Ohio County Commission
July 18, 2023

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited. President Nickerson asked for a moment of silence for Larry Hetzel.

Delegations:

- Darlene Nolan, representing the Republican Party, spoke about poverty. She spoke primarily about Article 4, Section 4, of the Constitution.
- Michael Seckman, field representative for Hon. Alex Mooney, offered his support and assistance where needed.

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

Community Grants:

- Party on the Plaza – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to contribute $500.00 to the event.
- Blues Fest – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to contribute $3,000.00 to the event.
- Oglebay Tennis Club – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to contribute $500.00 to the event.
- Oglebay Foundation – Mr. Abraham requested more time to read over the request. The matter was tabled at this time.
- Wheeling Chamber of Commerce Golf Scramble – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to contribute $125.00 to the event.
- Wheeling Vintage Raceboat Regatta – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to approve $3,000.00 for the event.
- YWCA Mega Bingo – A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to contribute $100.00 to the event.

Old Business:

- The Highlands TIF II – A motion to move the public hearing to August 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. was made by Mr. Abraham and seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Foundation Baseball – After review of the information provided, a motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, to donate $1,000.00 to the event. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Ohio County Development Authority Board Members – The OCDA has six board members whose terms will expire in July 2023. All six members have expressed an interest in serving another three-year term. Those whose term will expire are: Randy Russell, Zach Abraham, Tanner Russell, Mary Pockl, Jim Murray, and Eriks Janelsins. Mr. Nickerson made a motion to approve each member for a three-year term, seconded

by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried with Mr. Abraham abstaining from his vote to the OCDA Board.

- Travel Policy – A travel policy was presented to the Commissioners which would regulate day and overnight travel. The travel policy must be approved before a Purchasing Card policy can be written. A Purchasing Card policy is required by the State Auditor's Office. Mr. Abraham commented he wanted time to review the document and make some revisions. The policy was tabled until the next meeting.
- West Virginia Route 2 / I-68 Authority – A motion to approve a payment of $4,000.00 was made by Mr. Abraham and seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- West Virginia Association of Counties – A motion to approve a payment of $6,500.00 was made by Mr. Abraham and seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- County Insurance Renewal – The policy, currently with Traveler's, and prepared by Paull Associates, went up 12.5%. We increased our County owned building insurance by $7,800,000.00 and insured seven new vehicles. With regards to Worker's Compensation, the policy will be moving from Traveler's to Encova. Property and casualty insurance will be held by Traveler's. Motion to approve made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Northern Panhandle Workforce Development Board, Inc. – On a motion by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Commission voted to reappoint Kevin Coulter to the Executive Committee of the Northern Panhandle Workforce Development Board.
- Compensation Review – The Commissioners were presented with salary letters for each department with the exception of the Sheriff and Law Enforcement. Employees received a $1,000.00 increase unless otherwise noted. These reviews also take into consideration budget adjustments made by various departments. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Vacation and Sick Leave Policies – Mr. Russell sought the approval of the Commissioners to return to the July 1993 version of the handbook and rescind the new version. Mr. Russell will restore the past sick and vacation days.
- Ohio County Health Department Contract – The contract presented to the Commissioners was for $70,000.00, a 4.5% increase over last year. The Health Department's budget is split between the City, County, and State. Motion to approve the contract made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- West Liberty VFD – The department has asked the Commission to purchase a power cot for their second ambulance. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the purchase with ARPA funds, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- ABCA Requests – Oglebay has submitted three requests for review:
    - Fall Food Truck Festival – Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
    - Carriage Glass House - Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
    - Oglebayfest - Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Officials Reports:

- Administrator Russell – The City's Build WV application was certified and approved. This status provides builders of residential housing with tax credits. The West Virginia First Foundation was formed in response to the opioid settlements. Dr. Steven Corder, a

physician at Northwood, was selected as Region 1's representative. Mr. Russell also sought the advice and consent of the Commissioners to hire Alyssa Kalo and Michelle Gast for 911. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

- Facilities – Ms. Marco provided the Commissioners with an HVAC update. A meeting was held with the contractors to review the phasing schedule. By collapsing the phases, it may be possible to take a year off the project. The elevator in the Annex will also be inspected at the end of July.
- Emergency Services
    - Mr. Campbell – A severe storm is expected to move through the area on Thursday, which could drop several inches of rain. The number of COVID cases is down, but doctors are reporting cases every day. The Health Department is waiting to see if an additional vaccine will come out this year. CPR classes are still being offered.
    - Sheriff Howard – Bills from the Tax Office went out on Monday and there was a significant rise in personal property taxes. The office will work on some announcements to explain why the increase was incurred. The PRO Conference is July 31- August 1 and all hotels are fully booked. This conference is paid for by the State. With regards to scheduling, the Deputy's will be going back to 10 hour shifts as opposed to 12-hour shifts. With 12-hour shifts, it is hard to make adjustments and funds will be saved. The 10-hour shifts will start on August 13.
    - Mrs. Russell – The recorder has been installed in conjunction with Motorola. The department also has two-way text. If a call has been abandoned, the dispatchers can send a text message to the number to communicate with the caller. The State 911 Council is working to bring their conference to the area at the end of August.

Finance:

- Mr. Archey reported the bills are up to date. Motion to approve the bills was made by Mr. Abraham, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried. Mr. Archey also reported the unpaid invoices were not approved at the time of the check run. No further action is needed. Mr. Wharton applauded Mr. Archey and his staff for their due diligence in reviewing invoices. Mr. Archey provided the carryover budget revisions. At the end of the fiscal year, we must provide carryover revisions to the State Auditor. Motion to approve the budget revisions made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried. Mr. Archey also received an email from the State Auditor's office that requires two new funds and bank accounts to be opened. One is for Election Administration while the other fund is for the County Clerk's Property Recording Act. Both are restricted funds. Motion to approve the accounts made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried. Mr. Archey presented 33 exonerations for consideration - 29 credits and 4 debits. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Commissioner's Reports:

- Mr. Abraham reported the OVRTA route from Wheeling to Moundsville will continue but a local bond may be needed in the future. Marshall and West Liberty University kicked

off their collaborative effort with a press conference at the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport.

- Mr. Russell reported the State Auditor's Training will be held at Glade Springs August 13-15, 2023.

Other Business:

- Doug Patterson, of Clearview, inquired about the River Hills Sewer Project and stated he now sits on the board of directors for the Ohio Valley Trail Partners.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator