OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION
12/20/2022

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Delegation

Anthony McDaniel reported he is a paramedic with the Ohio County EMS. He reported that he is here to read a statement. He wants to announce that the full-time paramedics of Ohio County EMS have organized to become part of the International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO as the Ohio County Professional EMS Association Local 5405. They made this decision due to the needs of their members and the benefits and protections the membership provides to them during these times. They are proud to be part of the IAFF, an organization with a strong history of representing firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics in their efforts to better serve their communities. They would look forward to working with the Ohio County Commission to continue to provide the highest level of service to the residents of Ohio County. He received an email today asking for their plans for the MDA fill the boot. He asked the limitations in soliciting at the Highlands. Solicitor Tennant reported that you must watch because part of Cabela Drive is a State Road. He reported that they will not be stopping traffic. They will be at the light. He reported that one of the benefits that will provide our full time EMS will be free and reduced tuition at a local college for themselves and their immediate family members so that is a benefit, as well as line of duty death benefits. Commissioner Abraham stated that of course he would not want anyone to get hurt during the MDA fill a boot event. Mr. McDaniel reported he will coordinate with the County Commission when that time comes. This is normally near Labor Day.

Minutes

Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2022, Commission meeting with one correction to be made. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Grants

FY 2021 Homeland Security Grant Award

Emergency Management Director Vargo reported that last year they had applied for a grant that was an EMS simulator that they use to train volunteer and City fire departments. Since that time the Governor has purchased five mobile classrooms to be distributed. It is basically an ambulance with five simulators in it, one of which was the simulator he asked for. He did not feel that it would be right with using taxpayer's money, so he approached the State office and what they're doing is to take that grant that we asked to administer and divide it into sub grants. This award goes along with a grant he had last year that has to do with our rescue task force grant that has to do with active shooters in the schools and our buildings. The last grant was for ballistic vests. This would be the ballistic helmets, some mass casualty equipment that will fill the need for the task. President Wharton asked who will have the equipment. Emergency Management Director Vargo reported that they will keep it and when needed then take to the scenes. Administrator Russell reported the amount of the request is $14,954.00 and there is no match required. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the grant award. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Community Grants

Ohio Valley Night to Shine

Administrator Russell reported that the first request tonight is from the Ohio Valley Night to Shine from the Bowman United Methodist Church. This is the local facility that is doing the Tim Tebow Foundation. Thirty Seven percent of the participants are from Ohio County, plus anticipating three hundred volunteers and several parents as well. This is for special needs people that are fourteen years old and above. They anticipate the total cost to be about $18,000.00 and they have raised $10.000.00. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve $500.00 for the Ohio Valley Night to Shine event. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

WVU Extension-Agricultural Dinner Meetings 2023

Administrator Russell reported that next is the WVU Extension Office's Winter Agricultural Dinner meetings which will start Monday, January 9, 2023. They currently have three meetings scheduled and Karen Cox, Ohio County agent, is planning a risk management project for agriculture. It will be a six-week program, three hours a week. Her sponsors are the Conservation District, and Sampson's feed. She has collected about $700.00. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve $500.00 for the Agricultural Dinner meetings. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

OLD Business

Supplemental Resolution of the Ohio County Building Commission

Carrie Cecil from Frost, Brown, Todd along with Joe Nassif from Piper Sandler appeared before the Commission. Ms. Cecil reported that the supplemental resolution you have for consideration approves the terms for the bonds. Attached to it are the two term sheets received from Truist. Community Bank and Truist will be purchasing the senior series A bonds and Community bank will be purchasing Series B taxable bonds. Joe Nassif at a prior meeting walked us through the results of the bid process. In addition, it approves a post- issuance compliance policy. There is a form attached to the resolution. The IRS has taken a more active role in making sure that projects are compliant with federal tax rules. The other item that needs to be approved is the sub lease that would be entered into with the City of Wheeling. Attached to it is the schedule of the payments of 40% of the debt service on the bonds which is an agreement of operations and maintenance cost. Commissioner Nickerson asked who drafted this. Carrie Cecil stated she did, and she is an attorney with Frost, Brown, Todd. President Wharton stated, so the Ohio County Commission is on the hook, and the City of Wheeling is just our tenant so at any time if they wanted to modify the arrangement what is a safeguard. Ms. Cecil stated that the term of the sub lease is for the life of the bonds. A fifteen-year payment period. Joe Nassiff reported that in your packet is a transaction summary report. If you have any question, please reach out to me. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the Supplemental Resolution of the Ohio County Building Commission as represented. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor. President Wharton reported he is happy with how this worked out.

ARPA Funding Update

Community Input Committee Recommendations

Administrator Russell reported you have a copy of the ARPA funding update for your consideration. This update will be taken under advisement.

