



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
WILLIAM R. CAINE
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: February 1, 2017 9:30 a.m.

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

VISITORS: Betsy O'Connell and Mike Caputo

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Pocci 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, Caine, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS (Attached):

Bob Potts – VVA

- January 3rd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- January 4th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 9th – I worked with John Maline, Commander of Edgewater VFW Post 387, regarding plans for the 2017 TET Dinner.
- January 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- January 12th – While at the Parma CBOC, I met a Marine Vietnam veteran and discussed how to proceed with a claim and referred him to our VSO. Upon exiting the building, I also had an opportunity to speak to another Vietnam veteran.
- January 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.

- January 27th – After my appointment at Wade Park, I stopped by to visit with our staff, but was only able to speak to Libby Jenkins.
- January 28th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 TET Celebration of Vietnam New Year at VFW Post 387.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, January 4th – I attended the American Legion 13th District council meeting held at American Legion Post 304 in Garfield Hts., Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the executive approved financial reports for November 2016, as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, January 12th – I attended a funeral service for a Past President of the District Auxiliary and was unable to attend the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, January 21st – I departed for Columbus, Ohio to attend the American Legion Department of Ohio Mid-Winter Conference held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Worthington, Ohio. I attended a national appointees meeting on Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. A discussion was held on the upcoming Washington, D.C. conference, which I will be attending on February 26-28. The Mid-Winter Conference began on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. The guest speaker for the Mid-Winter Conference was National Commander Charles Schmidt.
- Tuesday, January 24th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting held at the American Legion Post 304 in Garfield Hts., Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I presented the December 2016 financial report for approval by the executive committee, as District Finance Officer.
- During the month of January, I assisted two veterans with assistance in obtaining copies of discharge papers, and one veteran with assistance in obtaining the Purple Heart medal for his father.
- Thursday, December 22, 2016 – Due to illness, I was unable to attend the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Bill Caine – DAV

- January 14th – I attended the Cleveland homeless stand down for three hours in the morning. I rotated between the entry points, the vendor area and the areas reserved for veterans.
- January 15th – I attended a planning session at the IX Center for a totally new event; a military vehicle and transportation exhibition. It has been in the planning for three years and will be held June 22, 23 and 24.
- I also attended both CCVSC open public board meetings and both Level III appeal hearings in January.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- January 11th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- January 12-15th – I attended the VFW State Conference in Worthington, just outside of Columbus, Ohio. I attended all business sessions and gave a report on safety projects done so far this year. I passed out awards to the police/fire/EMT of the year at a joint forum Saturday morning, along with Post recognition for participating in the program. I attended the Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen banquet Saturday evening recognizing the twelve District winners.
- January 18th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- January 25th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- I received one flag case for a Post member's funeral service and referred one client to the CCVSC for widow's benefits.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- The finance report for January will be given at the next meeting on February 14th.

- The honor guard will serve funeral duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery on February 7th.
- We lost our past Post Commander, Al Kovar, and his funeral will be February 6th.

Other Activities:

- I attended all of the scheduled CCVSC meetings during the month of January.
- I referred two veterans who may need to file a claim.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans (ITAM) monthly meeting. As finance officer, I also completed our financial report.
- The State Dept. Spring meeting for the ITAM will be held in April; date to be determined.

VA NEWS – Statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs on Federal Hiring Freeze

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced exemptions to the federal hiring freeze in the President’s memo dated January 23, 2017. The authorities outlined in the President’s memo provide VA the ability to continue filling essential positions that provide public safety services to our Veterans. We strongly believe that these exemptions are in line with the President’s intent.

“The Department of Veterans Affairs intends to exempt anyone it deems necessary for public health and safety, including frontline caregivers,” Acting Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Snyder said. “The President and VA remain committed to seeing that our Veterans receive the quality care and benefits they’ve earned. This is the right thing to do for our Veterans.”

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director will be updating the Board on all action items at the open public meeting held the third Wednesday of each month.

Jon Reiss read aloud an updated version of the CCVSC vision statement for the new website. A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to accept the vision statement provided by the Executive Director.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2017-05 providing for the purchase of a JACE-8000 web server controller for monitoring, viewing and maintaining the heating and cooling system off-site for the CCVSC during work hours, expenses not to exceed \$13,800.00. Under discussion, it was noted that the purchase is for a newer updated version which includes one-year online support and monitoring.

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

Jon Reiss received a call from Mark Capone, ODVS Asst. Director, regarding proposed changes to the ORC. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.

The Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County will honor Vietnam veteran, Tom Sweeney, as the Outstanding Veteran of the Year on Saturday, February 18, 2017. Jon Reiss will be attending. The invitation was extended to Commissioners and staff.

The County has replaced Vitality with a new aggressive wellness program. Geniece Garner is the CCVSC representative who is in the process of gathering details on the new initiative.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Betsy O’Connell, Lesic & Camper Communications, and Mike Caputo, Capitol Partners, addressed the Board with a request for support regarding legislation with payday loan reform. The legislation will help

make payday lending fair and transparent for Ohioans. The Board and Executive Director were interested and will support the initiative pending further information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss employee compensation.

AYES: Baher, Caine, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:08 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 12:20 p.m.

In Executive Session, the Board discussed payroll and employee compensation and the Executive Director was advised on how to proceed.

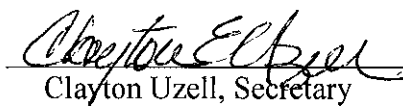
With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by William Caine to adjourn the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

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



FP

Frank Pocci, President



Clayton Uzell, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Social Work Dept.:

Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Mgmt.) (216-698-2379)

Executive Director:

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Commissioners:

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