Ohio County Commission
June 25, 2024

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- A representative from the small business administration is in town to represent FEMA. The deadline to file a claim is July 22, 2024.
- Titus Conner, of Boy Scout Troop 6, would like to build a shed for the Ohio County Animal Shelter. He is in need of $500.00 to complete the $1,200.00 project. On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Commission agreed to donate $500.00 to the project. Motion carried.

The minutes from the June 11, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- A Resolution for the DOT TAP Program, which would provide funds for a walkability study, was presented to the Commissioners. We are now in the application stage and writing the grant for $145,000.00 with a 20% match. Motion to approve moving to the application stage made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion approved.
- VOCA Application – This grant funds a Crime Victim Witness Coordinator. The grant is for $39,215.00 with no match. The County does have to add an additional $14,000.00 for the position. Motion to approve the grant application made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Ohio County Backpack Program – This request will be tabled and Ms. Marco will reach out to Tina Morris for financial information.

New Business:

- Property, Casualty, and Liability Insurance, Renewal – Motion to approve the renewal made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Ohio County Circuit Clerk's Office, New Hire Advise and Consent, Jennifer LeBoeuf – Motion to approve the hire made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Ohio County Commission, Transfer from Accounts Payable, Erin Witchey – No action needed.
- Ohio County Commission, Transfer from Tax Office, Advise and Consent, Patricia Stenger – Motion to approve the hire made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Ohio County Commission, New Hire Advise and Consent, Michelle Olejasz – Motion to approve the hire made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

- Ohio County Fireboard, Board Appointment, Citizen Member – This appointment is a three-year term, and they must live in the first magisterial district. Mr. Larry Helms has been recommended. Motion to approve made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Ohio County Fireboard, Board Appointment, Fire Department Member – The Fire Chief's Association rotate their appointments, and this year Triadelphia will have the representative. Mr. Dave Patterson has been recommended. Motion to approve the nomination made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Ohio County Solid Waste Authority, Board Appointment, Unexpired Term to June 30, 2026 – After the passing of Mr. Ron King, a vacant position remains. Mr. Mitchell Hadid was appointed to serve on the board. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Ohio County Solid Waste Authority, Board Appointment, Term to expire July 1, 2027 – Dr. Vincent DeGeorge was selected to fill this term. Mr. Wharton made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Ohio County Development Authority, Board Appointments, Terms to expire July 1, 2027 – Mr. Wharton, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Hebling, and Ms. Storch terms are set to expire. On a motion made by Mr. Wharton, and seconded by Mr. Abraham, the members terms were extended.
- Radio System, Motorola SUA, Change Order – Motion to approve the change order made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Transportation Alternatives (Grant) Program, Letter of Support, County Farm Rec Trails – This grant will provide a design grant for the County Farm Property. This would include engineering. Approval to submit the grant made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report – Mr. Archey retired on June 1, 2024 while Becky Coyne and Kimberly Lemley have stepped up to take on several of the tasks he completed. Mr. Russell will be attending a conference in Morgantown on Friday.
- Facilities Update – Ms. Marco reported that commissioning work will be completed on the windows, masonry, structural steel, and the roof in two weeks. While the switchgear has arrived, the bus duct is delayed until October, which has set the project back again. The mural was hung on the Annex. Ms. Marco continues to work with the Animal Shelter to make process improvements and improve policies and procedures. She is also working to help book events at the Event Center and has taken over many pieces of the Airshow that will be held August 24, 2024.
- 911 Director – Theresa Russell – The 911 Center is fully staffed with two new hires. Mrs. Russell also offered her retirement letter to the Commissioners. Her last day will be August 2, 2024.
- EMA – Mr. Vargo – Through the Small Business Administration, 11 counties were awarded $3.13 million. Of that total $560,000.00 was paid to Wheeling. The City, Fire Departments, and Ohio County Ambulance personnel must take a class by July 15, 2024. The class is required.
- Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Howard announced the appointment of Chief Deputy Nelson Croft. The printers were replaced in the front and back offices. Sheriff Howard

also requested his full budget. With regards to laptops, the Sheriff stated he now has 10 down. With cruisers, he has several over 90,000 miles and recently spent $8,000.00 on one transmission. Mr. Abraham asked if the Commission ever received a rotation schedule from the Sheriff's Office. To date, they have not. Sheriff Howard stated he was forced to place used tires on a cruiser. Mr. Wharton stated he should have called and he would have worked this issue out for the Office. The Sheriff's Office does not purchase tires where the state has a contract. When spending over $15,000.00, approval must be granted. The Office had spent $14,500.00 at the facility that is not under state contract. To date, they only have one security guard, and, in the meantime, they fill with deputies. The Sheriff also stated there was a smell in the basement from the flood. The Sheriff was corrected that a pipe did not burst leading to a flood, but rather a toilet overflowed. Footage was requested to see who was in the gym at the time, but never received. Ms. Marco stated she was never informed as to the issue but will place a call to Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration to come back in and assess the situation. The Sheriff would like to request a meeting with regards to the body cam issue. The Tax Office will also need to fill a vacancy since Patricia Stenger transferred out of the department.

- Mr. Drage Flick stated a new civil service test will need to be conducted. Dawn and Kaley are now working on payroll. He has not been able to train anyone with regards to the hiring process or enrolling people in the academy. Mr. Flick will also provide an updated list of duties to the Commissioners.

Finance:

- Mrs. Coyne 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. No further action is required.
- Mr. Abraham would like to see a month to month report detailing each department, the percentage of their budget used, and if they are over / under budget.
- Exonerations – Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the exonerations, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Mr. Abraham and Mr. Russell attended the Circuit Clerk's opening ceremony. They also had lunch with Randell Reid Smith about getting on Mr. Wriston's calendar regarding the second interchange.

Mr. Abraham also reported the City of Moundsville denied to place the transportation levy on the ballot in November so OVRTA has stopped running routes to the area.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator