



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: January 7, 2015 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Frank Pocci, Commissioner

VISITORS: None.

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, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, December 7th – the American Legion 13th District Council Winter Conference was held at American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio at 10:00 a.m. As District Finance Officer, I presented the November 2014 financial reports.
- Thursday, December 11th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 12th – I attended the CCVSC employee Christmas holiday luncheon provided by the Board of Commissioners and Executive Director.
- Wednesday, December 17th – the American Legion 13th District executive board Christmas dinner was held at 7:00 p.m. at American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio.
- Tuesday, December 23rd – the American Legion Post 91 executive committee meeting was held at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, January 7, 2015 – the American Legion 13th District Council meeting is scheduled to be held at American Legion Post 309 in Maple Hts., Ohio. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and I will be presenting the financial reports for December 2014 as the District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, January 8th – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, January 17th & Sunday, January 18th – I will be attending the American Legion Dept. of Ohio Mid-winter Conference to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Columbus, Ohio.
- Thursday, January 22nd – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 26th – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 309 in Maple Hts., Ohio. I will be presenting updated financial reports as District Finance Officer.

Bob Potts – VVA

- December 2nd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting and board meeting.
- December 3rd – I attended the CCVSC open public board meeting.
- December 10th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- December 12th – I attended the CCVSC Christmas party at the Horseshoe Casino buffet. A good time was had by all.
- December 17th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- December 24th – Level III appeals hearing was cancelled.
- January 6, 2015 – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership and board meeting.

Frank Poggi – AMVETS (report submitted prior to the meeting)

- I attended the AMVETS Post 80 general meeting on January 6th. I gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- We have fully moved into our new meeting facility and bought a refrigerator and some storage for our rifles and other Post belongings.
- I continue to advise members on the services provided by the CCVSC.
- A discussion was held to determine how best to invest the monies currently in our accounts.
- All membership fees have been submitted to the national organization.
- A donation was made to the VA volunteer services.

Other activities:

- During the month of December, I attended all of the meetings at the Veterans Service Commission, and attended the Christmas luncheon for the employees sponsored by the Commissioners and Executive Director.
- I referred one veteran to our service officer. I also brought to the downtown office, the necessary documentation for an improved claim to be filed by our service officer manager for the widow of a deceased veteran who is in need of Aid & Attendance, as she is too old and frail to come downtown to the office.
- The holiday meeting of the Italian American War Veterans was attended by veterans and some spouses with a total attendance of 53.
- I met with a veteran who thanked me for referring a friend to the commission for help, a lady who I personally took down to our CCVSC office for help.
- A veteran who was referred to me and his name then given to our executive director for review, turned out to be a scammer who has no apparent interest in helping himself. He goes from agency to agency for assistance, but does nothing to try to improve his situation and does not heed any instructions or recommendations.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended all the CCVSC meetings during the month of December.
- I attended the North Olmsted VFW meeting on December 17th along with the children's Christmas party.
- December 9th – I helped decorate American Legion Post 211 with my wife, Linda, for Christmas.
- I assisted four veterans with problems regarding the VA claim process.
- December 7th – I attended a Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance ceremony at VFW 7647 in North Olmsted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Due to a lack of numbers in servicing veterans at the McCafferty VA Clinic, a service officer will no longer be stationed at that location.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2015-03 providing for the purchase of one high top commercial vehicle van for the CCVSC as a mobile office to service suburbs and communities outside of city limits, expenses not to exceed \$70,000. Under discussion, it was noted that the other two commission vehicles will be used to transport veterans, outreach events and for travel for training purposes.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2015-02 authorizing eight CCVSC service officers to attend the OSACVSO Spring Quarterly training conference from February 26-27, 2015, expenses not to exceed \$1,928.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to approve Resolution 2015-04 authorizing compensation for the newly appointed or reappointed Veterans Service Commissioner representing the American Legion seat on the Board for term commencing January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2019.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to approve Resolution 2015-05 requesting authority for the Executive Director to travel for training and conferences as necessary from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, expenses, which will include mileage, per diem and lodging, will not exceed a total of \$7,500.

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

The current schedule for Board meetings will remain the same for Year 2015:

Open public Board meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month at 9:30 a.m.

Level III Appeal hearings: 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month at 9:30 a.m.

Target dates for the Board's outreach meetings are May 20, 2015 and October 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Post locations are to be announced at a later date.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to elect the following officers on the CCVSC Board for Year 2015, using the guideline established in January 2007. There were no other nominations.

President Daniel T. Weist (DAV)
Vice President Mel Baher (American Legion)
Secretary Frank Pocci (AMVETS)

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss new hires and a personnel issue.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:37 a.m.)

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

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:43 a.m.)

In Executive Session, the Board conferred with the Executive Director about new hires and personal days for employees.

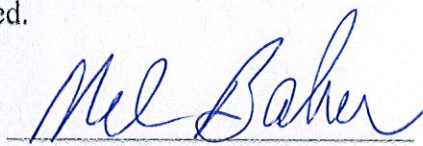
A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director to hire up to four (4) Benefits Counselors.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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


Clayton E. Uzell, President


Mel Baher, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:	Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Manager (216-698-2391)
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)