

Meeting Minutes

Ohio Military Facilities Commission
Dublin City Hall
5200 Emerald Parkway
Dublin Ohio 43017
April 3, 2017

Chairman Wagoner called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.

A roll call was taken by Alexander Lapso and all members were present except Commissioner Deters who was excused. Commissioner Stringer was checked-in.

The minutes of the March 7, 2017 meeting were approved without changes.

Mr. Willinger, Director of Installation Management and Resources at the Adjutant General's Department, presented a draft of the grant agreement for the commissioners to approve. The commission agreed to amend paragraph 25(e), Notices for the purposes of establishing how the grantee(s) and grantor communicate in writing; grantees are to provide notice to the Adjutant General's Department and carbon copy the Attorney General's Office. The commission also agreed to allow for the Adjutant General's Department to make grammatical changes to the draft as necessary. By a vote of 8-0, the amended grant agreement was approved.

The adoption of the public comment policy was brought up for immediate consideration. Chair Wagoner called upon the commission's legal counsel to briefly explain the public comment policy. Counsel explained that the commission had previously approved the parameters of the policy but in order to proceed the commission must adopt formal language. Without objection, the Policy on Public Comment at the Ohio Military Facilities Commission Board Meetings was adopted.

The Chair called upon Daniel Dickten of the Western Reserve Port Authority to testify. On the behalf of the Trumbull County Commissioners Mr. Dickten provided a letter of support for the Western Reserve Port Authority application and advised that, if awarded the funding, the local share of cost would not be through the original funding source but rather through county general revenue funds.

The Chair brought up the approval of the \$5 million grant award for immediate consideration. The Chair commended the evaluators and invited the commissioners for comment.

Commissioner Stringer provided that to the extent the matching funds were available and the way by which the applications were submitted and engineered pursuant to legislative guidelines, the funding should be awarded to the top two projects. Additionally, he invited the commissioners to discuss the future of the commission.

As a point of clarification, Commissioner Brown advised that Wright Patterson Air Force Base had already begun a project that had been submitted as an application for Ohio Military Facilities Commission funding.

Commissioner Stringer added that the federal/state match in funding for the National Guard strengthened their applications.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Zeis agreed with the evaluator's decision and called the commissioners to partially fund multiple applications to show a commitment to all Ohio's military and defense entities. Commissioner Zeis expressed concern that the cost match and execution time emphasis under the law may put federal installations projects at NASA and WPAFB at a disadvantage.

Commissioner Brown advised that the commission should also focus on future military mission opportunities in addition to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) standards as a way to strengthen Ohio's posture in case of a future BRAC initiative.

Commissioner Stringer agreed with Commissioner Brown's comments and suggested that the legislature should authorize the commission to not solely focus on BRAC but to look for opportunities to fund future missions and what is best for Ohio. Commissioner Brown advised that doing so could posture Ohio's military environment for future opportunities.

Chair Wagoner suggested drafting a letter to the commission's appointing entities to address their thoughts on future commission decisions. He also provided that per the evaluators findings there are two clear projects with significantly higher scores than the others and that full funding should be awarded to both projects.

Commissioner Zeis suggested that the commission either partially fund the top five projects or only fund the top two.

Commissioner Stringer called upon Mr. Willinger for questions regarding whether the National Guard Bureau would be willing to increase their match of funds for Ohio National Guard projects if the funding was to be awarded partially to multiple entities. Mr. Willinger advised that he could not comment for the National Guard Bureau. Commissioner Stringer followed up stating the Department of Defense may see an increase in funding under the new presidential administration, but the funding for the projects currently under review by the commission is finite.

Commissioner McDaniel commented that the \$75,000 funding match from Trumbull County general revenue funds for the Western Reserve Port Authority's application clarified the issue of the ongoing maintenance as previously discussed. He expressed his appreciation to the County Commissioners for offering these matching funds. He commented that the matching funds offered by the two recommended projects were significant. He also agreed with comments by other Commission Members that the State Legislature should consider an expanded role for the OMFC going forward. Such a role in the future could include assessing existing facilities and identifying possible future projects with additional focus on comprehensive economic development strategies relative to defense to attract and retain missions and jobs.

Commissioner Brown advised that the projects before the commission are required to be completed under the law. He agrees with Commissioner Zeis concerning the commission making a statement to support the projects of multiple applicants, but also agrees with Commissioner Stringer with regards to awarding the funds to the top two projects.

Commissioner Stringer followed-up and provided a brief history of past administration's funding for military projects based on military value. He further provided that the commission is bound to

Meeting Minutes

do its job based on the legislature's intent. Based on the intent, he suggested that the commission should award funding to the top two projects, but hopes to expand the commission's intent for the future.

Commissioner Ashenhurst commented that the Western Reserve Port Authority project was previously awarded \$250,000 in capital funds and are now asking for more funding for the same project. She also cautioned the commission that she does not want to discourage future applicants from applying for funding since the top two evaluated projects are Air National Guard installations.

Chair Wagoner, in referencing the Mansfield project, advised that if the commission only partially funds the applicant the project may not be completed as established by the legislature.

Commissioner Zeis agreed that the commission should send a letter to the appointing entities emphasizing the importance of economic development related to the projects, and that we should be able to fund more overall projects, potentially at partial funding levels.

Commissioner Brown suggested that the commission should provide funding to the top two projects.

Commissioner Stringer further suggested that future projects be segmented allowing for more flexibility to disburse funds to more projects – sending a message to all applicants. Commissioner Ashenhurst agreed that the future should not be all National Guard focus, the commission is trying to send a signal that it is open to all.

Commissioner Ashcraft advised that the Mansfield project was reduced from its original design to be within OMFC funding limits and the submitted project is not executable without full funding from the commission.

Chair Wagoner agreed to be the signatory on behalf of the Commission for the grant agreements for the two awardees.

Commissioner Stringer asked the commission's legal counsel questions related to sunshine laws and sending individual drafts of the letter to fellow commissions. They responded that drafts can be sent but the commissioners could not deliberate the nature of the letter without having a meeting. The Chair advised the commissioners to provide suggestions and comments to the Chair to incorporate them into a letter.

Chair Wagoner commented on the benefits of the commission and the positive work they have accomplished.

Chair Wagoner moved to approve that projects numbered one and two be funded at \$2.5 million each. Commissioner Ashenhurst seconded the motion.

By a vote of 8-0, the Ohio Air National Guard Mansfield 179th Airlift Wing and the Ohio Air National Guard Toledo 180th Fighter Wing were awarded funding of \$2.5 million each.

Pursuant to new business, Commissioner Brown requested that the website be updated to include recently approved meeting minutes.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Wagoner advised that the next meeting is held at his discretion but requested that the commissioners keep the next month's meeting on their calendars.

With no further business before the commission, the meeting adjourned at 3:09pm.