



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCI**  
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:** October 9, 2019 9:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Clay Uzell, President  
Frank Pocci, Commissioner  
Bob Potts, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary  
Feronne Williams, Administrative Coordinator  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

**EXCUSED:** Mel Baher, Vice President  
Christopher Grau, Secretary

**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 Frank Pocci 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: Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Executive Director requested funds to provide staff incentives during training and throughout the upcoming months. The Board authorized reimbursement for expenditures.

#### Action Items – Update:

- 1) **Employee Overpayments** – The Executive Director updated on the re-payment status of Ms. Smith.
- 2) **Dental Trial Program** – Feronne Williams reached out to Case Western Reserve to discuss their dental program and the possibility of veterans choosing Case as a second option to Metro for dental needs. A meeting has been scheduled to meet with members of Case Western Reserve’s Dental School.
- 3) **Resolution 2018-13: VVA Compensation** – The Executive Director has not received a response from Council.

- 4) **New Schedule Report** – Next update in October 23, 2019.
- 5) **Overtime Impact Study** – Next update in October 23, 2019.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2019-21 for the purchase of equipment and supplies to teach adult CPR/AED and first aid to the staff of the CCVSC. Expenses not to exceed \$4,000.

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

The Executive Director made the Board aware that the County is now requiring a dedicated server be purchased for the ID cards. The server will be purchased through the county so it will not require a resolution.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Bob Potts asked the Executive Director to reach out to American Legion 738 regarding a POW/MIA chair dedication at the cities football games. The ceremony will be held on October 25, 2019.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining, employee discipline as it relates to conduct, interview a candidate for County Veteran Service Officers, and discuss Level III client cases and approvals.

AYES: Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:48 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:02 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed the collective bargaining process and employee discipline as it relates to conduct. The Director was instructed on how to proceed.

The Level III Appeal case was sent back to Level II. Trish Smith was directed on how to proceed.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to extend an offer to Taylor Smothers as County Veterans Service Officers and to bring him on board immediately.

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

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

AYES: Pocci, 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.:

Lawrence Amato, Financial Operations Mgr. (216-698-2391)

Social Work Dept.:

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

Executive Director:

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Commissioners:

Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2652)