Ohio County Commission
September 3, 2024

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Assistant Chief Noice / Wheeling Police Department – The Wheeling FOP Lodge 38 would like to reinstate FOP dues for the Ohio County Sheriff's Office to be deducted from their payroll check. The FOP is not subject to the Janis Ruling because it does not require members to join. The Fire Department is already taking payments out of their payroll checks. In Sage, Assistant Chief Noice has stated it is four clicks of a mouse to set up the deduction of dues. Mr. Abraham asked where a representative was from the Ohio County Sheriff's Office. Assistant Chief Noice stated he was elected at the last meeting to come and speak to the group, and he has vast knowledge of the Janis Ruling. Mr. Nickerson asked how other officers / deputies feel about having the dues deducted from their payroll check. Assistant Chief Noice stated when the practice stopped, membership dropped from 200 to 100 at the Wheeling Police Department. Mr. Abraham inquired as to what the dues are used for. Assistant Chief Noice stated the dues are $120.00 per year and help support the national effort, assist local members, and the Kids and Cops Program at Christmas. Lobbying efforts are completed by the State Lodge since West Virginia is not a collective bargaining state. Mr. Nickerson stated the Commission would take this information under advisement.

The minutes from the September 3, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Abraham would like to see some revisions completed. The minutes were tabled until the next meeting on September 17, 2024.

Grants:

- STOP Violence Against Women Act – The Ohio County Commission was awarded $75,775.00 for the program which requires a 20% match. Motion to accept the award made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Emergency Management Performance Grant Fiscal Year 2022 - Emergency Management was awarded $50,918.00. They had applied for $125,000.00. The grant does require a 50% match. The funds will be used to cover some salaries. Motion to approve the grant award made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- West Virginia Chief of Police Conference – The Conference will be held at Oglebay Park October 4-5, 2024. This is their first request for a donation. The Commissioners agreed to support the conference at the Bronze Level ($1,000.00) Motion to make the donation made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- American Red Cross – The American Red Cross is asking for a $5,000.00 donation to be used towards operating expenses. The Commissioners asked Ms. Marco to go back to the

organization to inquire if there was a program they could support in lieu of operating expenses. The request was tabled.

New Business:

- Ohio Valley Drug Task Force / Annual Contribution – The group is seeking a $3,000.00 contribution for the Ohio Valley Drug Task Force. Each year, the County Commission contributes these funds to the organization. Motion to approve a $3,000.00 contribution made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Addressing – Heather and Josiah McBride are converting a garage on their property into an apartment. Since there is already a house on the same driveway, they are required to establish a new road name. They are requesting the road name of Sunset Vista Drive. Motion to approve the road name made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Ohio County Opioid Settlement Funds – The West Virginia State Attorney General's Office sent a letter explaining how Cities and Counties can spend the opioid settlement funds. To date, we have received $313,000.00. There is a meeting scheduled with the Region 1 stakeholders, as well as Dr. Steven Corder, to discuss how projects will be funded.
- Contact for Services / Sheriff / In Car Camera System / Coban Technologies – The total cost of the contract is $228,575.00. This will be a cloud-based system. This falls under the West Virginia Appropriations Clause. Motion to approve the Coban Technologies system made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Contract for Service / 911 Communications / NextGen911 / AT&T – This system has a $10,000.00 up front cost for equipment and then costs $6,300.00 a month. It is a digital IP based system that will replace Frontier's system. Currently, Frontier has one pathway, while AT&T has three pathways. There will be a $30,000.00 increase to the budget for this system and it can be paid for with 911 fees. Mr. Abrham did inquire if there is a clause in the contract that AT&T reimburse us for any down time. Mr. Pritt will check to ensure it is included. This also falls under the West Virginia Appropriations Clause. Motion to approve the system made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Employee Compensation / Tax Office – This item will be moved to the end of the agenda.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report – Mr. Russell reported over 7,500 people attended Wings Over Wheeling. There were 13 ariel acts and 150 cars on display. He commented the event would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. Mr. Abraham also thanked Ms. Marco and Mrs. Hockenbery for their assistance putting the event together. He has heard some wonderful comments from the community.
- Facilities – The HVAC project is currently at a standstill until the busduct arrives in October. We have, though, painted the swing space. The work on the porticos continues to progress. We are currently conducting interviews for the Animal Shelter. At this time, we are two employees down due to retirements. We will start working on the AEP Building. Currently, we are looking at the front doors, paint, HVAC, roof, and the masonry. The Sheriff has stated the paint in the building is an emergency project. Once we have that in writing, we will commence with the project.

- Sheriff – A representative from the Sheriff's Office was not in attendance.
- EMA Director – Mr. Vargo reported the annual September 11 service will be held at 12:00 p.m. at Heritage Port.
- 911 Director – Two new employees are still in training. The three most current new hires will be going to Charleston.

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.
- Exonerations – Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the exonerations, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Commission entered Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. according to West Virginia State Code §6-9A-4.

On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Commission went back on the record at 7:05 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator

*Executive Session for personnel matters or property transactions: West Virginia State Code §6-9A-4