



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
CHRISTOPHER GRAU
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/TIME: March 20, 2019 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Clay Uzell, President
 Mel Baher, Vice President
 Christopher Grau, Secretary
 Bob Potts, Commissioner
 Jon Reiss, Executive Director
 Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
 Brendan Healy, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: Frank Pocci, Commissioner

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau 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.) One item from the consent agenda was set aside to be addressed in Executive Session.

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

STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached)

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to accept the report of the Executive Director, as given.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Items – Updates:

- 1) **Linear Creative**– No update. Work in progress.

- 2) **Employee Overpayments** – The commission continues to receive payments from one party. Full payments are to be made by the end of next year. No update on the other party involved. The Prosecutor reached out to the other party and is waiting for a response. If no response is received by the end of the week further action will be taken.
- 3) **Emergency Plan for Files** – No update. The Executive Director will have a quote by the next meeting.
- 4) **Dental Trial Program** – No update.
- 5) **Resolution 2018-13; VVA Compensation** – No decision has been made. The Executive Director will visit the County Executive’s office for an update.
- 6) **New Schedule** – The Director is building a report for the next meeting.
- 7) **2019 Evening Outreach Meeting** –The fall outreach meeting will be determined at a future date. The Executive Director will reach out to Baldwin Wallace to inquire about meeting space in September or October.
- 8) **Memorandum of Understanding** – The Executive Director met with Hands on Northeast Ohio. An MOU for the Stand Down is a work in progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. If an internal candidate is chosen for a new position the position will be a lateral move with no pay increase for a probationary period of 180 days. Each employees’ job performance will be reviewed after 90 days to provide feedback on performance and to give the employee the opportunity to reconsider the position change.
2. The VSC received a letter from the County Fair stating that the booth must be manned for the entire fair. Mel Baher will contact the Director of Fair Vendors to discuss the possibility of VSC coverage on the weekend only.
3. New hires began working on March 11, 2019.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

An article was published in the Plain Dealer regarding the Inspector General’s demand that he have access to all county emails.

Chris Grau distributed a report he received in training. According to the report, in 2017, the number of veterans in Cuyahoga County dropped to 69,000.

Clay Uzel’s wife, Sandra, is heavily campaigning for the auxiliary and will appear in the audience of the Today Show next week.

The Executive Director appeared on ‘Live on Lakeside’ on March 19, 2019.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:19 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:55 a.m.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to issue a letter of termination for the Financial Operations Manager effective immediately. The letter was signed by all present Board members, will be emailed to the Financial Operations Manager, and sent to the manager via certified mail.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau to change the effective date of the lateral move for the position of Executive Secretary from January 1, 2019 to August 1, 2018.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau to approve the completion of the probationary period for the Executive Secretary. Employee compensation was discussed effective March 18, 2019. A memorandum will be given to the Executive Director on how to proceed.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

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


Clay Uzell, President


Chris Grau, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance/
Filing claims with the Dept. of
Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)
Charlene Amos, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-3831)

Finance Dept.:
Social Work Dept.:
Executive Director:
Commissioners:

Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Mgmt. (216-698-2379)
Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2652)