Ohio County Commission

February 23, 2023

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Thursday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Present at the meeting: President Donald 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:

* Firefighters Assistance Grant Application – The grant is for $61,844.55 and Mr. Vargo plans to order new bunker gear for Emergency Management Services. The grant will require a 10% match. Mr. Russell stated a motion was needed to submit the grant. Motion made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
* Medical Cannabis Grant / JJDP Grant Supplemental Award – No action is required. The grant will move to JJDP and we will receive a new contract in the near future. The funds have already been awarded.

Community Grants:

* Touch A Truck – Holy Family Child Care and Development Center – The event will be held on August 5 at the Ohio County Airport. Motion made by Mr. Abraham, with a second by Mr. Wharton, to award $2,500 to the event.
* Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce Home and Business Expo – The event will be held at the Highlands Sports Complex with approximately 6,000 people planned to be in attendance. The Chamber has requested $5,000 for the event. Motion made by Mr. Abraham, with a second by Mr. Wharton, to award $5,000 to the Home and Business Expo.
* Easter Seals / Augusta Levy Inclusion on Ice – The event will be held on March 12, 2023. The Commission awarded $1,000 to the event with a motion by Mr. Abraham with a second by Mr. Wharton.
* Wheeling Park / Wheeling Central High School Gold National Championship – It will cost approximately $2,000 per student to attend the National Championship in Texas. While there was no specific request, the Commission agreed to send one player per school for a total cost of $4,000. Motion made by Mr. Abraham with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Old Business:

* ARPA Funding – The process of notifying receipts has started. All applicants accepted, and rejected, will be notified by next week.
* West Virginia Opioid Settlement Agreement – Fitzsimmons Law Office has sent a Local Government Elections and Release Form. Motion to approve by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

New Business:

* Belomar Regional Council Dues – The annual dues for 2023 are presented for approval. Motion to pay made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

* Administrator – Mr. Russell introduced Jessica Klinger, the Election Coordinator.
* Facilities – Ms. Marco updated the Commission concerning the HVAC project and the Animal Shelter Roof Project.
* Emergency Services – Motorola will be making upgrades next week to the system, which will take approximately four days. EMS Go Bags have been purchased by Gov. Justice for each EMT in the state. Ohio County will be receiving 156 bags and statewide 5,000 will be distributed.
* Theresa Russell provided an update on Senate Bill 590 and Senate Resolution 42. This Bill would transfer the 911 dispatcher’s retirement funds from PERS 1 or 2 to EMSRS. A resolution to support the Bill was made by Mr. Abraham with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
* Finance – Motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Abraham with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
* Unpaid invoices – No action needed at this time.
* Budget revisions – Six grants require revisions. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
* Exonerations – Four exonerations were presented. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

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Donald A. Nickerson, President Randel A. Russell, Administrator