



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
CLAYTON E. UZELL
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: January 15, 2014 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Potts, President
Clayton E. Uzell, Vice President
Mel Baher, Commissioner
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: Daniel T. Weist, Secretary

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Frank Pocci to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda and to accept the agenda with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, December 1st – I attended the American Legion 13th District Winter Conference held at Post 91. The meeting began at 10:00 a. and I presented the District financial reports as the district financial officer. I also spoke on the CCVSC and the services it can provide.
- Saturday, December 7th – I transported four (4) WWII veterans to the Pearl Harbor Ceremony at the USS Cod and to the luncheon immediately following at the Doubletree Hotel on Lakeside Ave.
- Thursday, December 12th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- Wednesday, December 18th – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting and Christmas dinner at 7:00 p.m. held at Post 91.
- Thursday, December 19th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m., where I serve as an elected board member.

Upcoming Events:

- January 18th-19th, 2014 – I will be attending the American Legion Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- The general meeting at Post 80 on January 7th was cancelled due to the weather. However, I have prepared my December financial report for the Post.
- the Honor Guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- I advised the Post executive members that I have compiled and submitted all the necessary documentation so that the Post will not have to pay real estate taxes in 2014 and possibly get a refund for taxes paid during 2013.
- I have paid the insurance for the Post building for 2014. If the Post is sold, we will be able to get a prorated refund without any penalties.
- The effort to sell the Post continues. A meeting was held with the real estate agent in November to discuss various possible approaches to selling the property.

Other Activities:

- During December, I attended all the scheduled appeals and open meetings at the CCVSC.
- I referred one veteran to our service officer at Parma for a possible service connected disability.
- I met with three veterans for lunch and advised them on the possibility of their being service connected. I also advised a number of other veterans to get a VA card and to check into any differences in their accessibility to the VA health care system under the new VA Affordable Care Act.
- I attended the annual Christmas celebration dinner which was well-attended with 70 members and guests. We picked up two new veterans who will be new members due to this although we lost two existing members during the year.
- As the State Adjutant for the Italian American War Veterans, I have made all the necessary arrangements and sent out all the required information for the state meeting to be held at ITAM Post #1 in Lorain, Ohio on January 19th.
- A veteran I had referred to our service department two years ago, and since was service connected, visited our downtown office again for a possible increase in his service connected compensation.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- December 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 5th – I attended a church service at Gateway Assisted Living in Euclid, Ohio conducted by the District 7 Chaplain and his wife. I played Santa for the residents.
- December 6th – I attended the CCVSC holiday luncheon for the employees given by the Commissioners and Executive Director.
- December 9th – I attended the past president's Christmas party at VFW Post 1974 in Parma, Ohio and played Santa to raise money for cancer.
- December 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- December 15th – I attended the Lyndhurst Post 7536 Christmas party for approximately 60 members and guests.
- December 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.

- December 22nd – I attended the past District 7 Commander’s Christmas luncheon held at Sterle’s Country House Restaurant located at 1401 E. 55th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

Bob Potts – VVA

- December 3rd – I attended the Chapter 249 Christmas party.
- December 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- December 18th – I attended the CCVSC holiday luncheon at the Horseshoe Casino.
- December 25th – Closed for the Christmas holiday.
- December 28th – My wife and I traveled to Rittman National Cemetery to see the monuments and wreaths on the veterans’ graves.
- December 31st – Closed for the New Years Day.
- January 8th – Board and Membership meeting (We were unable to open the meeting due to no quorum.)

STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached)

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to accept the report of the Executive Director as given.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

The Board recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Weist joined the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director will contact the County fiscal office for the actual assessed value of property taxes for 2013 to ensure that what we appropriated in our 2014 budget does not exceed the .25 mil and we stay within the parameters of S.B. 261.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director provided the Board with a budget preparation timeline for the 2015 Budget. Following discussion, a minor change was made. The 2015 Budget will be submitted to the Board for approval at a Special Meeting on May 14, 2014.

The Board instructed the Executive Director to repeal a directive from former Executive Director Robert Schloendorn dated July 10, 2010, extending temporary financial assistance from six months to nine months and enforce the current guideline for Term of Financial Assistance dated February 13, 2013.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve the Policy for Employees Requesting Financial Assistance dated January 13, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to approve Resolution 2014-01 adjusting employee mileage and per diem travel reimbursement rates for the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for 2014 in accordance with standard federal rates.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2014-02 requesting authority for eight CCVSC service officers to attend the OSACVSO Spring Quarterly meeting and training conference from February 27-28, 2014 in Dublin, Ohio, expenses not to exceed \$1,928.00.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2014-03 requesting the County Executive to set the compensation for the newly appointed or reappointed Veterans Service Commissioner representing the Vietnam Veterans of America for term commencing January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2018.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2014-04 requesting authority for the Executive Director of the CCVSC to travel to various county veterans service commissions in Ohio from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 in order to conduct research to prepare for the 2015 Budget, expenses not to exceed \$5,000.00 and providing funds are available.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2014-05 providing for the purchase of 20:15 second radio commercials per week for 26 weeks on Clear Channel's WMJI Majic 105.7 radio, for six months, expenses not to exceed \$24,993.00.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2014-06 providing for the purchase of five live radio commercials per week for thirteen weeks on WTAM 1100 and twenty-two pre-recorded reads per week for twelve weeks during the AM News Talk Show with Clear Channel Radio, expenses not to exceed \$25,000.00.

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

Election of Officers on the CCVSC Board:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to continue to follow the schedule for the rotation of officers that became effective January 17, 2007, and elect the following Commissioners as officers on the CCVSC Board for 2014:

President – Clayton E. Uzell (VFW);
Vice President – Daniel T. Weist (DAV); and
Secretary – Mel Baher (American Legion)

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Clay Uzell noted that he received a positive response from a veteran and his spouse who recently received financial assistance from the CCVSC. Their only complaint was that they were required to spend the entire amount of their food voucher all at once and wished that they could have spread the amount over a period of weeks. The Executive Director explained that among the stores that accept our food vouchers, there are a few that require them to be used all at once, but will look into issuing vouchers in \$100 increments to those who shop at the stores involved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of confidentiality and compensation.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (12:05 p.m.)

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (1:10 p.m.)

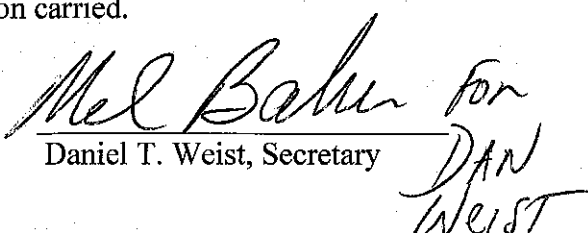
In Executive Session, the Board discussed employee compensation and other confidential information that was provided by the Executive Director concerning staff. Further discussion will continue in Executive session at the next open public meeting.

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

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



Bob Potts, President



Daniel T. Weist, Secretary

*DAN
WEIST*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:	Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)
Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs:	Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager (216-698-2639)
Memorial Affairs:	Laurene Rutkowski, Manager (216-698-2655)
Social Work Dept.:	Terry Walker, Manager, Social Worker/Case Management (216-698-2379)
Executive Director:	Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Commissioners:	Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)