Ohio County Commission

February 7, 2023

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

Present at the meeting: President, Donald A. Nickerson, Commissioner Zach Abraham, Commissioner Randy Wharton, Solicitor Don Tennant, Finance Director Rodd Archey, and Administrator Randy Russell.

The minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:`

* The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History reviewed our grant application and has awarded $4,353.00 for the purchase of a micro-cut shredder to dispose of documents that have exceeded the records retention requirement. The grant was approved by Mr. Abraham and seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
* Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant – Drage Flick of the Ohio County Sherriff’s office explained to the Commissioners that staff will most likely be required to wear body cameras in the near future. Cameras from Safe Fleet are compatible with cameras used in cruisers. A federal grant, which must be submitted by February 17, would offer a 1x1 match. To wear, a policy must be adopted. Motion made by Zach Abraham and seconded by Randy Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

* A motion was made by Zach Abraham and seconded by Randy Wharton to approve $3,000 for the Ogden Newspapers WVU Wellness Weekend.

Old Business:

* ARPA Funding – Mr. Russell stated notices will be sent to all those who applied by the end of the week.
* Elmhurst, The House of Friendship – The Commissioners agreed to provide $15,000 for their roof repair project. Motion made by Randy Wharton, seconded by Zach Abraham. Motion carried.
* Life Hub – no action at this time.
* West Virginia MLP Opioid Settlement – The Commissioners approved paperwork sent from Fitzsimmons Law Firm. Motion made by Zach Abraham and seconded by Randy Wharton. Motion carried.

New Business:

* Town of Triadelphia Water Line Easement – The Commission owns one of 90 parcels that the Town would need to contact about an easement. Motion to approve the easement by Zach Abraham, seconded by Randy Wharton. Motion carried.
* Hire of Jessica Klinger, Election Coordinator – Motion to approve by Zach Abraham, seconded by Randy Wharton. Motion carried.
* Hires in the Ohio County Sherriff’s Department – Motion made by Zach Abraham and seconded by Randy Wharton. Motion carried.
* Animal Shelter Roof Replacement – The Commissioners reviewed the bid tabulation sheet. The low bid was submitted by Accelerated Construction Inc. of Morgantown for a total of $108,050.00. The materials will be purchased from a cooperative in the amount of $99,102.73 and freight is $4,800.00 for a total of $236,453.00. Motion to approve the bid amount made by Zach Abraham, seconded by Randy Wharton. Motion carried.
* Milage Reimbursement Rate – The IRS has changed the number to 65.5 cents per mile. Motion to approve made by Zach Abraham and seconded by Randy Wharton. Motion carried.
* ABCA Request – The Wheeling Park Commission will be holding a Celtic Celebration on March 18, 2023. Motion to approve the request made by Zach Abraham and seconded by Randy Wharton. Motion carried.
* 911 Recorder Upgrade – Mr. Russell presented information from Motorola, who is currently engaged in a upgrade of the Statewide Interoperable Radio System. Ohio County’s software is not compatible with the upgrades. The cost of the upgrade is $55,662.00. After an extensive conversation, motion made by Zach Abraham and seconded by Randy Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Officials Reports:

* Administrator – no report
* Facilities – no report
* Russell Escue provided the Commissioners with the Airport’s annual report. The facility is number four in the state with regards to total operations. They are beginning work on a $1.2 million grant from the FAA to update the control tower.
* Payables – the Commissioners were provided with up-to-date bills. Motion to approve the bills made by Zach Abraham, seconded by Randy Wharton. Motion carried.
* Budget Revisions – none at this time.
* Exonerations – After review, Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the exonerations with a second by Randy Wharton. Motion approved.
* ERIC Mailing – The Secretary of State has cancelled the mailing.

Mr. Abraham thanked Toni Chieffalo for her dedicated years of service to the Ohio County Commission.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Donald A Nickerson, President Randel A. Russell, Administrator