



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

JOHN C. MURPHY
SERVICE OFFICER MANAGER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: January 6, 2010 9:38 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President
Thomas Zung, Vice President
Mel Baher, Secretary
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
Daniel Weist, Commissioner
Robert E. Schloendorn, Executive Director
Thomas O'Donnell, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Art Stone, Tom O'Grady, Honorable Nancy Fuerst, Honorable Tim McMonagle

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President, Bob Potts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda as published. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

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

Commissioners' Reports

Thomas Zung – VFW

- December 8th, I attended my monthly VFW meeting.
- I sent a letter to Senator Sherrod Brown regarding his speaking to the OSAVSC at their Spring Conference.

Pocci – AMVETS

- December 1st, I attended the AMVETS Post 80 General meeting where I gave the financial report.
- December 6th, AMVETS Post 80 hosted a Christmas party at the post.
- AMVETS Post 80 sponsored bingo at the Brecksville VA Medical Center on December 14th.
- The Post Honor Guard served at the Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio on December 29th.
- December 10th, I attended the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) Post 34 meeting and Christmas party. The next meeting will be January 29th where, after the meeting, an award will be presented to the founding Commander.

- December 27th, I visited Strongsville VFW Post 3345. While renewing my membership, I had the opportunity to speak with one of the post officers who questioned whether veterans are receiving benefits they are entitled to and if the Commission is operating in accordance with the law. I assured him that the CCVSC is very compliant and that all eligible veterans are assisted. And, while there may be some veterans who perhaps walk away disgruntled, it is only because they simply did not meet the qualifications to get help.
- December 29th, I met with the Quartermaster of ITAM Post 34. He and I assembled the necessary financial information for the submission of the tax reports for fiscal year 2009 which ended August 31st.
- January 5th, while at the VA Wade Park Medical center, I was speaking with a veteran who asked where our bus ticket person was and why we weren't issuing the tickets anymore. He mentioned to me how important it is to have this service available at Wade Park. He said that veterans who are at the VA for an appointment, used to use one of the tickets (prior to our presence) to get downtown to the CCVSC just to receive more tickets. I told him that we are in the process of addressing that question so that we can continue to give out tickets at Wade Park.
- January 5th, I also attended the AMVETS Post 80 general meeting where I gave my financial report and advised post members of action I took to reduce out insurance costs on the building.

Weist – DAV

- I attended a meeting in Columbus, Ohio on December 8th to review a proposed policy on education that the State of Ohio is proposing for service officers for the coming year. A number of objections were noted.
- I joined American Legion Post 211 and wrapped Christmas gifts for 240 children and grandchildren of post members.

Baher – American Legion

- December 6th, the American Legion 13th District Winter Conference was held at Post 91 at 10:00 a.m.
- December 10th, Post 91 held its monthly membership meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- December 23rd, Post 91 held its monthly executive board meeting.
- December's 13th District executive board meeting was held at Post 703.

Upcoming Events for January 2010:

1. 13th District meeting at Post 610 at 7:00 p.m. (cancelled)
2. American Legion Post 91 membership meeting January 14th at 7:00 p.m.
3. American Legion Department of Ohio Mid-winter Conference, Columbus, Ohio, is January 15-17.
4. American Legion 13th District E-Board meeting is January 25th.
5. American Legion Post 91 E-Board meeting is January 28th.

Bob Potts – VVA

- December 1st, I attended my monthly board meeting. The meeting was held at American Legion Post 421.
- December 15th, I attended Chapter 249's membership meeting. The guest speaker for the night was Nathan Gradisher of the Hospice of the Western Reserve. After his presentation, he presented each member with a pin representing their Veteran's Program. They also presented the Chapter with an American Flag that had been flown over the Capitol.

- January 5, 2010, I attended the monthly Board meeting. We did not have enough Board members present so the meeting could not be conducted.

OLD BUSINESS:

CCVSC Resolution 2006-02 requires that a new pay scale plan is instituted at the beginning of each year. The Executive Director presented the Board with the pay scale for 2010 for information purposes.

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2010

A motion was made by Mel Baher to nominate Thomas Zung as President of the CCVSC Board for Year 2010. There was no second to the motion. Mel Baher withdrew the motion.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to defer the election of officers until the appointment of the American Legion representative is made.

AYES: Pocci, Weist, Baher, Potts. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Zung.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

With the resignation of Jack Hanley, the Executive Director proposed to the Board that we place a full time employee at Wade Park to better serve the veterans. Bob explained that this person will be responsible for issuing bus tickets in the morning and will perform service officer work in the afternoon. The Board concurred.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Mel Baher to return to conducting weekly meetings: open public meetings the first and third Wednesday and Level III Board Appeals the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, effective February 2010. The Board agreed that this will give them an opportunity to address policies and guidelines and will better accommodate the veteran clients.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Weist. NAYS: Zung.

President Potts turned the meeting over to Steve Fernandez, Finance/Facility Manager, for a department update. Steve provided everyone with a mission statement and a brief description of his department's responsibilities to include: Human Resource/payroll, payables, payment processing, outreach/PR, purchasing, inventory, performance management, financial reporting, and facilities.

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

Judge Nancy Fuerst thanked the Board for the invitation to attend the meeting and was grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the commission's services and benefits.

Judge Tim McMonagle announced his upcoming retirement and spoke briefly about the new members on the Veterans Service Committee. The judge mentioned that he is presently reviewing candidates for the American Legion seat on the CCVSC Board and, that of the few he has received, some posts did not follow state law by submitting three (3) names.

Art Stone stated that there are very few members at several of the smaller posts and, as a result, have difficulty in submitting the required number of candidates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Thomas Zung to go into Executive Session to discuss an EEO complaint and employee discipline.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:35 a.m.)

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Weist, Zung. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (1:09 p.m.)

In Executive Session, an EEO complaint was reviewed. A fact finding statement will be developed and presented to the employee by Friday, January 8th. The employee is to be put on a paid administrative leave until a decision is rendered. The Executive Director has been instructed to collect all property of the commission. The majority of the Board has agreed with the directive given to the Executive Director. Counsel was present during this time.

No action was taken regarding the discipline of the employee.

With no further business, a motion was made by Thomas Zung and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

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

Bob Potts, President

Mel Baher, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs: John Murphy, Service Officer Manager (216-698-2637)

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

Mobile Meals Program: Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management Officer (216-698-2379)

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

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