



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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Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: June 10, 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
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 Clay Uzell 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: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

- I spoke with a veteran on the phone regarding our new processes.
- I filed the tax returns for AMVETS Post 80.
- I spoke to a woman who works with veterans at Tri-C in more detail about the services we provide. I also provided her with brochures from the CCVSC.

Bob Potts – VVA

- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of April and May 2020.
- Nothing additional to report.

Clay Uzell – VFW

- April 4th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
 - April 11th - I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.
- ~All VFW meetings and banquets cancelled due to COVID-19 stay at home order by Governor DeWine. Weekly updates given by Jon via phone.
- May 11th – I participated in a car caravan drive by to celebrate a WWII Post members 97th birthday.
 - May 18th – I attended VFW Post 7536 elections via phone conference. All chairs were filled, and the Commander was re-elected.
 - May 17th – I took part in VFW District 7 tele-conference and voted on State Surgeon and Chaplin. All chairs were filled for District 7.
 - May 19th – As Police/Fire/EMT District 7 Safety Chairman I presented North Olmsted Police Officer of the Year award to Chief Robert Wagnor and Firefighter/EMT award to Frank Gices at the station.
 - May 20th - I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
 - May 27th - I attended the CCVSC Level III Appeals meeting.

Christopher Grau – DAV

- May 6th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 13th – Meeting cancelled.
- May 20th – I attended the CCVSC open public meeting.
- May 27th – I attended the CCVSC open public Level III Appeals meeting.

Mel Baher – American Legion

- I attended all the scheduled meetings of the CCVSC during the month of April and May 2020.
- Nothing additional to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

The flags for Memorial Day were delivered and distributed. Although only half the order was received, there was decreased demand due to COVID-19. The remaining shipment will be placed in a storage unit for use next year.

Financial assistance has been down due to closures.

Many employees have received laptops to accommodate work from home. The VSC will continue to update laptops and will purchase docking stations to replace outdated desktop computers. This will ensure all employees will have the ability to work from home should the need arise.

The food card order has arrived from Aldi's? Because of delays in delivery, another order will be placed immediately to ensure availability when demand increases.

The Executive Director presented ideas on the new client management system and will continue research to determine the best options for the CCVSC.

NEW BUSINESS:

The window graphics on the front windows of the main office were damaged during protests. Research is being done on replacing the graphics.

Jon Reiss proposed visiting several other Veterans Service Commissions in the state to research alternate ways to provide financial assistance and memorial affairs services. The board is in agreement.

The procedure for processing and paying vouchers continues to be very slow. After conversations with the fiscal office, procedures to speed up the process were discussed and will be implemented soon.

Jon Reiss was directed to begin research on a new vehicle to replace the oldest vehicle in the fleet.

The director presented the option of a sponsor page in the DD214 Chronicle. There will be no additional charge. A resolution will be presented at the next meeting to move forward.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The Commissioners will begin online training in September.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and certain personnel matters.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Uzell. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:20 a.m.)

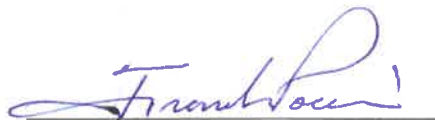
The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:42 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed collective bargaining and certain personnel matters (discipline) and advised the Executive Director on how to proceed with documentation.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 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:

Finance Dept.:

Executive Director:

Commissioners:

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)