Ohio County Commission
November 7, 2023

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Anthony McDaniel from the WV EMS Coalition spoke concerning the salary enhancement fund. He stated paperwork would be forthcoming with instructions on how to create, invoice and spend the allocated funds. It is understood that each entity in the County with a paid EMS agency will receive a share of the funds based on calls. Individual allocations will be prioritized to those who have been on the job six months or longer.

The minutes from October 25, 2023, were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- West Virginia Department of Transportation – Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities – The Ohio County Commission was awarded $18,769.00 for the Tower Renovation Project at the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport. Motion to approve the grant award made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Helping Heroes – The organization is seeking donations for their third annual campaign. Helping Heroes was the receipt of $100,000.00 in ARPA funding. Consideration was tabled until further financial information can be obtained.

Old Business:

- Vehicle Policy – A draft policy was presented for consideration. The issue will be tabled until the next meeting allowing the Commissioner's time to review.
- Sponsorship Policy – A checklist will be developed to send out with the initial letter to community organizations. Mr. Abraham asked if the policy could be sent with the informational paperwork as well. The letters will be sent in December.

New Business:

- O.C. Fire Chief's Request for OCEMS – The request asks for the Ohio County EMS to respond to issues at the Highlands if Valley Grove or Triadelphia cannot respond to be able to 'get eyes on the situation.' Mr. Abraham stated 'getting eyes on the situation' needed to be more clearly defined for liability reasons. Mr. Anthony McDaniel stated if the establishment was closed, he would not enter the facility past the Main Lobby, but he would go to the fire alarm panel and relay information to the squads. Mr. Don Tennant stated there needed to be a strict rule that no one enters past the lobby area. Mr. Tony Campbell stated he would do a 360 of the establishment but would not go inside. This

360 would be used to provide an initial report to the squads. Mr. Lou Vargo was asked to draft a policy using the input from the meeting tonight. He stated he would have it for review at the December 5, 2023, Commission meeting.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Russell stated he is working to reschedule the work session with Piper Sandler and Frost, Brown, Todd regarding the TIF and SDEX bonding. After review, it was agreed that the session would be held prior to the December 5, 2023, Commission meeting. Marshall University flew into the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport to meet with representatives from West Liberty University. The Commission received an inquiry through the website from New Leaf, WV, LLC, to open a medical cannabis facility on Ganzer Road. A no-zoning letter will be sent to New Leaf, WV, LLC.
- Ms. Marco reported representatives from the masonry company were on site today and will start work on the north end of the building tomorrow. The work will take approximately two weeks to complete. The windows are still on track to arrive the first week of December. Work in the penthouse will begin on December 1, 2023. Ms. Marco presented the Commissioners with a thank you poster from the children at Laughlin Chapel. The Commission made a donation for their new playground, and we attended the groundbreaking ceremony. Ms. Marco also reported we have received the Courthouse Facilities Grant in the amount of $100,000.00 for work on the porches. She hopes to have the official paperwork by the next Commission meeting.
- Emergency Services – Mr. Vargo reported the office completed Stop the Bleed training for 200 individuals. Next, they will train every student at Wheeling Park High School. Tabletop exercises will be held at Wheeling University and St. Vincents. The office will be applying for a Mitigation Grant. It must be to the state by the end of the year and to FEMA by the end of February.
- Sheriff – A representative of the Sheriff's Office was not in attendance at the meeting.

Finance:

- Mr. Archey reported the bills are up to date. The invoice for $3,925.00 was questioned by Mr. Nickerson. Mr. Archey stated is was ARPA funding used for cruiser equipment with Bearcom. Motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Unpaid invoices – Some of the invoices were awaiting grant funding. This funding has now been received and the invoices will be paid by the next meeting. No further action is required.
- Mr. Archey presented the exonerations for consideration. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

- Mr. Abraham reported the first round of interviews was held for the Growth and Retention position.
- Mr. Russell reported the Commission's website has received several emails regarding the deer culling at Oglebay Park. All of the emails were responded to stating the Commission has no jurisdiction over park operations.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator