to fix. While the County backed away from maintenance at the facility in 2015, one vault and one casket were partially exposed during the flooding. Kepner and Altmeyer Funeral Homes have agreed, at no cost, to excavate the casket. The Ohio County Commission was granted an order to secure the remains by the Circuit Court of Ohio County. No action is needed.
- United Mine Workers Union, Request for Resolution – The United Mine Workers of America sought to have an election for 911 employees. Mr. Tennant, the County Solicitor, has researched this issue and under West Virginia Code 18-5-45A the employees would have no right to engage in collective bargaining, mediation, or strike. Any work stoppage would be declared unlawful and the Commission cannot collect dues from paychecks. Mr. Tennant will craft a letter to decline the resolution. Motion to decline the resolution made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Growth and Retention Initiative – Motion to approve the second year of funding for the position made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce, Letter of Support, Scenic Byway Grant – Motion to approve the Letter of Support made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report – Mr. Russell had nothing further to report.
- Facilities – Ms. Marco provided the Commissioners with pictures of the HVAC project. On the second floor, the books have been moved out of the County Clerk's Office, and the Assessor's buildout has started. The work on the third floor is progressing. On the fourth floor, the Circuit Court's offices have been moved to the swing space. On the fifth floor, the ceilings have started to be removed. Kalkreuth will provide us with a work plan for the second-floor roof repairs and will start the fifth-floor roof once the plan is received. The porch columns are nearing completion. At the Animal Shelter, we had some HVAC issues, and a gas line needed repaired. The abatement at the Annex starts on January 13, 2025.
- Sheriff's Department – Chief Deputy Croft stated the County Commission graciously purchased four new vehicles for the department. For 2025, they would like to request five additional vehicles. He has attached a copy of their fleet and most companies recommend replacing a vehicle at 70-75,000 miles. The total cost per vehicle is just over $85,000.00. Mr. Abraham inquired about the proactive maintenance schedule on cars. The Court Security Officer has passed the Wheeling Fire Department test but would like to remain on staff part time. Chief Deputy Croft would also like to see the salary for this position rise from $14.00 to $16.00 per hour. He is requesting 3-4 part-time Court Security Officers. He also attended the new Sheriff's training and discovered 27 out of 55 Sheriffs are new.
- EMA Director – The AED Mr. Nickerson obtained from Reynolds Memorial Hospital for the Moundsville Honor Guard has arrived. Training will be conducted after the first of the year. At the LEPC Meeting, the National Weather Service stated we will end 2024 with 7.65 inches of rain deficit and we have an 8% chance of a white Christmas. The Health Department is seeing a rise in Covid and Norovirus in Nursing Homes. They will

monitor the situation since visits will be up over the holidays. Even with cold weather, Lyme Disease is still occurring.

- 911 Director – Mr. Pritt reported on the Next Gen 911 System. All of the vendors have confirmed. A site visit will be set up within the next two weeks.

Finance:

- Mrs. Coyne reported the bills are up to date. Motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Unpaid invoices –No further action is required.
- Exonerations – Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the exonerations, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator