# Ohio County Commission
# December 19, 2023

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 6:05 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Caden Audey spoke to the Commissioners seeking permission to record and document at the County Farm. He would like to document current conditions of the property for historic preservation. Mr. Don Tennant stated the property was in such disrepair that he felt it would be dangerous to go into the buildings. The Commissioners would like to see him sign a formal legal document to waive liability when on the property. As long as a waiver is signed, motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

The minutes from December 5, 2023, were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Hoorah to Heroes – The Commission has sponsored this event for the last seven years in the amount of $5,500.00, with this year's event being scheduled for May 25-26. The event request was tabled while the Commission Office works to obtain their financial information.
- Inclusion on Ice – The request will be tabled, and the Commission Office will work to obtain financial information.

New Business:

- County Holidays for 2024 – This year, there is a primary and general election, bringing the holiday total to 14 days. After review, approval was given by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Fort Henry Centre Development District #2 – The district will create 1,228 acres that is contiguous with Development District #1. An order for TIF #2 and approval for the project plan was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- 911 Department Request to Hire – Mrs. Theresa Russell, after interviewing several candidates, would like to hire Gary White for the role of 911 Dispatcher. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report - Mr. Russell – Mr. Russell provided several updates:
    - Stephanie Hockenberry, the new Growth and Retention Manager, started this past Monday.
    - There are open positions in the Prosecutor's Office, as well as the Circuit Clerk's Office. Advertising is underway for both positions.
    - Mr. Russell will circulate the vehicle policy in the coming week.

- An RFP for a Salary Compensation Study will be completed.
- The Board of Equalization and Review will meet in February. The Commission will need to pick two dates and two times in February to hold the meeting.
- The City of Wheeling was awarded $150,000.00 for a recycling truck.

- Facilities Update - Ms. Marco – The HVAC project is starting to move forward. Temporary boiler heat has been installed in the alley, but a walkway has been maintained for access. Four windows will be removed, two in the Commission Office, one in the Law Library, and one in the Circuit Clerk's office because these windows were installed differently over time. A vacuum truck has been on site the last two days working on the ballast removal. Chapline Street will be reduced to one lane on Wednesday and Thursday to allow for roofing materials to be delivered. On Friday, 15th Street will close to allow the contractor time to remove items from the penthouse. Ms. Marco is communicating updates to the City and Judges as they become available.
- EMA – Mr. Vargo – Mr. Vargo was not in attendance but provided a report to the Commission office. The Ohio County EMS received a four-year award and certification from the WV Office of Emergency Medical Services. The repairs are underway on the trailer at the Highlands.
- Sheriff Howard – A representative from the Sheriff's Office was not in attendance at the meeting.

Finance:

- Mr. Archey reported the bills are up to date. 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.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator