



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: November 6, 2019 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Clay Uzell, President
Mel Baher, Vice President
Christopher Grau, Secretary
Frank Pocci, Commissioner
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Feronne Williams, Administrative Coordinator
Melisa Fisco, Assistant Law Director

EXCUSED: Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

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

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Christopher Grau – DAV

- October 2nd – I attended the CCVSC Public Meeting.
- October 9th – The CCVSC Appeals Meeting was cancelled.
- October 16th – I attended a special CCVSC Executive Meeting.
- October 16th – I attended the CCVSC Public Meeting held at Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, Ohio.
- October 17th – I attended the DAV Chapter 109 Monthly Meeting, Rocky River, Ohio.
- October 23rd – I attended the CCVSC Public and Appeals Meeting.

Note: There are no scheduled Joint Veterans Council (JVC) meetings until January 2020.

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

AMVETS Post 80 Events

- I completed the financial report for Post 80 and presented the details at the monthly meeting.
- The honor guard continued to serve funeral honor duties at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery during October.
- AMVETS Post 80 is planning to have a special excursion at the COD submarine in the spring of 2020.
- I submitted the Continued Existence Certificate and the Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State for Post 80 to the Post adjutant for his files.

Other Activities

- During October I attended the scheduled meetings at the CCVSC and completed taking the yearly qualifications test required by the state Department for Veterans Services in order to retain my commissioner status.
- I attended the Italian American War Veterans meeting in October and submitted the yearly tax report. During November the officers will meet to determine charitable donations the Post will make later this year. I was unable to attend the state meeting in Lorain, Ohio as I was out of town, but the Senior Vice took my place at the meeting.
- I continue to work with a female veteran in trying to have her file a claim for various disabilities. She has been reluctant, but now seems to want to file. I am also to hear from another veteran who needs to file a claim.
- I attended the yearly installation meeting and dinner for the Post 1812 Catholic War Veterans. The event was well attended.
- I attended the first meeting with the union representatives for the CCVSC employees that will be part of the union. I participated in lieu of President Uzell who was unable to attend.

Bob Potts – VVA

- October 2nd – I attended the CCVSC Public and Appeal Meeting.
- October 9th – I attended the CCVSC Public and Appeal Meeting.
- October 16th – I attended the CCVSC Public and Appeal Meeting.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all of the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of October 2019. Following is a report of my activities outside of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for the month of October 2019.
- Wednesday, October 2nd – I attended the American Legion 13th District Council meeting held at American Legion Post 343, in Euclid, Ohio. I presented the executive board approved August 2019 Finance report as District Finance Officer.
- Thursday, October 10th – I attended the American Legion Post 91 membership meeting. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. and I presented the current membership report, as Post 1st Vice Commander.
- Wednesday, October 16th – I, along with my fellow Commissioners, attended the CCVSC evening outreach meeting held at 7:00 p.m. in the Baldwin Wallace Strostacker Hall.
- Thursday, October 24th – I attended American Legion Post 91 executive board meeting held at 7:00 p.m. I presented an updated 2020 membership report as First Vice Commander.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- October 2nd – I attended the CCVSC open public and appeal meeting.
- October 9th – I attended the CCVSC open public and appeal meeting.
- October 16th – I attended a special meeting at the office regarding union business.

- October 16th – I attended the 7 p.m. Outreach open public meeting at Baldwin Wallace Student Union. The meeting was in connection with the Student Vet Center.
- October 20th - I attended the VFW District 7 Conference held at Solon Post 1863. I gave the report on Law Enforcement, Firefighter, and EMT upcoming deadlines. I also read the CCVSC financial report which was well received and gave out CCVSC grocery bags. The VFW State Surgeon found the report very informative and stated that she had never heard this type of report from other counties.
- October 21st - I attended VFW Post 7536 meeting where business was conducted as usual and plans were made for the Poppy Drive for Veterans Day.
- October 22nd – I presented Manager Sal with a “Buddy Poppy” award for Dave’s Supermarket in Richmond Heights. The award is for supporting the VFW Buddy Poppy drive conducted at this location and the support they show Veterans and their families in the surrounding communities.
- October 23rd – I attended the CCVSC open public and appeal meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORC 5907.09, regarding financial assistance, was discussed. The Executive Director will get a legal opinion to verify the CCVSC policies are all in compliance.

The Executive Director provided information about Salesforce, an alternative information systems solution. Salesforce offers solutions for automation of most work processes. Salesforce is on state contract and offers all required security protections.

The Executive Director reported on client service numbers since the new schedule was implemented. Beginning on January 1, 2020 the main office will be open on Friday’s from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. with limited services.

For financial assistance purposes, clients living in the TR House are considered residents of Cuyahoga County once they have lived there, or in the county, for 90 days.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2020-01 to reimburse the staff for memberships at gyms/fitness centers, not to exceed \$65 per month, per employee. Expenses not to exceed \$25,000.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau to approve Resolution 2020-02 for the purchase of a maintenance agreement with Enterprise Resource Partners for the EvetAssist veteran software program for the 2020 fiscal year. Expenses not to exceed \$7,000.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2020-03 annually adjusting employee mileage and per diem travel reimbursement rates in accordance with standard federal rates for the year 2020.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2020-04 for the renewal of RTA Bus ads for the year 2020. The RTA Bus ads renewal agreement is with the Lamar Companies which is a sole source vendor contracted to advertise on the RTA. Expenses not to exceed \$78,000.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2019-25 for the consolidation and modernization of the access control system and intrusion monitoring. The vendor is Life Safety Systems (LSS) and no competitive bids were solicited because LSS already provides systems for security cameras and monitoring. Expenses not to exceed \$7,000.

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

The Veteran Service Commission will close its' doors on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. and work until the last client is seen. Once all clients have been waited on the staff will begin the Thanksgiving break.

The new CCVSC training schedule will be the first and third Thursday morning of the month from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., beginning in 2020.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Uzell transported a veteran to the Parma CBOC to meet with a Service Officer. Bill Vissi did a great job working with the veteran.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Chris Grau to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining, certain personnel matters to include employment and compensation, pending and imminent court action and to hear five (5) client cases and appeals.


AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:30 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 12:00 p.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed collective bargaining, personnel matters, pending court action and client cases and appeals. The Executive Director was instructed on how to proceed.


The votes for further assistance, recorded by the Secretary, of the client appeals that were discussed in Executive Session, are attached.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, and 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: Charlene Amos, Service Officer Mgr. (216-698-3831)

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

Finance Dept.:

Larry 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 (216-698-2651)