Ohio County Commission
March 21, 2023

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

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

Delegations:

- Ron Scott, a resident of Leewood Avenue in Wheeling, said it was with a heavy heart that he decided to attend the meeting this evening. He is disappointed that the Ohio County Commission has decided to remove themselves from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion job posting and funding. He is hoping further studies or a soft rollout is not needed. He aims to instill hope in the community but is unsure how to do so if this position is not funded.
- Crystal Bauer, the Director for Project HOPE, spoke further about the position stating President Biden has already signed an initiative to have DEI positions at the Federal level. West Virginia has successful DEI programs in Charleston, Huntington, and Morgantown. She stated there is room for improvement in Wheeling and passed out census data. She further hopes the Ohio County Commission will move to initiate the program.
- Doug Patterson, a resident of River Hills in Wheeling, spoke to the Commissioners concerning the noise and vibrations from the well pad along Cherry Hill Road. He has tried talking to representatives from SWN and has been unable to make contact. President Nickerson stated the County Administrator will share Mr. Patterson's contact information with SWN representatives. Mr. Patterson also spoke about abandoned cars and the sewer line in Clearview. Mr. Russell stated the City of Wheeling has typically provided services for Clearview. Mr. Patterson also stated West Virginia received $3.5 billion dollars for roads and bridges throughout the state but has not been able to determine how much Ohio County will be allocated.

The minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Village of Clearview Police Department – The Village is requesting funds to equip their new police cruiser. The Village has not used their ARPA funds. The Commissioners would ask they use their funds for this request.
- Upper Ohio Valley American Legion Riders – Mountaineers Boy's State and Rhododendron Girl's State – This is a new request. After review, the Commissioners decided not to fund the request.
- Mountaineer Brewfest – Mr. Wharton requested a budget from the organization. Decision tabled until the information is provided.

- Harmony House – 2023 Hope for Spring Fling – Mr. Wharton made a motion to donate $500.00 to the event, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Upper Ohio Valley Italian Heritage Festival – Mr. Abraham requested a budget from the organization. Decision tabled until the information is provided.
- Beast of the East – Mr. Wharton requested a budget from the organization. Decision tabled until the information is provided.

New Business:

- Wings over Wheeling – The event held last year was a success and the planes are available on June 24, 2023 for this year. The airport would like to have the C123 from Pennsylvania and the C47 from New York back for the event. WOMP FM can also do a live broadcast during this time. Mr. Escue will coordinate the cruise-in as well. Last year, the event had 170 show cars. Motion to approve made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- ABCA – Faith in Action Caregivers Sweet Treats and Sweet Sounds – Motion to accept their application made by Mr. Abraham and seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Family Court MOU – The MOU will extend the Courthouse Annex lease until June 30, 2026. Family Court owes one year of back rent as well. Motion to approve the MOU made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Officials Reports:

- Administrator – Mr. Russell reported there are position openings in the Tax Office, the Assessor's office, and the Prosecuting Attorney's office. The jobs have been posted on Indeed and the County website.
- Facilities – No report.
- Emergency Services – A cold front / rain event will drop two inches of rain throughout the valley. Minor flooding is expected. Ohio County is a 'storm ready' County. The Ohio River is expected to be at action stage, which is 32 feet. AEDs have been provided to all local ballparks and training has been provided.
- Payables – The Commissioners were provided with up-to-date bills. The donation provided to Central / Wheeling Park for the National Golf Championships will be sent to Central and reflected in the payables at the next meeting. Motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Budget Revisions – None at this time.
- Exonerations – After review, Mr. Wharton made a motion to approve the exonerations with a second by Mr. Abraham. Motion approved.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator