



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

Cuyahoga County

Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: November 27, 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
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: None.

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 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).

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

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director provided the Board with pictures of the vehicle wrap for the new mobile vehicle. The Board directed the Executive Director to make some changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2020-05 to attend training and maintain membership and accreditation with the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers (OSACVSO) and National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) in 2020, not to exceed \$64,209.00.

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 2019-27 for the purchase of employee computer headsets to be used with the new customer service phone system currently being implemented by the Veterans Service Commission; not to exceed \$4,500.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Terry Sansbury from the DAV addressed the Board. Mr. Sansbury mentioned the incredible work being done at the Veterans Service Commission.

Mr. Sansbury asked the Board to consider donating a jukebox to the Ohio Veterans Home (OVH). The Board explained that the VSC is funded by taxpayers' dollars and was unable to donate. However, the staff holds various fundraisers. After some discussion it was decided that a jukebox would be donated and paid for by the staff fundraiser. Mr. Jones also inquired about 'shopping' for OVH veterans at the upcoming Stand Down. Mr. Reiss, Executive Director, will reach out to Mr. Sansbury at a future date.

Mr. Jones, a VSC financial assistance client, addressed the Board regarding his situation. Mr. Jones was directed on how to proceed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss appeals. The Board would be hearing two (2) client appeals today.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (9:57 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:18 a.m.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to return to Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining issues.


AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:23 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:39 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed various issues related to collective bargaining. The next meeting will be held on December 19, 2019.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.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:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)
Charlene Amos, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-3831)
Lawrence Amato, Financial Operations Mgr. (216-698-2391)
Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2652)

Finance Dept.:
Executive Director:
Commissioners: