



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

Cuyahoga County

Veterans Service Commission

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650

Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us

1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: May 20, 2020 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Christopher Grau, Vice President
Frank Pocci, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Clay Uzell, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Feronne Williams, Administrative Coordinator
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor - Remote
Melisa Fisco, Assistant Law Director

EXCUSED: None.

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mel Baher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell 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.

STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached)

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Chris Grau to accept the report of the Executive Director with the necessary corrections and/or additions.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Although the supplier of American flags was unable to complete the order in time for Memorial Day distribution, many organizations are not placing flags on veterans graves due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The number of flags delivered and the number left over from previous years should be enough to fulfill orders.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board has discussed and approved the following changes in financial assistance at Level I:

- Applicants with a monthly income over \$5,000 will be adjudicated at Level II or III.
- Applications with requests for assistance over \$3,500 require manager exception.

On February 21, 2020, Senator Brown’s office will be holding a Round Table for OIF/OEF veterans. The event will take place at the Veterans Service Commission’s main office from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and will be limited to twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) veterans.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to hear four (4) client cases and appeals.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:13 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 10:51 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 Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to go back into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:58 a.m.)


The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:17 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed collective bargaining and where the Board stands with the issues.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

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



 Mel Baher, President



 Frank Pocci, 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)
 Larry Amato, Financial Operations Mgr. (216-698-2391)
 Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
 Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)

Finance Dept.:
Executive Director:
Commissioners: