# Ohio County Commission
# January 21, 2025

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Zachary T. Abraham. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Ms. Marie Travis from Serenity Hills was a no show for the meeting.

The minutes from the January 7, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Letters will be sent to each recipient of a Community Grant. While we were hoping to do the process online, we will be asking for paper information.

New Business:

- REDP LED Resolution – Each year, the Regional Economic Development Partnership applies for the Local Economic Development or LED grant from the WV Department of Economic Development. The purpose of this grant is to enhance the capacity of local economic development to undertake economic development activities and to complete Certified Development Community (CDC) program requirements. Their grant application requires a resolution from the County Commission recognizing REDP as our Local Economic Development Organization. Motion to approve the resolution made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.
- Opioid Settlement Funds – As Commissioners are aware, Ohio County has received funds from the opioid settlement. At your direction, we are creating a process whereby outside entities, as well as government offices, can compete for grant funds. However, in the meantime, our Emergency Medical Services Department and Sheriff's Department have immediate needs that are qualifying issues for opioid funds: 1. First, for the EMS Department, Anthony McDaniel and Jeff Johnson reported to you at the last meeting that their video laryngoscopes were fast approaching end of life. To standardize EMS equipment for all EMS agencies, we are recommending spending up to $25,000.00 for the purchase of ten video laryngoscopes so that new units can be placed in ambulances throughout the County. 2. Second, our Sheriff's office has a dual purpose canine who is nearing retirement. It is integral to keep illegal drugs and guns off our streets. Sheriff Croft has obtained an estimate to replace Zero at a cost of $18,000.00. There is some lead time involved. This is also a qualified expenditure. Motion to approve both the EMS items as well as the canine made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- 911 Director Appointment – Mr. Russell is seeking the advise and consent of the Commissioners to hire Ricki Pritt as the 911 Director. Mr. Abraham inquired as to who was on the committee. Mr. Russell answered Brenda Miller, Melissa Marco, and Kent

Lewis. A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton to offer the 911 Director position to Mr. Ricki Pritt.

- Ohio County EMS, New Hire, Austin Slie – Mr. Vargo and Mr. Campbell interviewed Mr. Slie for the position. He has been a part time casual employee since 2021. Motion to approve the hire made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Policy 2.1 Payment of Money out of County Treasury – This policy follows state code and memorializes what we are already doing in the office. Motion to approve the policy made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Policy 2.2 Signing of Orders by Mechanical or Electrical Devices – Motion to approve the policy made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report – The sub-recipient grants for fire funds went out. For the salary study, one additional county has now provided information for a total of four. The Board of Equalization and Review will open on January 31, 2025.
- Growth and Retention – Funding for POP and G2G is in progress. Incentive plans for new residents are being reviewed. HQ at the Highlands is being promoted.
- Facilities – Ms. Marco gave an HVAC update:
    - On the fifth floor, demolition has been completed.
    - On the fourth floor, piping and water source heat pumps are in place. Ceilings will be dropped shortly. The Circuit Clerk will move back into her office on February 4, 2025.
    - On the third floor, ceilings have arrived and will be dropped today. The floor is at the final stages of completion.
    - AEP is integral to the process. They need to finish work so we can switch the third and fourth floors to the new power source.
    - On the second floor, the books have been removed from the County Clerk's office, the Assessor's office build out is completed, and the hallways have been primed.
    - Other projects: remediation started today in the Annex and will be completed within one week. The Magistrate Office had a significant leak and Ms. Marco is meeting with the insurance company tomorrow. The WVU Extension Office will be moving to the Highlands while an HVAC Unit is fixed. The porch pavers will go out to bid shortly. The ARC Grant we submitted is still being reviewed.
- Sheriff's Department – The former Sheriff's car is almost striped and will go out on the road. Three new Sheriff's vehicles are at Bearcom. Sheriff Croft spoke about raising the Court Security Personnel's wages from $14.00 to $16.00 per hour. Several questions were posed:
    - Mr. Abraham – are these 3 new part time positions? Sheriff Croft – yes.
    - Sheriff Croft felt 30 Deputies and 3 part time security officers were needed for the department to be fully staffed.
- EMA Director – Zool is providing a cardiac resuscitation program. Director Vargo would like to see automatic CPR machines on each ambulance.
- 911 Director – Mr. Pritt reported they are working to install the Next Gen equipment.

Finance:

- Mr. Russell provided the purchase orders issued since the first of the year. He is asking the Commissioners to review and ratify the orders. Motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton to ratify the orders. Motion carried.
- Ms. Coyne reported the bills are up to date. Motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Unpaid invoices –No further action is required.
- Exonerations – Mr. Wharton made a motion to approve the exonerations, seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Zachary T. Abraham, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator