



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCHI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**DANIEL T. WEIST**  
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
**THOMAS T. K. ZUNG**  
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

**ROBERT SCHLOENDORN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**JAMES L. STOLZ**  
SERVICE OFFICER MANAGER

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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### MINUTES

DATE: January 2, 2008 9:35 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President  
Bob Potts, Secretary  
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner  
Thomas T.K. Zung, Commissioner  
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Frank Pocci, Vice President  
Thomas P. O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Art Stone, American Legion Post 451/VFW 7<sup>th</sup> District; Lawrence Florence, American Legion Post 315; Tom Nevans and John Hohne, VFW Post 3345.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mel Baher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 19, 2007 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Zung, Potts, Weist, Baher. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Level III Board Appeals meeting of December 19, 2007 and to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Zung, Potts, Weist, Baher. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the correspondence since we have a Consent Agenda, with the exception of those items set aside, to be addressed during the regular order of business, and with any corrections and/or additions. (No items were set aside.)

AYES: Zung, Potts, Weist, Baher. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept cases approved on the Consent Agenda, with the exception of VSC case file #86250 and #80154 that were set aside, picked at random as part of the quality assurance program, to be addressed in Executive Session.

AYES: Zung, Potts, Weist, Baher. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to accept cases denied on the Consent Agenda, with the exception of VSC case file #75604 that was set aside, picked at random as part of the quality assurance program, to be addressed in Executive Session.

AYES: Zung, Potts, Weist, Baher. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### **Agenda Item E1. Commissioners' Reports:**

#### Thomas Zung

- I have been invited, along with Frank Pocci and Jennifer Mazzeo, to attend a post meeting at VFW Post 3345 in Strongsville, Ohio on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to address the membership regarding CVCSC benefits.
- I had an opportunity to visit our Melinda Halliburton, CVSO, in her new office space at the Wade Park VA. The new location is in a prime spot where veterans will have a better opportunity to learn of our presence at the hospital.

#### Mel Baher

- December 2, 2007 I attended the American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Winter Conference at Post 91 at 10:00 a.m. where I serve as Assistant Judge Advocate and filled in as 13<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain.
- December 13<sup>th</sup> I attended American Legion Post 91's membership meeting at 8:00 p.m. where I serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.
- December 17<sup>th</sup> I attended an American Legion 13<sup>th</sup> District Executive Board Meeting and Christmas party at Post 421 at 7:30 p.m.
- December 27<sup>th</sup> I attended an American Legion Post 91 Executive Board Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Bob Schloendorn voiced concerns regarding safety issues for staff members after a recent incident involving a disgruntled client and security was unavailable. Bob noted that because the two officers assigned to our office have staggered shifts, only one officer was on duty at the end of the day when the incident occurred. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that Bob pursue a meeting with Protective Services to discuss a possible recourse to this problem to ensure the safety of our staff.

A decision was made by the Board and Executive Director that effective immediately, employee applications for financial assistance will be adjudicated by the Executive Director. The Eligibility Specialist will continue to gather information but no decision is to be made at Levels I & II. An appeal of denied assistance in these situations will go directly to the Board.

Employee evaluations are completed and up-to-date.

Bob Schloendorn was happy to report that there has been a significant decline in the use of employee sick time since the "Policy to Reward Employee Dependability" was instituted in January 2005. The incentive has proved to be very effective.

OLD BUSINESS:

**Agenda Item F1. Executive Director Submitting Personnel Requests**

No personnel items were submitted to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Agenda Item G1. Election of Officers on the CCVSC Board for 2008**

Due to the absence of Commissioner Pocci, the election of officers was deferred to the January 16, 2008 Board Meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mel Baher opened the floor to visitors for any comments or questions. The following bullet points were topics of discussion.

Lawrence Florence

- RTA bus tickets are now available for 2008

Tom Nevans

- Welcomed everyone to attend a post meeting of VFW Post 3345, 17900 Strongsville Rd., in Strongsville, Ohio on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Representatives from the Veterans Service Commission will be present to share information on services available to qualified veterans of Cuyahoga County.
- Letter to funeral homes concerning the posting of colors for deceased veterans

John Hohne

- Saturday, January 6, 2008, Medina National Guard will be called to active duty. An informational briefing will take place at Medina Sr. High School Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday prior to the deployment. CCVSC will be in attendance to distribute CCVSC information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Thomas Zung to go into Executive Session to discuss client cases.

AYES: Zung, Potts, Weist, Baher. NAYS: None. (10:15 a.m.)

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Zung, Potts, Weist, Baher. NAYS: None. (10:42 a.m.)

*Asst. County Prosecutor, Tom O'Donnell, jointed the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and was present for Executive Session.*

Two VSC case files, pulled from the Consent Agenda's list of cases approved for further investigation, were reviewed and found in order. A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to accept VSC case file #86250 and #80154.

AYES: Zung, Potts, Weist, Baher. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

One VSC case file, pulled from the Consent Agenda's list of cases denied for further investigation, was reviewed and found in order. A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to accept VSC cases file #75604.

AYES: Zung, Potts, Weist, Baher. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Thomas Zung to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

AYES: Zung, Potts, Weist, Baher. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Mel Baher  
President

Bob Potts  
Secretary

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Requests for Financial Assistance: Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)

Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs: Jim Stolz, Service Officer Manager (216-698-2639)

Memorial Affairs Laurene Rutkowski, Manager (216-698-2655)

Mobile Meals Program Jeff Sedlak, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2615)

Executive Director: Bob Schloendorn (216-698-2611)

Commissioners: Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)