



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: July 6, 2016 9:40 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Mel Baher, President
Frank Pocci, Vice President

VISITORS: Johnathan Holifield

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

President Mel Baher joined the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

A motion was made by Clay Uzell 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, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Dan Weist – DAV

- Wednesday, June 15th – I attended the monthly meeting at VFW Post 7647 North Olmsted.
- I attended both Level III appeal hearings and both open public board meetings, including the outreach meeting at VFW Post 6676 in Berea, during the month of June.
- June 14th – I attended a Flag Day ceremony at the CBOC in Parma, Ohio.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- June 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeal hearings.

- June 8-12th – I attended the State VFW Convention at the Holiday Inn, in Independence, Ohio. I attended all general business sessions and gave the year-end safety project reports. I received an outstanding participation award from the Dept. of Ohio Commander regarding safety chairmanship. I worked the registration table two days, attended the banquet on Saturday evening and the installation of new officers on Sunday morning. The convention ended with a luncheon at Parma Post 1974. CCVSC Outreach Coordinator, Trish Smith, manned an outreach table for two days, passed out literature and answered questions.
- June 20th – I attended the VFW Post 7536 meeting and finalized the Post's picnic plans.
- June 22nd – I attended the CCVSC outreach meeting at VFW Post 6676 in Berea, Ohio. The meeting was well attended.
- June 29th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals meeting.

Bob Potts – VVA

- June 1st – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- June 7th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.
- June 8th – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings.
- June 10th – I attended the CCVSC summer picnic held at Edgewater Park.
- June 15th – The CCVSC open public meeting was cancelled.
- June 22nd – I attended the CCVSC Level III appeals hearings at 9:30 a.m. and the open public Board meeting that evening at VFW Post 6676 in Berea, Ohio at 7:00 p.m. (The CAVS NBA World Champs Parade also took place in downtown Cleveland.)
- July 4th – VVA Chapter 249 marched in the 4th of July parade in Lakewood.
- July 5th – I attended the VVA Chapter 249 board meeting and membership meeting.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- Sunday, June 5th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Summer Convention held at American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and I presented the executive board approved financial reports for May 2016, as District Finance Officer. Also, I was re-elected as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, June 9th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 14th – I attended and participated in the Post annual Flag Day ceremony held on the Post pavilion at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 22nd – I attended the semi-annual CCVSC outreach evening meeting held at VFW Post 6676 in Berea, Ohio.
- Thursday, June 23rd – 10:00 a.m., I drove to the Holiday Inn, Independence, Ohio, to set up the registration area, as Credentials Chairman, for the American Legion Department of Ohio annual Convention. Later that evening at 7:00 p.m., I attended the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting. I serve on the board as an elected board member.
- Friday, June 24th – I worked the registration table from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., the committee counted delegates, alternates and guests registered that day. The total for the day was 424.
- Saturday, June 25th – I worked the registration table from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. At 1:00 p.m., the committee counted total delegates, alternates and guests registered for the convention. The total was 475.
- Sunday, June 26th – I attended the main session of the convention which included the election of officers for the 2016-2017 membership year.
- Monday, June 27th – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council executive board meeting held at the American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio at 7:30 p.m. I presented the May financial reports for executive board approval, as District Finance Officer.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, July 6th – the American Legion District Council meeting is at American Legion Post 421 in Fairview Park at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 14th – the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting is at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 24th – the American Legion 13th District executive board meeting is at American Legion Post 421 in Fairview Park at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 27th – the American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting is at 7:00 p.m.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS (report was submitted electronically prior to the meeting)

During the month of June:

- I attended the AMVETS Post 80 meeting, gave my financial report and filed the taxes.
- I attended the VFW State Department meeting in Independence, Ohio with another veteran.
- I attended the meeting of the Italian American War Veterans.
- I referred one veteran to the CCVSC service department for possible VA benefits.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director looked into the VOIP Cisco phone system to see if there is a problem with line messages and drop off calls. Several random calls were placed and messages were left and retrieved with no problems.

Discussion continued concerning an inconsistency in policy concerning mortgage payments and property taxes. The Executive Director is to draft procedures for the payment of equity loans and property taxes and submit it to the Board for review at the next open public meeting.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Dan Weist to approve a revision to the Time and Attendance Policy dated July 6, 2016, effective immediately.

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

An addendum to the Records Retention Schedule remains a work in progress.

The Republican National Convention will take place in Cleveland, Ohio from July 18-21, 2016. CCVSC staff has been informed that the main office and our office at the Federal Bldg. will be closed and employees may have modified hours at outreach events. Vacation requests will be considered. Clients will be advised to visit alternate CCVSC locations. Please refer to our website for further information: <http://vsc.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/home.aspx>.

Discussion on the CCVSC logo feedback was postponed to the next open public meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The CCVSC Fall outreach Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 19, 2016. Location and time will be available at a later date.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2016-18 providing for the purchase of classified ads with the Plain Dealer beginning the week of July 5, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The ads will be purchased for notification advertising a CCVSC mobile team at various Cuyahoga County public library branches to provide information on VA benefits and claims, and financial assistance.

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2016-19 providing for the purchase of a monthly lease for ten parking spaces at \$140.00 per space with ABM Parking Business and Industry for the purpose of providing parking for veteran clients of the CCVSC.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Clay Uzell will be attending the VFW State C of A Conference in Columbus, Ohio from July 8-10, 2016.

Johnathan Holifield, Cleveland Economic Liaison with the Office of Transition, Employment, and Economic Impact of the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, gave a brief presentation of a new campaign called the Veterans Economic Communities Initiative (VECI). Mr. Holifield explained that the CCVSC has been selected to be a part of VECI that will open doors to education and careers for veterans and their families. He asked for the CCVSC's insight and support of the initiative. Jon Reiss will meet with Mr. Holifield to share additional information and to discuss coordination of efforts to support our veterans, transitioning service members and families in the Cleveland area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

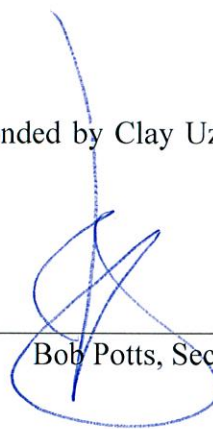
There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

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



Mel Baher, President



Bob Potts, 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 (216-698-2655)
Social Work Dept.:	Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management (216-698-2379)
Executive Director:	Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Commissioners:	Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)