



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
CLAYTON E. UZELL
COMMISSIONER

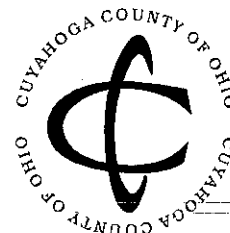


Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: November 5, 2014 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Clayton E. Uzell, President
Daniel T. Weist, Vice President
Mel Baher, Secretary
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Mick Panek

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Clayton Uzell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts 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, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to go out of the regular order of business and into Executive Session to discuss budget issues and a personnel matter.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:32 a.m.)

Asst. County Prosecutor Brian Gutkoski arrived and joined the Board already in Executive Session.

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, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:10 a.m.)

Discussion took place in Executive Session concerning a personnel matter. The Executive Director was given instructions on how to proceed.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, October 7th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting at the American Legion Euclid Post 343. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the financial reports for September 2014 as District Finance Officer. I also advised the council members of the upcoming appointment for the American Legion seat on the CCVSC Board. I told them to expect letters from the judge requesting three names to be submitted and considered for the appointment. ~~Deadline for submission is December 15th.~~
- Thursday, October 9th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 23rd – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting where I serve as an elected board member.
- Monday, October 27th – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 343 in Euclid, Ohio. I presented updated financial reports as District Finance Officer and also gave a presentation of the new 13th District website. I have spent the better part of October developing the new site.
- *Upcoming Events:*
 - Wednesday, November 5th – the American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled at the American Legion Post 196 in Brecksville, Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I will be presenting financial reports for October 2014 as District Finance Officer.
 - Tuesday, November 11th – Veteran's Day lunch will be served at Post 91 from noon until 2:00 p.m. by our Ladies Auxiliary. Dinner will be served from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., or until food is gone, by our Sons of the American Legion Squadron 91 members.
 - Thursday, November 13th – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled 7:00 p.m.
 - Friday, November 21st – I, along with my fellow commissioners, will be leaving for Dublin, Ohio to attend the OSAVSC meeting and training scheduled for Saturday, November 22nd.
 - Wednesday, November 26th – American Legion Post 91 executive committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
 - Monday, November 24th – American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 196 in Brecksville, Ohio. I will be presenting updated financial reports as the District Finance Officer.

Bob Potts – VVA

- October 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 7th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- October 8th – I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- October 15th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 22nd – I attended the CCVSC appeals meeting.
- November 4th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting.
- I stopped by the Parma CBOC to visit with our service officer and discussed CCVSC services with two veterans.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I attended the AMVETS Post 80 general meeting on November 4th and gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.

- Post 80 has been sold and payment has been received. I also received the reimbursement for the 2013 real estate taxes we had paid.
- The meetings for the post will continue to be held at St. Mary's convent in Bedford on a continuing basis.
- I reviewed some of the enhancements for service connected veterans through the Veterans Administration programs.

Other Activities:

- During October, I attended three meetings at the Veterans Service Commission.
- I referred one veteran to our service office. I will be taking a WWII veteran to visit a service officer. This veteran may be in need of A&A. I will also be bringing the spouse of a deceased marine who was 100 percent connected due to prostate cancer who served at Camp Lejeune. The spouse has few resources.
- I attended the monthly meeting of the Italian War Veterans Post 34 on October 31. At the next meeting, I will review some of the VA benefits available and how veterans should visit our service office in order to properly file claims.
- On October 11th, I attended the Department of Ohio Italian American War Veterans meeting serving as the state adjutant. The main topic of discussion was increasing membership and completing new forms for all veterans so the National organization can computerize the information. Also, there will be an effort to make the organization more visible and accessible on-line.
- On November 11th, I plan on attending the ceremony at the COD submarine and then later go to American Legion Post 91 for their Veteran's Day event.
- The VA has launched the new Telehealth scheduling system which should improve the health scheduling for veterans.
- Though still in arrears, the VA processed 1.3 million claims in FY 2014 which surpassed last year's record breaking production by more than 150,000 claims.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended both open public meetings and both Level III appeal hearings during the month of October.
- October 15th – I attended the VFW North Olmsted monthly meeting.
- November 11th – I visited the Normandy Elementary School in Bay Village for Veteran's Day.
- November 11th – I attended a Veteran's Day ceremony at the Cleveland City Hall at 11:00 a.m.

Clayton Uzell – VFW

- October 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- October 5th – I attended the VFW District 7 Conference held at the Lyndhurst Community Center. VFW Post 7536 was the host and I gave my safety report for District 7.
- October 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- October 12th – I attended the Post's 79th anniversary dinner at VFW Firestone Post 3383 in Akron, Ohio.
- October 15th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting and Dave Maier's retirement luncheon afterward.
- October 17 through 19th – I attended a Big Ten Conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- October 20th – I attended a VFW 7536 Post meeting and discussed paying dues for first year new members.
- October 22nd – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.
- October 27th – I attended a Past President's Dinner at Parma Post 1974 and called bingo for the ladies.

OLD BUSINESS:

The monthly budget review was previously submitted by the Executive Director. Commissioner Baher noted that October's projections show a two-month average of \$243,370.00 with a remaining budget of \$243,370.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion concerning CCVSC postage was moved to the next open public meeting when the Executive Director is present.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2014-24 requesting authority for the reimbursement of AMVETS membership dues for eight CCVSO's; expenses not to exceed \$256.00 for Year 2015.

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 2014-25 requesting authority for the reimbursement of National Association of County Veterans Service Officer (NACVSO) membership dues for FY 2015 for nine service officers; expenses not to exceed \$270.00.

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 2014-26 requesting authority for the reimbursement of Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers (OSACVSO) membership dues for FY 2015 for nine service officers, expenses not to exceed \$450.00.

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to institute a revision to the Policy for Payment of Utility Bills dated January 4, 2013 as submitted by the Executive Director. Following some discussion, Commissioners Weist and Pocci withdrew their motion and second and the issue was tabled for further discussion at the December 3, 2014 Board meeting when the Executive Director can provide input.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

President Uzell opened the floor to visitors for any comments. The following bullet points were topics of discussion.


Mick Panek

- Provided information on the Healing Hands Clinic (licensed acupuncturists) certified health care providers for the BWC, Dept. of Labor and the Veteran's Administration: Healing Hands Clinic, 5500 Ridge Road, #210, Parma, Ohio 44129, (440) 888-8921.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

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


Clayton E. Uzell, 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: 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)