Reappointment of OCDA Members

Administrator Russell reported at the June 14, 2022, meeting the Commissioners approved the reappointment of the members to the OCDA board subject to their willingness to continue to serve. He spoke with all members about continuing to serve and they all agreed, however he failed to bring it back to the Commission for final approval. So, he would like to ratify the reappointment of John McColloch, Robert Smith, Eran Molz, John Olejasz, W. Franklin Evans, and John Gearry whose terms will expire on July 20, 2025. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the reappointment of the six OCDA members with the expiration date of July 20, 2025. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

LED Resolution

Administrator Russell reported that before the Commissioners tonight is a resolution authorizing Local Economic Development (LED) program from REDP who will apply for the LED grant typically in the amount of $30,000.00 and they will forward those funds to us or use it for a program that you approve. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the LED Resolution. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Administrator Russell reported that he has a resolution approving the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This was a plan that incorporates Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel Counties into a multi jurisdiction hazard mitigation plan that is more about FEMA, emergencies, and natural disasters. Commissioner Abraham made amotion to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

2023 Holiday Schedule

Administrator Russell reported that the Commissioners have before them the 2023 Holiday Schedule which follows the State schedule as it has been posted at this point. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the 2023 Holiday schedule. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Governor's Proclamation-December 23rd & 30th

Administrator Russell reported that the Governor has proclaimed that on Friday, December 23, and Friday, December 30, 2022, that all employees of the State will receive ½ day Holiday on each of those dates. Those employees that are required to work, will receive additional compensation per County policy. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the ½ days off on December 23 and December 30, 2002. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

STAFF ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Administrator- Administrator Russell reported that he has nothing else for tonight.

Facilities- Melissa Marco reported that the elevator project is complete and working. She reported that there is a project at the Animal Shelter coming up. The roof needs replaced and there is a bid out and due in January. The HVAC project is moving along as you can see it got very real with all the paperwork that was just signed this afternoon. She is hoping that project will begin in February or March and will be an eighteen- or twenty-month project. Ms. Marco reported the bids for the HVAC project will be brought to the January 3, 2023, Commission meeting. President Wharton asked if there are any more projects that need done soon. He reported he is aware of some trust money that is available at a local bank, and he spoke with someone there about invading some of those trusts for some of these projects.

He informed him that they would need this in the form of a letter with approximate costs. Possibly the Animal Shelter roof would be able to be paid for through that.
Public Safety- Emergency Management Director Vargo reported that all hospitals are very busy with Covid, RSV, and the flu. Mr. Gamble reported that he is finding that there has been an influx of people just getting their first dose of the COVID vaccine. There will probably be more COVID boosters being given in the future. The Governor of West Virginia has declared a State of Preparedness for all fifty-five counties in anticipation of the weather coming. He will begin weather briefings starting Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. They are saying Friday by 11:00 a.m. 18 degrees outside with the wind blowing. President Wharton asked if we are prepared with vaccines in case of emergency like with refrigerators. Emergency Management Director reported yes, we are.
Finance- Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have a copy of the bills as they are up to date. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve to pay the bills. Second by Commissioner Abraham. Motion carried with all voting in favor.
Exonerations- Finance Director Archey reported that the Commissioners have six exonerations before them. They are all are credits, and all are recommended by the Assessor. Commissioner Abraham made a motion to approve the exonerations. Second by Commissioner Nickerson. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

COMMISSION BOARD REPORTS
Commissioner Abraham reported that OVRTA/ EOVRTA has approved the extension of a trial run down through Moundsville from January 3, through July 3, 2023, to Reynolds and down to the DMV. The second run is to have vans, where you call OVRTA or EOVRTA if you're employed at the Highlands. It is going to extend on the front of the day during the same time frame. It will be extended from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. so that if you are working late, you can get home. The public hearing a few weeks back brought these two trials to life. They must include 70 % of the cost to be recaptured during that six-month period for those routes to be extended. Commissioner Abraham reported that he was in Rally House over the weekend, and he overheard a worker saying he could adjust his schedule after January because they are going to extend the morning and afternoon bus schedule for the Highlands. President Wharton reported that they had talked about a news release on everything that is happening at the Highlands and what is happening in the future. Joslyn King from the Newspaper did a story on it from the OCDA meeting last week. Our public relations firm sent out an email. Administrator Russell stated that they held off on that press release because Joslyn did a great job of putting them out there. We do have an additional tenant that is going to be opening soon that we are not ready to talk about yet, but he feels if you ride up there you can see the name. Melissa's background is with public relations, and he thinks she will start getting more involved in that part of it. Commissioner Abraham reported that he and Randy Russell rode up to Hughes Street and Leopold Lane. Today they met with Tony Clark from DOH and met with neighbors. He felt it was very productive. The residents need to take ownership of that lane, and he hope's there will be some relief coming.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS
Nothing from the board.

FUTURE MEETINGS

President Wharton reported that the next Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

President, Randy Wharton

Administrator. Randel Russell

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