



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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MINUTES

DATE: December 3, 2014 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

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 Frank Pocci and seconded by Dan Weist 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.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Wednesday, November 5th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 196 in Brecksville, Ohio. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and I presented the financial reports for October 2014 as District Finance Officer. I also advised the council members of the upcoming appointments for the American Legion seat on the CCVSC, and that the deadline for submission is December 15th.
- Tuesday, November 11th, Veteran's Day – Executive Director Jon Reiss and I were guests on radio station WMJI 105.7 to participate in morning show feud. It should be noted that we won! Afterwards, we attended the Veteran's Day service in downtown Cleveland at City Hall. We also attended the luncheon served at Post 91, provided by our Ladies Auxiliary. Dinner was served from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. by our Sons of The American Legion Squadron 91 members.
- Thursday, November 13th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- Friday & Saturday, November 21 & 22nd – I, along with my fellow Commissioners, attended the OSAVSC meeting and Commissioner training in Dublin, Ohio. We will receive our final required points for this calendar year.
- Wednesday, November 23rd – I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting where I serve as an elected board member.
- Monday, November 24th – I attended the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting at 7:30 p.m. held at American Legion Post 196 in Brecksville, Ohio. I presented updated financial reports as District Finance Officer.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, December 7th – the American Legion 13th District Council Winter Conference is scheduled at American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio at 10:00 a.m. I will be presenting financial reports for November 2014 as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, December 11th – American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 17th – American Legion 13th District executive board Christmas dinner is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at American Legion Post 91 in Berea, Ohio.
- Tuesday, December 23rd – American Legion Post 91 executive committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Bob Potts – VVA

- November 4th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 membership meeting and board meeting.
- November 5th – I attended the CCVSC open public board meeting.
- November 11th – Chapter 249 participated in the Holly Lanes Veteran’s Day program. Our color guard presented the colors.
- November 11th – I joined two neighbors of mine who are Navy veterans for dinner and friendship at American Legion Post 91.
- November 12th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- November 19th – I attended the CCVSC Outreach meeting at VFW Post 1974.
- November 20th – I went to the Parma CBOC for an eye exam and physical therapy. While there, I attempted to visit with our service officer, but as usual, he was with a veteran client and had another waiting.
- November 21st through 22nd – I, along with my fellow Commissioners, attended the OSAVSC Fall Conference in Dublin, Ohio.
- December 2nd – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.

Frank Pocci - AMVETS

- I attended the AMVETS Post 80 general meeting on December 2nd and gave my financial report.
- The honor guard served their monthly duty at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery.
- I continue to review some of the enhancements there are for service-connected veterans through the Veterans Administration program.

Other Activities:

- During November, I attended all the meetings at the Veterans Service Commission including the offsite meeting at VFW Post 1974.
- I attended the fall conference of the OSAVSC in Dublin, Ohio from November 21-22, 2014.
- I referred one veteran to our service office. I also brought to the downtown office one veteran for financial assistance and one to file a VA claim.

- I prepared and arranged for the yearly holiday meeting/dinner of the Italian American War Veterans Post 34.
- November 11th, I brought four veterans with me to attend the ceremony at the COD submarine and later went to the American Legion Post 91 for their Veteran's Day event.

Dan Weist – DAV

- I attended all CCVSC meetings except for the board's evening outreach meeting on November 19th due to restricted eyesight.
- I attended the Veteran's Day program at Normandy Elementary school in Bay Village.
- I attended the Veteran's Day program at Cleveland City Hall.
- I attended the executive board meeting of the OSAVSC on Friday, November 21st. I also attended the meeting and training session.
- November 28th – I went through an Agent Orange screening at the Parma VA facility.

Clayton Uzell - VFW

- November 5th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- November 8th – I distributed VFW buddy poppies at the Mayfield Hts. Walmart. I also attended the VFW 47th Annual Military Ball at District 8 Newton Falls Post 3332.
- November 11th – I attended the "Keys to Progress Program" at Progressive Insurance on Beta Dr., where two cars were given to needy veterans; one was a CCVSC client and the other was recommended by VFW Post 1974.
- November 12th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals hearings.
- November 15th – I attended a Homecoming Dinner for the State President of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Sandra Uzell, at the Crowne Plaza on Engle Road in Middleburg Hts.
- November 17th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 Post meeting. We reviewed Christmas party plans for December 14th at the Lyndhurst Community Center.
- November 19th – I attended the CCVSC evening outreach meeting at VFW Post 1974 in Parma.
- November 21st & 22nd – I attended the OSAVSC Fall Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio. The speakers covered topics including indigent burials, ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, Sunshine Laws, Ohio Dept. of Jobs & Family Services, Traumatic Brain Injuries and PTSD. We also discussed proposed changes to the OSAVSC Articles of Incorporation and Constitution.
- November 22nd – I attended the District 7 Military Ball held at St. Clarence Church in N. Olmsted.
- November 26th – I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeal hearings.
- November 28th – I participated in the judging of VFW State winners for Police and Fire Fighter of the Year.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director presented the monthly budget review. November's projections show a one-month average of \$283,878.00 with a remaining budget of \$283,878.00.

Discussion took place on a revision to the current Policy for Payment of Utility Bills. It was the consensus of the Board and Executive Director to keep the policy as is with a decision to be made on a case-by-case basis.

The Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission did not participate in the county's recent bonus program. As a result, the Executive Director recommended issuing a merit bonus to CCVSC employees on the same basis as the county provided to eligible county employee's mid-year. Additionally, a recommendation was made to award a \$1,000 bonus to employees with zero tardiness during the past twelve months.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director to award a merit bonus and zero tardiness bonus to eligible employees with the understanding that the bonuses are for 2014 with a re-evaluation in 2015.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

The Level III Appeals hearing for Wednesday, December 24, 2014, has been cancelled.

The Service Dept. medals/awards presentations will be conducted on an individual basis and no longer on a quarterly schedule.

Discussion on financial assistance sanctions was tabled to the next board meeting.

Recommendations of proposed changes to the OSAVSC Articles of Incorporation & Constitution were reviewed and discussed by the Board. A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the recommendations of proposed changes to the OSAVSC Articles of Incorporation & Constitution to be forwarded to the By-law Committee for consideration.

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

The new Sick/Vacation Time Conversation Policy, designed to eliminate the tardiness bonus for 2015, was presented by the Executive Director for review. Following discussion, it was agreed that the policy be modified and submitted at the next public meeting.

The CCVSC no longer has an employment representative available. On a trial basis, all employment referrals will be made to the Ohio Dept. of Jobs and Family Services.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss employee resignations.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:27 a.m.)

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


AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (12:39 p.m.)

In Executive Session, the Board conferred with the Executive Director about the resignations of two employees.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

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


Clayton E. Uzell, President


Mel Baher, Secretary